

October  
2026

# St. John Lutheran Church



## Mission Statement

*St. John is a living witness to the love of God as shown in Jesus Christ.*

*We gather faithfully in God's name to **worship** and praise God; and we go forth in peace to **share** the Good News and to **serve** the world around us.*

St. John Lutheran Church  
PO Box 411  
420 Beaver Street  
Mars, PA 16046

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Pastor's Cell #: 412-407-3166

Please call to ensure availability before coming to the office.

*The Samaritan woman asked [Jesus], "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" John 4:9*

"The woman at the well," we don't know her name, and we don't hear from her again. Yet she is a strong witness to Christ and brings others to know Jesus. She is a living example of the reaches of God's grace beyond the expected community. She experiences and is transformed by CAKE, Christ's Acceptance and Kindness for Everyone.

The woman was a Samaritan. The Samaritans and the Jewish people weren't exactly besties, so when Jesus asks her for water, she is astonished that he's talking to her, let alone asking her for a drink of water. But Jesus is unphased by her self-alienation. She's already separated from the traditional community around the well, and she tries to isolate herself from a relationship with this stranger, but Jesus engages with her, talks with her, and cares for her. Jesus sees her need, meets her where she is, and in God's abundant lovingkindness, brings her to life and community.

Time and time again, throughout scripture, Jesus follows this same pattern. Sure, sometimes he holds people accountable, he calls out people for acting in hate, abusing their power, or causing harm to others. But whenever he sees someone in need, someone outside of community, someone feeling lost, he meets them where they are and nourishes them in mind, body, and soul, with lots and lots of CAKE.

St John is a CAKE congregation. That means that we take the example of Christ, and we strive to do the same. We nourish people through faith in mind, body, and soul. We come alongside them with tasty cake and holy CAKE in the best moments, the worst moments, and everything in between. When we see someone in need, someone who is hungry, someone feeling lost, someone lonely, we meet them where they are, accepting them and their struggles, and offer lovingkindness and hospitality in turn, reminding them through our words and deeds that they are beloved. Sometimes this looks like offering fidgets in meetings or worship. Sometimes this looks like holiday meal kits or a hot meal on a Sunday afternoon. Sometimes this looks like sitting with someone in their struggles. Sometimes it looks like welcoming someone's questions in faith and wrestling with the questions alongside the person. Sometimes it looks like a meal train after surgery. Sometimes it looks like giving stuffies to kids in crisis or extra school supplies to teachers. But always, it is done through faith in response to the love that God first shows us. And so as we look to the world, as we live in the world, let us boldly declare in the way we live our lives "Let there be CAKE!"

Peace  
Pastor Katie

### Find Us on Social Media

Like us on Facebook ([@stjohnchurchmars](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnchurchmars)) or follow us on Instagram ([@stjohnchurchmars](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnchurchmars))

### Online Sunday Worship

**Worship with us online!** Service is livestreamed on our YouTube Channel at 9:00am on Sundays at <http://youtube.com/@stjohnchurchmars/streams> or through the church app.

Services are recorded and available throughout the week at [youtube.com/@stjohnchurchmars](https://youtube.com/@stjohnchurchmars)

## Worship Beyond Sunday Morning

### YES Worship – Oct 4



Mark your calendars for a NEW way to worship! **YES Worship is specifically designed to be a fully-interactive worship service for families with younger children where we say YES to every request of “Can I help with that?”.** Preparing the altar, lighting the candles, blessing the elements of communion, every moment of the worship is an opportunity for children to bring their minds, their hearts, and their bodies into worship participation. We begin our service by dressing the altar with

kid-friendly supplies then move through **an abbreviated version of the Sunday liturgy where children are invited to bring their enthusiasm, their joy, and their curiosity to every element of worship.** Our first service will be Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary and will continue the first Sunday of every month at 4:00pm. The service will last approximately 30-45 minutes.

**For our first service – people are invited to bring stuffies and pictures of pets as we bless the animals (real, toy, and imaginary) in our lives.**



### Messy Church – Oct 16



**Our next Messy Church of the year will be Friday, October 16 at 6:00pm.** At Messy Church, all ages come together in a creative, Christ-centered environment to hear God’s Word and talk about how to apply it to our daily lives through crafts and activities. **We begin our service with a family-style dinner, then we move into a time of flexible, self-paced exploration, then we end together celebrating God’s Good News for us.** All are welcome!

