

January
2022

St. John Lutheran Church



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

Web site: www.stjohnchurchmars.org
Church Office:(724) 625-1830
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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.*

Quilts

This year 21 quilts were delivered to St Paul Zelenople (gathering spot for Lutheran World Relief). As in the past we are always on the lookout for flat sheets(backing), blankets(batting), and embroidery floss(tieing knots). If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact Cindy Knauff -724-504-7871.



The Lord will guide you always;
He will satisfy all your needs.

Isaiah 58:11

Upcoming Zoom Meetings and Worship Services

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411 PW:
Luther**

Trustees Meeting – January 2 – 9:15 AM In person and on Zoom.

Deacons Meeting – January 4 – 7:00 PM – In person and on Zoom.

Elders Meeting – January 4 – 7:00 PM - In person and on Zoom.

Council Meeting – January 18 – In person and on Zoom.

Sunday Worship - January 2, 9, 16, 30– 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

In-person worship in sanctuary.

Join Zoom for 10:30 AM service

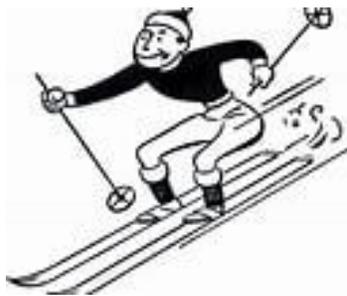
Available on our **YouTubeChannel:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC35PpgMPeMqDRNmKsXvQ>

Sunday Worship – January 23 – One Service at 10:00 AM

Annual Meeting following service.

Join Zoom for 10:00 AM service:

Available on our **YouTubeChannel:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC35PpgMPeMqDRNmKsXvQ>



Upcoming Youth Group Ski Trip

January 22nd

Peak N Peak

We welcomed New Member Barbara Vinson into our church family on December 19th.

We are looking for Ushers and Counters for the 2022 season. Anyone interested in counting can see [Martha Ward](#) and Ushers can see [Martha Ward](#) for late service and [Katie Niklewicz](#) for early church.

2022 Vestry

Council President – Denise Hager
Council Vice-President – Valerie Cardinal
Secretary – Jamie Weaver
Financial Secretary – Martha Ward
Treasurer – Denise Hager

Deacons

Erin Weaver – Chair
Sherry Davidson
Kelly Greb
Cindy Knauff – Representative to Council
Laura Kramer
Denise Hager

Elders

Matt Claus – Chair
Tonya Nagel
Jeff Ward
Katie Niklewicz – Representative to Council
Kim Richards
Valerie Cardinal

Trustees

Dan Kramer - Chair
Todd Niklewicz
Jamie Weaver
Larry Werner – Representative to Council

Mission Endowment

Sally Foster
George Leikauf
Missy Kramer
Clarence Strable
Ruth Ann Tully
Janet Senka

Live Nativity December 10, 2021, at MUP



Angel Tree

A big Thank You to everyone for the Angel Tree donations. For a small congregation, we were able to do 85 names. I am sure this will be a Blessing for these children who may not get other gifts.



Discerning what's truly important

Church is a great place to develop faith and friendships, but so are [Lutheran camps](#), said Kaitlyn Rager, a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Hummelstown, Pa. “Camp is my happy place, my favorite place and my home,” she said.

As someone who has experienced depression, Rager knows that it's sometimes difficult to feel God's presence. But she always finds comfort in reaching out to camp friends.

“Even in my darkest moments, when I feel everything falling down around me, I read my affirmations from leadership training camp, I look at goofy pictures of my friends and I at confirmation camp, and I text my friends ... my friends that I gained through the work of God bringing us together to enrich our faith,” Rager said.

Thinking about long-lasting friendships, Linda Staats, a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Phoenix, recalls *The Message* translation of Proverbs 18:24: “Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family.” She finds that to be true for a lifelong group of seven girls who grew up in the same small town in Iowa. Now scattered across five states, they stay in touch by email, text and videoconferencing, and gather once a year.

“Faithful, lifelong friends—a very rare treasure, indeed!” Staats said.

Sometimes friends can help us discern what is really important, said Sue Czarnetsky, who was once in the middle of a hectic day when a friend asked if she could visit. Czarnetsky felt torn.

“I watched the struggle between the [Martha and Mary](#) sides of my personality,” said Czarnetsky, a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Springfield, Va. Although she was very busy, her Mary side prevailed, and she invited the friend over.

The incident reminded her of how Jesus asked the disciples to journey with him in faith. “Beginning my journey that day required me to slow down,” Czarnetsky said. “By slowing down, I was able to hear the Spirit speak and to clearly see my way.”

Deep friendship even transcends species for Pat Gergar, a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Macungie, Pa. Pointing out that “God” spelled backward is “dog,” he counts his two dogs among his best friends. After all, dogs provide people with companionship, listen to our stories, keep our secrets and provide us with unconditional love that mirrors God's love for us. And when we lose pets, they teach us about love and coping with death.

“Just like Jesus walked this earth as God's Son, I am convinced that God put dogs on this earth for us to have a physical connection with the unconditional love only our Lord can provide,” Gergar said.

[Robert C. Blezard](#)

Robert C. Blezard is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, Md., and editor of *Living Lutheran's* study guides. Previously he served as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.



- 1/07 Justin Waibel
- 1/11 Frederick Ludloff
- 1/16 Chuck Olescyski
- 1/21 Kathy Marshall
- 1/24 Madison Cardinal
- 1/27 Gianna Julio



January Newsletter

Address service requested

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