

April  
2022

# St. John Lutheran Church



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

Web site: [www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)  
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## Mission Statement

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

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

## Welcome Pastor Katie McNeal

On March 6, the congregation of St John Lutheran Church voted to call Kathryn McNeal to be our next Pastor. **We look forward to her first Sunday with us on April 3** and pray for her as she begins her new ministry here at St John.

Pastor Katie grew up in the South Hills of Pittsburgh and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemistry/Music from Wittenberg University. She went on to obtain a Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology at Yale University, where she also was a Chapel Minister at the school and was able to bring her passion for music into the worship service. For five years, Katie held the position of Director of Youth and Family ministries at St James Lutheran Church in Southbury, CT and most recently, she completed a 1 ½ year internship at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in McMurray, PA. During her time at Our Redeemer, she preached monthly, visited with the sick and shut-ins, and developed a virtual Sunday School program using technology to deliver God's message to each child's home during the pandemic. Over the years, she has conducted a wide range of Christian education classes including Pre-K Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation and Adult Sunday school classes. Her teaching experience goes beyond the Christian education setting and includes teaching a science-based program for high school students at a museum, conducting kickboxing classes, horse riding lessons and dog training classes for both children and adults. In addition to her passion for teaching, Katie loves caring for animals, including her pet German Shepherd (Kita), a rescue bunny (Jasmine), a parakeet (Storm), and bearded dragon (Ezekiel).

We are looking forward to writing the next chapter, in the history of St. John, with Pastor Katie. We thank God for the gift of her faith filled life and dedicated service to the Lord. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen Pastor Katie and our congregation, as we work together in unity towards fulfilling God's purpose.

Last year, I planted a few crocus bulbs around the house where I was living. I love crocuses. They have always been a flower that represents new life and new energy that comes with the warmer weather of spring for me. They are one of the first flowers to bloom in the spring, sometimes with snow falling around their open blooms. And just in the past couple of weeks, my crocuses have been blooming. It seems appropriate that they chose to bloom just as we are all about to enter a new life together.

Crocuses come back year after year. The flowers I am seeing this year exist because of the roots that have grown in years past. And the flowers that I see now are bringing energy and life that the roots will use for future blooms to be enjoyed in years to come. And between the flowers they have dormant periods that are necessary for their flourishing. We also have pasts that have fed into who we are... past moments where we have felt like we were in glorious bloom and past moments where we felt more dormant. I have had my own moments of flowering and dormancy that have led me to this time and place – time in different jobs and states, time with different hobbies and pets, etc. St. John has 125 years of flowering and dormancy. Each moment within those 125 years has created St. John to be who the congregation is today. And each of you have had your own seasons of flowering and dormancy that have created you into who you are in this current season. We remember these past seasons in stories, and I am excited to hear more of the stories of the seasons of this congregation and the seasons in your lives.

And now, in this season, our stories get to intertwine and together we will have times when we will feel like we are in glorious bloom... and we will have times when things feel awkward, challenging, even dormant. But whether we are flowering or in dormancy, we will find our new life together. We will find ways to bring our separate experiences together as we live committed to doing God's work for many seasons to come as we have for seasons past. And just as I look forward to the first moments my crocuses begin to bloom, so too am I excited for this new season we get to explore and create together.

Pastor Katie





For Frieda Carbo  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 @ 1:00 pm  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Church members are invited.



### **Lucky Duck Bingo – Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 – 7:00 pm

Join us for an egg-cellent time playing bingo!

All are welcome – bring elephant gift (exchange rules apply)  
A \$5.00 donation is requested towards pizza & drinks



### **St. John Easter Egg Hunt Easter Sunday – April 17**

Please join us for a fun time with the children for the Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School.

### **Donations for Easter Egg Hunt**



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday and the Elders are accepting donations of treats (candy), stuffers, and coins to include in the 300+ eggs stuffed for this event. These need to be small in size so they fit inside the eggs.

The children look forward to this event each year!

Donations can be given to any of the Elders and should be made by April 10.

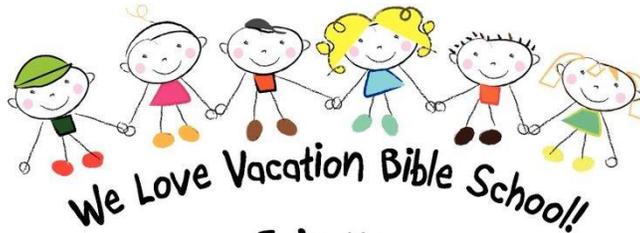


**Mars United Presbyterian Church  
April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am**

Join us for a very special Easter celebration!

Worship offered from 10-11 am. There will be an egg-hunting activity for children @ 11:30 am  
Light refreshments served immediately following.

*Featuring: A special visit from the Easter Bunny*



**Join Us**

**this Summer**

**St John Lutheran Church in conjunction with Mars United Presbyterian Church  
Held at Mars United Presbyterian Church**

**Save the date: June 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Volunteer are needed! (make sure your Clearances are up to date)**

**See Denise Hager**

***Mission Emphasis***

Beginning April 1, we have decided to have a local mission emphasis project. We will be collecting for the Mars Public Library for the second quarter of 2022. Please mark your envelopes "Mission Emphasis."



There will be one Worship Service at 9:00 am  
Starting the first Sunday in April.

Sunday School will be immediately following the  
Service.



### Lock-In

Come join a slumber party of fun games and activities! There won't be much sleeping, but there will be A LOT of fun, free time and organized games.

Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 pm – Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 am

All kids between 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Bring a friend!

At: Mars United Presbyterian Church

### **Vestry Summary**

The Elders met March 1st and discussed plans of St. John's Youth Group, that is a joint venture with Mars United Presbyterian Church, which included a Lock In to be held April 1st. We discussed going to a single service worship on Sunday's as it is apparent that it is best for our congregation and seems as the congregation has also come to that conclusion as well during the Jan. congregational meeting. Finding volunteers for worship is becoming an increasingly difficult problem, especially as we approach Holy Week and the Easter Season. Our recommendation was presented to council, and we expect a new worship schedule sooner rather than later. Easter Egg Hunt is also being planned for Easter Sunday.



# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

at St. John Lutheran Church Mars PA

Palm Sunday – April 10 – 9:00 am  
Maundy Thursday – April 14 – 7:00 pm  
Good Friday – April 15 – 7:00 pm  
Easter Vigil – April 16 – 7:00 pm  
Easter Sunday – April 17 – 9:00 am

## *Ladies Tea*

May 14, 2022 @ 12:00



*The ticket price is \$20.00 (as everything is costing a bit more this year) Please see Denise Hager, Erin Weaver, Laura Kramer, Kelly Greb, Cheryl Davidson or Cindy Knauff for tickets or call the church office (724625-1830) and someone will get back to you.*

*Donation of a basket for silent auction will be greatly appreciated.*

*Mark your calendar!*



- 04/07 John Fritz
- 04/07 Zachary Claus
- 04/10 Anna Kramer
- 04/11 Todd McCormick
- 04/20 Martha Ward
- 04/22 Benjamin Knauff
- 04/24 Karen Collins
- 04/24 Susan Bielo

**Upcoming Events**

**Ladies Tea – May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00**  
**Vacation Bible School – June 26-30**



04/18 Clarence & Marlene Strabel – 64 yrs.

**Worship Helpers**  
**April**

**Assisting Ministers**  
 9:00 am: **Martha Ward**

**Ushers**  
 9:00 am **John Tully**

**Counters for April**  
 Valerie Cardinal & Tanya Nagel

# April Newsletter

Address service requested

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 P.O. BOX 411  
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