As Christians, we are called to love our neighbor... but who is our neighbor, and what exactly does it mean to “love” our neighbor. You and your family are invited to explore these foundational concepts of Christianity as we explore the story of the Good Samaritan through crafts, activities, conversation, and more. Invite a friend and we’ll see you on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>!



# Worship Notes

## Young Worship Leaders

If you are unable to serve on your assigned week, please find a replacement and then notify the office of the switch.

|        | Acolyte   | Offering | Offering | Young Reader |
|--------|-----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| 4-Oct  | Abby C    | Josie W  | Ella N   | Josie W      |
| 11-Oct | Anna K    | Ava N    | Ella N   | Abby C       |
| 18-Oct | Lydia M   | Anna K   | Nathan K | Cate S       |
| 25-Oct | Ella N    | Lydia M  | Cate S   | Lydia M      |
| 1-Nov  | Carissa M | Josie W  | Abby C   | Carissa M    |

## Adult Worship Leaders

Individuals are welcome to sign up to help lead worship in a variety of roles using the online sign up board at <https://signup.com/go/JPakfVA>.

The online sign up sheet is also available through the new church app.

|        | Greeters         | Usher            | Assistant Minister | Bread Baker      | Counters            |
|--------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 4-Oct  | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | Casey S            | Casey S          | Denise H<br>Keith C |
| 11-Oct | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b>   | Denise H         | Denise H<br>Keith C |
| 18-Oct | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b>   | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | Denise H<br>Keith C |
| 25-Oct | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b>   | Denise H         | Denise H<br>Keith C |
| 1-Nov  | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>VOLUNTEER</b>   | <b>VOLUNTEER</b> | David D<br>John T   |

## Blessing of the Animals – Oct 4

Pets are beloved members of our homes. **To honor the special place our pets have in our lives, you are invited to bring a favorite stuffie or a picture of your pets to Sunday morning worship or YES worship.** During each service we will pray for God's blessing on the animals in our hearts and homes, the stuffed animals that will bring comfort to a child and crisis, and the animals in our care in in fields and in the wild in recognition of St. Francis of Assisi (feast day Oct 4), a 13<sup>th</sup> century saint who taught people about the goodness and holiness of all of God's creation, especially the animals.

## Reformation Sunday – October 25

October 26 is a celebration of the legendary night when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Church door to inspire debate in protest of the selling of indulgences in 1517. Because this is remembered as the tipping point for the beginning of the Protestant Reformations, **we celebrate in church on the last Sunday of October by remembering reformations of the past and all the ways the church is continuing to reform.** To add to the fun, we invite you to **wear red to worship!**



### *Worship Notes (continued)*

## **All Saints Worship – November 1**

Commemorating the saints of the church has been a practice since the 4<sup>th</sup> century. In the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the festival commemorating all saints was set on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Protestant churches (including Lutherans) believe that all Christian dead are saints, and there is no need for release from purgatory. In our bulletin and named aloud during worship on November 1, we will be remembering loved ones who have died. **As we remember them, we recall the witness they gave through their lives, what they meant to us as fellow Christians, where they have led the way, and what they have left for us yet to accomplish.**



If you would like to remember a loved one, please submit names to the office or write them in the book of remembrances. **All information must be received by the office by Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**. The red book of remembrances will be available in the Greeting Area beginning October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Flowers in Worship**

If you would like to **provide flowers for our altar during worship**, please sign up in the Greeting Area by the elevator. Flowers offer a bright connection with God's creation in our worship space.

Sponsors for flowers are responsible for ordering their own flowers. If you need assistance in contacting a florist that often works with the church, contact the office.

## **Adult Choir**

For major festivals (like Reformation and Christmas Eve!), there is a **choir of dedicated singers** who prepare and offer a song for worship. If you'd like to be a part of this group, contact our Music Director, Maizy.

