

August
2022

St. John Lutheran Church



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

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"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."

Romans 15:4

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.*

It's hard to believe we are already in August! That means the world is in full swing getting ready for the back-to-school flurry! There is so much excitement that comes with a new school year. I remember looking forward to organizing my folders and pens and pencils for each new year, excited for the new learning of the new year. But back to school also means fuller schedules for a lot of people. The church is not immune to the flurry of the back-to-school excitement, either. In August we will be celebrating this flurry with a Blessing of the Backpacks as we plan and prepare for a full schedule of Christian Education and Faith Formation in the fall with Sunday morning classes for kids in preschool all the way through adults at any stage in life. Outside of our Sunday morning classes, we will have the return of our joint Youth Group with Mars United Presbyterian and the beginning of our new joint Kids Club for children in 2nd-5th grade. And stay tuned for mid-week Bible study series for adults too!

We take time for Christian Education and faith formation because we know that we are never done learning! And our faith and the Bible are full of new ways to look at things and new things to learn. If you ever have a question about why we do something or what the Lutheran church teaches about something, ask me! I'm always happy to engage the many questions our faith brings us!

But before we get to the busyness of the new academic year, we will be celebrating the last days of summer with the return of Burgers on Beaver St. and our annual Church Picnic. Check out the newsletter for more exciting things going on at St. John this month and into the fall!

Peace,
Pastor Katie

Online Sunday Worship

Join Zoom for service: <https://zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411 PW: Luther
Available on our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC35PpgMPeMgDRNmKYYKssxvQ>
and in the church Facebook group: [St John Lutheran Church Mars PA](#) later in the day.

Serving Others

God's Work Our Hands Sunday – September 11



God's Work Our Hands Sunday has been a tradition in the ELCA for a number of years. Typically the second Sunday in September, **"this day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.** Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace,"

(<https://www.elca.org/dayofservice>). St. John will be joining in the national observance of this day by altering our **worship service to be focused on an act of service** – making and offering lunch to our local first responders. We will still **come together at 9:00 am** to pray, read scripture, sing songs, and gather at the table of Holy Communion. But **we will also use our service as a prayer and a part of our worship** as we assemble lunch for our local first responders. **To facilitate this marriage of worship and service, we will be meeting in the basement.**

Mission from Mars

Mission from Mars is a Sunday lunch outreach organization.

Our goal is to provide a Sunday lunch, a sack lunch to go, and toiletry bags for the 75+ people who are served by this organization. From now until October, we, along with Kim's work family and MUP, are going to do a collection drive to provide much needed items for the homeless to help them as the weather turns colder. There will be bins in the greeting area to place your donated items. (If you have any gently used coats that you want to donate, we would love to pass them along)



For the **month of August, we are asking for new underwear. We still need towels, peanut butter, and deodorant.** Please contact Kim Richards (724-316-2263) or Pastor Katie with questions.

Sharing the Harvest



As summer continues, many gardens are busy producing delicious, homegrown fruits and vegetables. Sometimes our gardens have a rough year, and the harvest is meager... other times the conditions are just right, and we wonder what on earth we'll do with all our tomatoes or zucchini! **If your garden is producing more food than you need or want, feel free to share your abundance at church!**

Bring your produce on Sunday mornings to share with fellow worshippers.

Coming Soon

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

In the fall we will be starting a **Sunday morning Adult Bible Study class!** This class will focus on the lectionary readings of the day and give us an opportunity to **dive deeper into the day's texts.** Grab a cup of coffee and **join us after worship starting Sept. 18th.**

We will also be starting **mid-week studies** (scheduled in 6-8 week sessions)! These studies will focus on a **book of the Bible, a particular topic in the Bible, or a topic relevant to our faith lives.**

Around the Church

Stay Tuned! Campfire Worship

We've been having so much fun with our campfire worship services! Stay tuned as we try to schedule more in August and/or September – before the weather gets too cold!

Stay Tuned! Adult Dinner

We had so much fun at our Adult Dinner that we are eager to schedule another one soon! Like before, babysitting at the church will be offered so that parents can have an adult dinner too!

The Church Garden

Check out the church garden by the parking lot! It got a late start, but the plants are happily growing! To help folks enjoy the garden, **signs have been posted to identify the different plants**. A box with **clippers, bags, and a prayer journal** is also available so that folks can help enjoy the coming harvest.

Burgers on Beaver St – August 13th

As we have done in the past, we will be having Burgers on Beaver St! Contact the office if you'd like to volunteer. We will have (of course) **burgers and several delicious side dishes and dessert**, and there will be a place for you to sit and enjoy your meal. This is always a **popular fundraiser**, so be sure to invite friends and neighbors!



Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic – August 14th

Join us for our annual outdoor worship service and church picnic. All food and drinks will be provided. There will be games and fun for kids and adults! There is a fee of **\$6.00 per adult and children ages 10 and up** to defray the cost. For **children ages 3-9 the cost is \$3.00**, and **children 2 and under are free**.

RSVPs are requested by August 7th along with payment. **RSVP by completing the form attached to this newsletter**. Checks are to be made out to St. John Lutheran Church. Checks and RSVPs can be placed in Denise Hager's mailbox outside of the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Denise (724-333-0274).



Blessing of the Backpacks – August 21st

Before long folks will be heading back to school! Whether a teacher or a student, going back to school after summer vacation is a big transition! Bring your backpack, messenger bag, or book strap to worship on August 21st. **We will bless these symbols of learning and transformation as we get ready to head back to school!**



Craft Night – September 13th

Calling all crafters! Are you looking for a “novel” (get it?) gift idea for the person who has everything? Join us **September 13th at 6:30 pm** to learn how to make this unique gift. The class will take about 2 hours and if you don't finish you can take the pattern home and complete it there. **The cost is \$5 dollars for materials**. If interested, please see Cindy Knauff (724-504-7871), or sign up in the greeting area of the church.



125th Anniversary

St. John will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on **October 30th in worship and with a celebratory meal**. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for how to RSVP!

Children and Youth

VBS Reunion



Our VBS Reunion is on August 7th, 1:00-3:20p at Mars United Presbyterian. It will be filled with VBS friends, songs, games, a craft, some science, and of course a Bible story... it's a bonus day of VBS!

Contact Pastor Katie if you missed the registration deadline.

Blessing of the Sunday School Space and Rally Day

On **September 11**, we will have our service worship day and while we are in the basement, we will **bless the space that will be used by students and teachers to explore their faith** during our Sunday School classes for all ages. After worship, we will **celebrate the kickoff of the academic year with good food and games at Rally Day!** Sunday School classes will start the next week (September 18th) after worship, at 10:15 am.



Grades 6-12 Youth Group

The Mars Area Youth Group (a joint venture between St. John and Mars United Presbyterian) will be **starting again in the fall** (first meeting 1-2:30 pm, October 2nd)! **Stay tuned for a full schedule of meetings and events!**

Grades 2-5 Kids' Club

As a joint effort with Mars United Presbyterian Church, we are so excited to be starting a **Kids' Club in the fall for kids in grades 2-5**. We will talk about how **God's message is relevant to their lives**, work together to **serve the community**, and of course play plenty of **games!** **To sign up to receive updates on the group's schedule and meeting details**, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/zyueShBkCo28ZyuE8> or scan the QR code. **Contact Pastor Katie if you'd like to volunteer to help!**



Worship Helpers

We love having our young worshippers participating in worship and helping with worship leadership! We will be **publishing the monthly schedule of youth worship helpers in the newsletter**. If you are unable to be present for your scheduled service, please try to find someone to cover and tell the office of the change. If you are unable to find someone to cover the week, please let the office know.

	Acolyte	Offering	Offering
7-Aug	Ava Niklewicz	Luca Knauff	Eva Knauff
14-Aug	Emma Niklewicz	Jules Knauff	Abigail Cardinal
21-Aug	Olivia Claus	Nathan Kramer	Anna Kramer
28-Aug	Ava Niklewicz	Olivia Claus	Nick Claus
4-Sept	Nick Claus	Emma Niklewicz	Ella Niklewicz
11-Sept	Emma Niklewicz	Ava Niklewicz	Ella Niklewicz

August 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Deacon's Meeting Elder's Meeting 7 PM	3	4	5	6
7 Worship Service 9:00 am Trustee's Meeting 10:15 am VBS Reunion 1 pm	8	9	10	11	12 Burgers of Beaver Street - Set-up 6 pm	13 Burgers of Beaver Street - -4 pm
14 Worship Service 9:00 am Church Picnic	15	16 Council Meeting 7 pm	17	18	19	20
21 Worship Service 9:00 am Blessing of the Backpacks. Sunday School Meeting 10:15 am	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship Service 9:00 am Mutual Ministry 10:15 am	29	30	31			



8/02 Emma Niklewicz
8/05 Denise Hager
8/08 Anne Olescyski
8/08 Frederick Bielo
8/14 Ava Niklewicz
8/14 Laura Greb
8/17 Kayla Julio
8/24 Beverly Crislip
8/29 Ralph Storm



8/25 – John & Susan Fritz – 43 yrs.

Assisting Minister

Missy Kramer

Counters

Missy Kramer

Bread Baker

Denise Hager

**August
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