

May
2023

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

Web site: www.stjohnchurchmars.org
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Pastor's Cell #: 412-407-3166

*To live among God's faithful people
To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
To serve all people following the example of Jesus
To strive for justice and peace in all the earth
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)*

Throughout the Easter season, we traditionally use a thanksgiving for baptism in place of the confession and forgiveness. We are baptized once, but we remember our baptism every single Sunday and throughout our daily lives. By the water and the Word in baptism we are joined to the death and the resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is a gift from God that we receive by faith alone. Baptism forms us together as a community of faith. Baptism begins our lives of discipleship. And so it is good and right that we should regularly give thanks for the gift we have in baptism, and in so doing remember who we are called to be in our baptism.

The charge above is from our baptismal rite. These are the promises made on behalf of a child being baptized and these are the promises we make when we affirm our own baptisms. So this season, as we weekly give thanks for the gift of baptism, I ask you: what parts of this baptismal covenant do you resonate with the most? What parts do you struggle with? And how do you live out these promises in your daily life?

I always tell confirmation students that these are very big promises made in baptism. But I also tell them that they are not alone in these promises. We have our community of faith to help support us in these promises. And we have God offering us the strength and courage needed to live into our baptismal promises.

Remember that you are God's beloved. Remember that you have been washed in the waters of baptism. Remember that in the water and Word of the sacrament of baptism you have been freed from the hold of sin and death. And let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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/UC35PpgMPeMqDRNmKYKssxvQ>
and in the church Facebook group: [St John Lutheran Church Mars PA](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnLutheranChurchMarsPA) later in the day.

Worship Notes

Young Worship Leaders

We love having our young worshippers helping with worship leadership! 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.

	Acolyte	Offering	Offering	Young Reader
7-May	Emma N	Luca K	Abigail C	
14-May	Abigail C	Ava N	Emma N	
21-May	Anna K	Jules K	Abigail C	
28-May	Nathan K	Ava N	Ella N	Emma N
4-June	Ava N	Anna K	Nathan K	

Adult Worship Leaders

	Greeters	Usher	Assistant Minister	Bread Baker	Counters
7-May	Kim R	TBD	Missy K	Denise H	Cindy K Sherry D
14-May	TBD	TBD	Missy K	Denise H	Cindy K Sherry D
21-May	Kim R	TBD	Missy K	Denise H	Cindy K Sherry D
28-May	TBD	TBD	David D	Denise H	Cindy K Sherry D
4-June	TBD	John T	David D	John T	Jamie W Missy K

Volunteers Needed

Please check the **sign-up sheets in the Greeting Area** for how you can serve on Sunday mornings!

Pentecost Sunday – May 28

Pentecost marks the culmination of our Easter celebration as the **50th day of Easter**. We read the story of when **language barriers were broken down** and the Holy Spirit came down by way of tongues of fire after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. **This story marks the beginning of the book of Acts, a book that is then all about the very beginning days of the Christian church and its mission in and to the world.** Pentecost is therefore often called the “**birthday of the church.**” We will celebrate Pentecost with red throughout the church and streamers to celebrate the joy of this birthday celebration.



Serving Others

Harvest Street Mission

We will be serving lunch with Harvest Street Mission on June 4th. Every week throughout the year, Harvest Street Mission **provides a Sunday lunch service on the streets of Pittsburgh for people who may not otherwise eat** through ministry partners. We will be providing lunch as well as toiletry bags on June 4.

Sign up with the church office to be involved with this service opportunity. **We need people to prepare the meals and bags on June 3rd as well as people to serve on June 4th.** We are also collecting **cash donations through the jar in the Greeting Area** to help us finance this ministry. To learn more about Harvest Street Mission, visit <https://www.harveststreetmission.org/>.



St. John Food Pantry

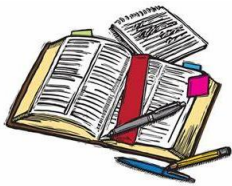
Maintaining the food pantry is a community effort! Be sure **to invite people to make use of the food pantry as they need!** And please help us make sure nothing in the pantry is expired. **If you think something is no longer good, please feel free to dispose of it!** **Outdoor pantries can be tricky with the fluctuating weather, so we want to be careful of what we keep in it.**

Second Quarter Mission Emphasis Project

Our second quarter Mission Emphasis collection will be used to **support the family of Paige**, the girl who was hit by a car in November near the Mars Middle School. Paige recently started to go back to school for short periods of time, but she is still working through multiple rehab and therapy appointments each week. To **help the family deal with medical costs**, we will be directing our Mission Emphasis funds to this family. **Please mark your envelopes "Mission Emphasis"** so that we can be sure the funds are appropriately designated.