## **Worship Volunteers Wanted**



Lay leadership in worship is an important part of the Lutheran tradition. There are many ways that a person can utilize their gifts to offer leadership in worship. Read the descriptions of all the volunteer positions needed each Sunday and sign up online to offer your gifts in worship leadership. **Training is available** for any

position. You are welcome to **sign up for just one week to give it a try or multiple weeks** to practice and get comfortable! Sign up to volunteer for an open slot using the sign-up sheets in the greeting area or at <https://signup.com/go/JPakfVA>

**Assistant Minister:** Help lead worship by reading scripture and prayers and assisting in the distribution of communion. Bulletins are emailed to worship leadership on Thursdays to allow time to practice.

**Greeter:** Greet people as they enter for worship and hand out bulletins. Greeters are helpful at both the front and back of the sanctuary. If you do not see someone greeting people at either location please feel free to grab a stack of bulletins and welcome people to worship.

**Usher:** Ring the bell before and during worship, attend to lights and doors, and coordinate offering collection.

**Bread Baker:** Bake or purchase bread to be used for communion during worship.

**Eucharistic Minister:** (contact Pastor Katie, no sign-up sheet) Visit and take communion from our Sunday celebration to those unable to be physically in worship.

**Altar Guild:** (contact Pastor Katie, no sign-up sheet) Set up for and clean up after worship (including for communion); change the paraments to match the color of the day as needed.

## *Worship Notes (continued)*

### **Position Spotlight: Assistant Minister**

Did you know that worship services used to be led entirely by clergy (i.e. pastors)? There was no lay leadership in the service! However, the church has shifted its understanding of what it means when we celebrate liturgy as the work of the people. **Worship is not a spectator sport, it is an experience wherein everyone participates in mind, body, and soul.** It is a time when all work together to welcome the holy and experience the living Christ together. To highlight and celebrate the way that we all share in the activity of worship, the church began inviting lay (non-ordained) people to take on more leadership roles within the worship service. One of these roles is that of Assistant Minister. In our congregation, the Assistant Minister reads aloud several of the scripture readings and several prayers. The Assistant Minister also offers the cup to people at communion. To have a lay Assistant Minister reminds us that the liturgy is the work of the people, not the work of the pastor with the congregation looking on.

**So who is called to serve in this role?** Who is “qualified”? **Anyone who has a heart to help lead the congregation in connecting with God’s presence among us through scripture, prayer and sacrament!** For those who are more soft-spoken, the microphone can help! For those nervous about pronunciations, Pastor Katie and many others are happy to help. For those who worry about remembering every step of the service and what to do when, training is available and Pastor Katie is happy to provide in-service guidance and reminders (and you can be sure that you are reading aloud in a community of people who care for you and will offer grace in the face of mistakes!). For those uncertain about their schedule, there are always people ready to jump in in case an emergency comes up and you’re unable to be present for the day you’re signed up.

## **Stewardship**



*Stewardship is a condition, a way of being.*  
– Dr. Marty Stevens



### **Stewardship Corner**

Did you know that St. John has an online giving platform? You can give through a card number or EFT. You can give a one-time gift or a recurring gift. You can give to the general fund or to one of the designated funds of the congregation. Giving online is a convenient alternative to cash and checks and can provide the church stability with recurring giving. **Recurring gifts can help establish your charitable gifts as a part of your monthly budget and provide predictability for the donor as well as the recipient.** With St. John’s online giving platform, you can adjust your recurring gift at any time if your circumstances change. And you can give from anywhere you have internet access! eGiving brings flexibility to your generosity. Learn more about eGiving options or give online today at [stjohnchurchmars.org/giving](http://stjohnchurchmars.org/giving).

### **Growing Our Tomorrows**

God’s work in and through the ministry of St. John Lutheran Church has been impacting the lives of people of the community for over 125 years. After listening to stories of members of the congregation and those impacted by the mission and ministry of St. John, our strategic planning team summarized the identity of St. John as **a community of followers of Christ where all are nourished by faith in mind, body, and soul.** As we consider what comes next for St. John, we are excited to look to the future of this congregation and cultivate opportunities to deepen our commitment to building community, encouraging hospitality and inclusivity, feeding and caring for our neighbors in need, and bringing all-ages together in discipleship, we are excited to grow into the future with God’s work in and through us. **Throughout October, we will hear stories of the impact of God’s work in the mission and ministry of St. John as we imagine what God might have in store for the future of this congregation.** If you are unable to be in worship, be sure to check out the YouTube channel to hear these stories and reflections.

## **Around the Synod**

### **Weekly Synod Emails**

The synod sends out weekly emails of upcoming programs and important news. Everyone is welcome to receive these emails. Sign up to receive them at <https://www.swpasynod.org/wayfarer>

### **Theological Convocation – October 13-15**

For three days in October, Pastor Katie will be joining other clergy from the synod at the Antiochian Village in Bolivar, PA. Each fall, the ministers of the synod gather for this retreat for a time of education, spiritual renewal, and fellowship with colleagues. This year's educational component will focus on the gospel of Matthew in preparation for the coming lectionary texts. We will explore important themes and motifs in Matthew as well as delve into new insights and challenges for preaching and teaching this living word in our communities today.

## **Lutherlyn**

### **Family Halloween Fun at Lutherlyn – Oct 25**



Register by October 18<sup>th</sup> for an afternoon at Lutherlyn full of Halloween fun, 2:00-4:30pm! There will be hay rides, Halloween-themed carnival games, crafts, s'mores, a nature activity, scavenger hunt, and access to the jump pillow and discovery room! Registration is \$8/person and each family is asked to bring candy/items to pass out for trick-or-treating. If either of these points is a barrier for your family to participate, assistance is available. Learn more and register at [lutherlyn.com/Halloween](http://lutherlyn.com/Halloween).

**Let Pastor Katie know if you are planning to attend so we can coordinate with everyone.**

### **Woodland Quilt Show at Lutherlyn – Nov 7 and 8**

Come and enjoy a weekend display of quilts and quilting in the autumn splendor at Lutherlyn!

Admission is \$7 with no registration required.

This show is comprised of entries from members of the Woodland Quilters and also happily accepts entries from the general public. We love the variety of entries we receive! **In addition to a wide variety of quilts and handmade items there are many opportunities to shop during the show.** The Woodland Quilters' flea market is always a popular spot, and dotted throughout the show are several quilt shops and local craftspeople with a variety of fabrics, patterns, tools, and finished goods for sale.

**If you're looking for inspiration you may want to visit the "Make it & Take it" table**, where a few of the Woodland Quilters can guide you through creating a quick project to take home.

Learn more about the day and how you can enter a quilt at [Lutherlyn.com/quilts](http://Lutherlyn.com/quilts)



### **Saturday Safari (Geology and the Rocks of Lutherlyn) – Nov 7**



Hike to one of Lutherlyn's most unique places, Chapel Rock, and learn about the rock cycle. Weather permitting, we will climb Chapel Rock. We will also **learn about the geology of western PA as we hike through a beautiful stream valley.** There will also be time to stop by Tunnel Rock, Table Rock, and the Rock Shelter. Dress to be outside. **(Registration deadline: November 2)**

Learn more and register at [Lutherlyn.com/safari](http://Lutherlyn.com/safari)

# **Around the Church**

## **Hospitality Hour Hosts**

Being a faith community is so much more than just worshipping together. It's spending time in fellowship and learning together too! **To help us connect with this aspect of being a faith community, we are asking volunteers to host the hospitality hour. Hosts are asked to provide goodies for people to munch on while we play games together as a part of our faith formation hour.** In addition to providing goodies, hosts are asked to set up and clean up the goodie table. Goodies can be whatever is easy for you! If you are willing to help with the set up/clean up but need help with the financial burden of supplying goodies, contact Pastor Katie. If you would like to volunteer to host the hospitality hour (we have the games covered), contact Denise H or the office.

## **Office Hours**

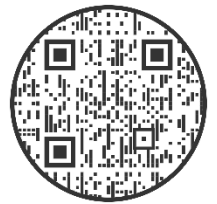
Diane is currently in the office one day a week, on Thursday mornings, working other hours remotely or in the office on a flexible schedule. Holidays may impact this schedule, though. If you need access to the building or assistance with anything, please call ahead to assure availability. Pastor Katie can also provide assistance.