Around the Church

Spring Bible Study



We will be back to our regular Bible Study schedule **starting April 19th at 7:00 pm.** **From April 19-May 24, we will be meeting on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm** to study the **book of 1 Peter**. 1 Peter invites us to consider the challenge of suffering in the world and **how we can maintain faith and hope in God** through it all. As always,

Zoom participants are welcome to join us! (We will use the same link used on Sunday mornings. Contact the office to receive weekly emails with Bible Study materials)

Community Garden

Spring is here, which means our little garden will soon be hard at work growing food for the community. We will be **updating the garden** to make it easier to access. As the garden grows, **feel free to weed and harvest as you like!** If you have any questions about the garden, contact Pastor Katie. Keep an eye out for tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and more!



Office Closed

Diane will be out of the office May 10th – 25th. Voicemails and emails will continue to be checked during this time, but we appreciate your patience if replies are delayed. The indoor food pantry will still be available on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you need access to the building, contact Pastor Katie.

Stay Tuned!

Annual Church Picnic

Mark your calendars! Our **annual church picnic will be on July 23rd**. This year we will be back at our regular **park pavilion** (stay tuned for details). We will have worship, picnic food, and games! It's a great time for all!!



Thank You

From the Deacons

Many thanks to all who bought tickets, prepared food, and/or donated baskets for the upcoming tea on May 13th. The contributions and participation of many make the tea successful year after year.



From Youth-Led Worship

Thank you to all who supported our children and youth leading worship! The youth did a great job, and we are grateful to all the youth who led worship and shared God's word with us.

Synod Notes

Synod Assembly – June 16 and 17

Synod Assembly registration is open! We **need 2 representatives** to attend this important annual meeting of the synod. This year's **theme is "Better Together."** Assembly will begin with an evening of business conducted online via Zoom, followed by a day of gathering in person at PennWest California (formerly Cal-U) to worship, work, and remember that we are better together. If you are interested in attending as a voting representative of St. John, please reach out to Pastor Katie.

Children and Youth

Mini Golf Outing

It might not be summer quite yet, but that doesn't mean we can't have summer fun! Join us for a youth group/kids club outing! We'll meet for a pizza dinner then go out for a round of mini golf and finish the night off with a tasty ice cream treat! **Pizza dinner to start at 5:00pm at Mars United Presbyterian (232 Crowe Ave). After dinner, we'll go to Mars-Bethel Golf for a round of golf and an ice cream treat.** All are welcome! Sign ups are encouraged, but not required.

Last Day of Sunday School

Our **last day of Sunday School will be May 21**. We will plant flowers to brighten the outside of our church for the summer months.

Youth Car Wash Fundraiser

The youth group and kids club will be doing a **car wash fundraiser** to help pay for the costs of events and meetings. To help get ready for the car wash, **we need lots of rags**, so start saving up those rags! You can also support this fundraiser by coming and **having your car washed on June 24 at Agway, 10a-2p** (and start hoping for a sunny day!).



Children and Youth (cont'd)
Vacation Bible School – July 9-13

Mark your calendars for **July 9-13** and start inviting friends and neighbors to join us for a **STELLAR** week. **Our out-of-this-world 2023 VBS theme is *Shine Jesus' Light*** as we explore God's word through a space theme!

We need a lot of volunteers to make this incredible event happen, so please consider volunteering! We need people to help prepare for the week as well as help during the week. Contact Tanya Nagel for more information.



Kids Club and Youth Group Summer Schedule

Starting in May and throughout the summer we will not have regular meetings of Kids Club and Youth Group, but we will have several times to gather and have fun during the summer! Stay tuned for details.

- May 19 – Mini Golf and Ice Cream
- June 3 – Packing for Harvest Street Mission
- June 24 – Car Wash Fundraiser at Agway
- July 9-13 – Vacation Bible School at Mars United Presbyterian
- July 14 – Pool Party
- August 19 – Ohiopyle Trip for all ages

Upcoming Events

Adult Dinner – May 5

We will be gathering for an adults-only dinner on **May 5 at the Hardwood Café** (646 Pittsburgh Rd, Butler, PA 16002). **Meet us at 6:00pm** at the restaurant for a fun evening of fellowship. Any questions, please contact Denise Hager or the church office.

Spring Clean Up Day – May 6

Many hands make light work! And **there is a lot of work to be done outside and inside the church building to keep it looking great.** We will be concentrating our cleaning efforts on **May 6.** The weather looks great so far! Contact Jamie Weaver with any questions.

Ladies' Tea – May 13

Our annual **Ladies Tea is on May 13th from 12-2:30.** This is an event we have been doing for more than 20 years. It's a lot of fun to share a few hours with family and friends. If you are interested, please see a deacon as **tables fill up quickly. The cost is \$20.** Thank you.