## **Church App**



**There's an app for that!** The app has links for the calendar, podcasts, worship leadership, bulletins, prayer resources, and more! In the Google Play store or the iOS App Store, search for "Church App – Tithely". Download the app, then search for St. John Lutheran Church in Mars. Download the app at

<https://tithely.app.link/st-john-lutheran> or use the QR code. See a tutorial for how to download the app and an introduction to its offerings at <https://tinyurl.com/mtpdv6pz>.



## **Applefest – October 3**

**Applefest is a big deal in Mars, so this is a great opportunity to be an active presence in the community.** It takes a lot of hands to get ready for the event as well as to be at the booth. Leading up to Applefest, we will need volunteers to make baked goods, make halushki, and bring other requested donated items. During Applefest, we will need people to be friendly representatives of St. John, selling food and drink, playing games with kids, and inviting people to learn more about this CAKE (Christ-like Acceptance and Kindness for Everyone) congregation.



## **Trunk or Treat – October 31**

There are over 100 kids that go trick or treating on Halloween in Mars. St. John participates in this community event by inviting people to park their cars in the parking lot and pass out treats. Some people decorate their cars with clever designs. Others are simply a joyful, generous presence. All are welcomed and appreciated. **Trick or Treating begins at 6:00pm**, the last trick-or-treaters are usually through the neighborhood by around 8:00pm.

## **Soup Sale**

As the weather gets chillier, who doesn't want delicious homemade soup to eat?! The Deacons are coordinating a soup sale during the month of October. **They are making limited quantities of each soup, so be sure to order your quart of soup for \$10 from a Deacon soon!** Sales will begin at Applefest and continue through October 24<sup>th</sup>. Soup will be ready to be picked up on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Available soup varieties include stuffed pepper soup, wedding soup, vegetable soup, chicken and dumpling soup, spicy chili, tomato basil soup, broccoli cheddar soup.

## **Serving Others**

### **Harvest Street Mission Recap**

Thank you to everyone who helped serve our neighbors through our partnership with Harvest Street Mission on September 13<sup>th</sup> through prayers, donations, packing bags, cooking, serving meals, etc.

**"We served probably over 160 people a hearty lunch and each received toiletry bags. (one unhoused person was excited for the washcloth in the bags - something so simple that we take for granted, made her day.)** It was a hot, sticky afternoon, but I believe everyone left either with their hearts full or their tummies filled; which is a success on both levels." Kim R.

Stay tuned for future opportunities to be involved with this ministry.

### **4th Quarter Mission Emphasis: Center for Community Resources**



Center for Community Resources is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit, headquartered in Butler, Pennsylvania, working to make a positive difference in everyday lives by connecting people to a network of supports and services essential for actively learning, working, and living in the community. Since their founding in 2002, they have been a conflict-free point of contact for individuals and families seeking supports and services for their human service needs by coordinating supportive services for individual families through referrals and crisis care. Learn more

about the Center for Community Resources at [ccrinfo.org](http://ccrinfo.org).

To make an offering, label your gift with "Mission Emphasis."

### **Stuffie Collection – Due Oct 4**

**Every child should have a stuffie to hug when crisis hits, so we are collecting new stuffies to be donated to local foster care agencies and fire departments.** Stuffed animals to be donated must be new with tags. Please avoid plushies with hard plastic eyes, small buttons, or removable accessories that could easily come off and pose a hazard to infants or toddlers. **All donations may be brought on October 4<sup>th</sup> to be blessed with the other animals.** They will then be sent to organizations who give them to children as a source of comfort in moments of crisis.

### **School Supply Collection – Due Oct 18**

Teachers often have to purchase classroom supplies out of their personal expenses, but without certain supplies, teaching becomes much harder. **To help our local teachers, we are collecting requested items (listed below) to support the third grade at Mars Elementary School.** Each item is on the list a teacher provided of supplies that run out or need to be replaced regularly throughout the year. This year brings an extra challenge to the elementary school with construction on the grounds. This means that recess must be indoors throughout the year, regardless of weather. **Toys and games will help children enjoy their recess time so that they can learn better during the afternoon.** All donations are asked to be at the church by October 18.