Lutherlyn CampBlast – May 13

Rain or shine, no registration required, and no cost, just lots of **good camp fun from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm on May 13th!**

Worship begins at 11:00 am, then there are activities all around camp from 12:00-4:00pm with a free lunch offered at the Dining Hall from 12:00-3:00pm. The day ends with a closing campfire will be at 4:00 pm.

Come for part of the day or the whole day! Whether Lutherlyn is a tradition in your family or you've never been there, this is a great time to check it out! **(Lutherlyn is at 500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler, PA 16001)** Learn more at lutherlyn.com/campblast.



Faith at Home

Writing Your Faith Story

Have you ever thought about writing your faith story? Regardless of how you have come to faith or where you are in your faith journey, writing your faith story as it stands now can be an important part of your faith journey. **Knowing our faith stories can also help us to feel more comfortable sharing our faith stories and inviting others to church and to explore their own faith stories.** Our faith stories include milestones like major events or moments where your faith felt tested or reinvigorated.

Maybe your faith story is **intertwined with your ancestors** or maybe there are **themes or patterns** you see developing in your faith story. Ask yourself: **what people have been important members** of your faith journey; how has the **culture** around you had an impact; what **books or writings** have been inspirational to you; what **Bible story or verse** is your favorite and why; what words of wisdom do you hold closely. **As you write your faith journey, imagine if sharing our faith stories were as comfortable and natural as sharing other stories in our lives.** It can be challenging to sit down and write your faith story; if you'd like to talk about it or have a worksheet to help you, contact Pastor Katie.

Easter Walks

It's still Easter! Have you had a chance to go for an Easter walk yet? Easter is a season when the world around us is bursting with renewed life after a season of dormancy during the winter months. **For the 50 days of Easter (ending on Pentecost), go for regular walks, looking for signs of renewed life:** new buds, singing birds, more wildlife, fresh gardens, etc. As you find things, **thank God** for the renewed life all around us **and pray** that God keep the joy of Christ's resurrection fresh in your heart. And we invite you to **share images with us on social media or by email!**

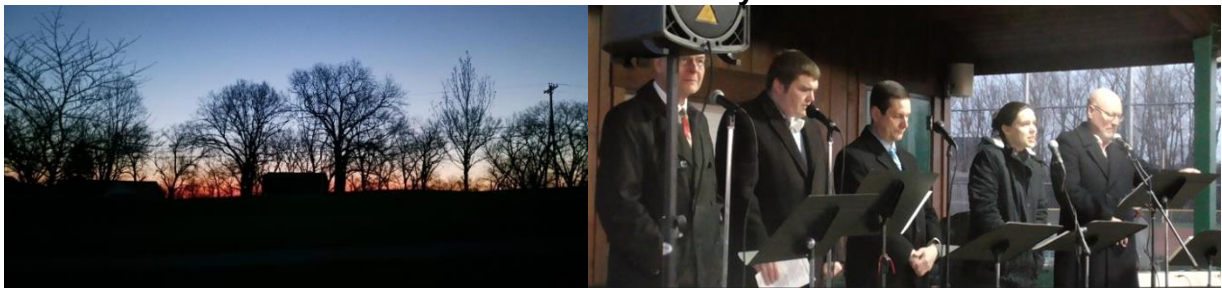
April Pictures

Here are just a few pictures from our time together during Holy Week and Easter worship.

Easter Vigil



Easter Sunrise Community Service



May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Food Pantry hours Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 am - 2:00 pm	1	2 Elder's Meeting 7 pm Deacon's Meeting 7 pm	3 Bible Study 1 Peter 7 pm	4	5 Adult Dinner @ Hardwood Cafe 6 pm	6 Church Clean Up Day Confirmation Class 9:30 am
7 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School Trustee's Mtg 10:15	8	9	10 Bible Study 1 Peter 7 pm	11	12	13 Ladies Tea Noon
14 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School	15	16 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	17 Bible Study 1 Peter 7 pm	18	19 Mini Golf 5 pm	20 Newsletter Articles Due
21 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School (last week)	22	23	24 Bible Study 1 Peter 7 pm	25	26	27 Confirmation Class 9:30 am
28 Worship 9:00 am	29	30 Pastor Katie Penn Mar 1:45 pm	31			June 3rd Packing for Harvest Street Mission 9:00 am



5/08 Erin Weaver
5/08 Amy Werner
5/11 Ruth Ann Tully
5/14 Valerie Cardinal
5/18 John Tully
5/20 Olivia Claus
5/23 Steve Schnelle
5/24 Ella Niklewicz
5/31 Carolyn Jarrett

May Newsletter

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
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