- Dry erase markers
- Tissues
- Sandwich baggies
- Assorted construction paper
- Band aids
- Pencils (Ticonderoga, pre-sharpened)
- Pencil tip erasers
- Lysol wipes
- Highlighters
- Toys/games for indoor recess (Grade 3 appropriate)



*Serving Others (continued)*

### **St. John Food Pantry**



Food insecurity can happen to anyone at any time. An illness, a sudden loss of employment, an unexpected major expense. Throughout scriptures, we are called to help our neighbors, to feed them, to help them live with dignity, to provide for their needs. Our little Food Pantry does just that. The larger outdoor food pantry allows more people to take what they need at a time that is convenient for them. The indoor pantry offers a greater variety of items from which people can select.

**You can help support this ministry in several ways – bring in shelf-stable food items, paper products, or cleaning supplies, invite people to make use of the pantry, check items currently in the pantry and dispose of expired items.** We are in particular need of food items right now – canned goods, box dinner mixes, vanilla instant breakfast, and pasta sauce are items that have been specifically requested by users of the pantry.

Items that may be sensitive to the heat are to be kept in the inside pantry. Access to the inside pantry is available during Thursday morning office hours and other times by appointment (or really whenever the church is unlocked!).

## **Faith Formation**

### **Bible Study – Lutheran Lens of Christian Basics**

It's back to school season, and we are back to Bible study! Beginning on September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will **explore the text of the Small Catechism and some of the scriptures that guided Luther in his explanations of the basics of the Christian faith**, including the Ten Commandments, Baptism, Communion, and Prayer. Whether you have the Small Catechism memorized or have never heard of it, you are welcome to participate in this topical Bible study. **Sessions are offered on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 6:30 pm beginning Wednesday, September 16 through Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.** The Sunday session will cover the same material as the previous Wednesday. All sessions are offered in person as well as online through Zoom and last approximately an hour before we end in communal prayer. Members and non-members are welcome to participate, so invite a friend to explore scripture and the Lutheran approach to the basics of Christian faith with you! Neither registration nor any materials are required.

### **Sunday School for All Ages**

We are trying something new in Sunday School! We are constantly learning about scripture and the story of God's people and God's love for creation, and by engaging with people of different ages, we are brought into fresh perspectives and questions. **So this year, people of all ages are invited to participate in Sunday School together!** After the game at the beginning of the hospitality hour, we will have a brief prayer focusing our attention to the Bible story of the day. Sunday School participants will then be invited to join in an interactive telling of the story of the day before breaking into small groups to explore the story, wondering about how God's Good News for us is present in this story. To close our time together, we will all come together to reflect on our learning of the day, sing a song, and pray for the coming week. Students in middle and high school are still meeting in a separate space with Miss Ruth Ann to explore different facets of faith in daily life as a pre-teen and teenager.

### *Faith Formation (continued)*

## **Kids Club/Youth Group – October 11, 25**

The Mars Area Youth Group (grades 6-12) and Kids' Club (grades 2-5) are joint ministries supported by Mars United Presbyterian and St. John Lutheran Church. Each group meets approximately twice per month, sometimes meeting in the church buildings (Youth Group at Mars United Presbyterian, Kids Club at St John), sometimes meeting together for joint social and service events.

In October, the two groups will have a joint outing at **the Beacon Hotel Corn Maze on October 11<sup>th</sup>**. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, the groups will meet at their respective churches for games and conversation from 4:00 – 5:30 pm. To sign up **to receive updates and the group's schedule, please fill out the form** at [stjohnchurchmars.org/childrenyouth](http://stjohnchurchmars.org/childrenyouth).

## **Confirmation Class**

This year, we are excited to hear three young people affirm their baptism after several years of intensive conversation and study through confirmation class. Specific dates are being discussed in consultation with the families of the students. **For those students still preparing for this significant moment in their maturation as members of this congregation, classes will meet throughout the school year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.** Generally, these classes are for students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, though older students are also welcome to attend and participate as students explore what it means to affirm the promises made at their baptisms and to be an adult member of the congregation. We will have our first class on Saturday, **October 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.**

## **Facets of Faith Podcast**

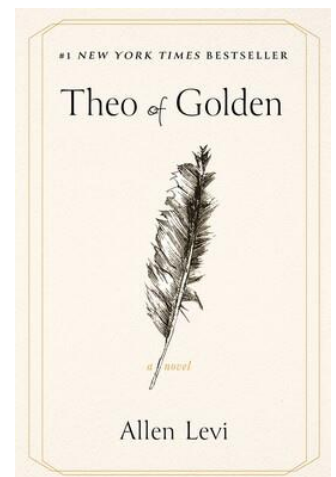


Each week, we listen to several readings from scripture to inform our lives as Christians. But the Sunday morning worship service offers limited time to dig into the depths of context, challenge, and wonder of the texts. On Facets of Faith, David, Keith, and Pastor Katie gather regularly to discuss and wonder about the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. Listen to the podcast today at [stjohnchurchmars.org/blog](http://stjohnchurchmars.org/blog) or wherever you get your favorite podcasts.

## **Book Discussion – November 4**

There are many sources for inspiration to talk about faith and what God is up to in this world. **In the beginning of November, we will be gathering to explore the way a bestselling novel can help us connect with God, faith, and one another as the body of Christ.** What began as a self-published novel and has become “a word-of-mouth smash hit” according to The New York Times is “an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.”<sup>1</sup> **The book is Theo of Golden by Allen Levi.** You are invited to read this book and join the conversation **on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30pm, an online option for participation will be available.** Register with Pastor Katie to receive the zoom link.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Theo-of-Golden/Allen-Levi/9781668236567>



## **Did You Know?**

The church website has an ongoing calendar! There is only so much room in the newsletter for upcoming events, but the website has all of them, including several months out! See the calendar at [stjohnchurchmars.org/calendar](http://stjohnchurchmars.org/calendar).

# October 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                         | MONDAY | TUESDAY                                                            | WEDNESDAY             | THURSDAY                     | FRIDAY                    | SATURDAY                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                |        |                                                                    |                       | 1<br>Worship<br>Planners, 7p | 2<br>Haluski Making       | 3<br>Applefest                     |
| 4<br>Worship, 9a<br>w/ <i>Blessing of the Animals</i><br>Sunday School, 10:15a<br>YES Worship, 4p<br>Bible Study, 6:30p                                                        | 5      | 6<br>Vestry Meetings,<br>7p                                        | 7<br>Bible Study, 7p  | 8                            | 9                         | 10                                 |
| 11<br>Worship, 9a<br>Sunday School, 10:15a<br>Youth Group/Kids Club<br>Corn Maze, 1p<br>Bible Study, 6:30p                                                                     | 12     | 13                                                                 | 14<br>Bible Study, 7p | 15                           | 16<br>Messy Church,<br>6p | 17<br>Confirmation<br>Class, 9:30a |
| 18<br>Worship, 9a<br>Sunday School, 10:15a<br>Bible Study, 6:30p                                                                                                               | 19     | 20<br>Council<br>Meeting, 7p<br><i>Newsletter<br/>Articles Due</i> | 21<br>Bible Study, 7p | 22                           | 23                        | 24<br>Last day to order<br>soup    |
| 25<br>Worship, 9a<br><i>Reformation Celebration</i><br>Sunday School, 10:15am<br>Birthday/Anniversary Coffee<br>Hour 10:15a<br>Youth Group/Kids Club, 4p<br>Bible Study, 6:30p | 26     | 27                                                                 | 28<br>Bible Study, 7p | 29                           | 30                        | 31<br>Trunk or Treat,<br>6p        |



10/17 Frederick & Susan Bielo – 39 yrs.  
10/20 James & Denise Hager – 47 yrs.  
10/25 Reed & Kimberly Richards – 23 yrs.

10/07 Cherry Sauers  
10/08 Lauren Schuster  
10/11 Rose Droddy  
10/19 Jennifer Miller  
10/20 Melissa Kramer  
10/22 Charles Davidson Jr.  
10/24 Kimberly Richards  
10/27 Denise Julio

# October Newsletter

Address service requested

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