

March  
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*

*Web site: [www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)  
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Office email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)  
Pastor Katie's email: [pastorkmcneal@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkmcneal@gmail.com)  
Pastor's Cell #: 412-407-3166*

Please call to ensure availability before coming to the office.

We live in a culture that loves to intellectualize everything. We like to study and understand things so that we can explain them. We reason our way through ideas. When we want to tell someone about something new that we've discovered, we might list our sources, cite evidence, or show the logic behind our thoughts. But faith stands outside those cultural norms. Faith is not something we can convince someone (or ourselves) to have. We can tell stories of our faith. We can share the impact our faith has had in our lives. But at the end of the day, faith is something that evades objectification. We cannot study it from a distance. Perhaps that's because faith is often more than a thing to have. It's a practice, a discipline, a **verb**. We dive in, open our hearts, and do faith. We engage in faith. We experience faith. The season of Lent is a time when we pay particular attention to intentionally practicing our faith. We begin with our gospel readings. Throughout the season of Lent, our gospel readings give us windows into the lives of several people who experience faith and its transformative power. They encounter Jesus on a very human level – hungry, thirsty, in curiosity, in grief. But as they engage with Jesus in these very human spaces, they experience the divine – nourished, drenched, encouraged, and filled with new life and new hope. During a podcast recording, David, Keith, and I summarized this shift with a simple phrase: encountering the human, experiencing the divine.

But this transformative process is not just reserved for people in the Bible. We, too, can share in the transformative practice of faith, meeting Jesus and opening our hearts for God to work in and through us. Lent highlights self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. We do not engage in these activities to create faith or to get 'brownie points' with God. We do these things because they create opportunities for us to encounter the human and experience the divine. Self-examination and repentance bring us face-to-face with our struggles and short-comings, inviting us to turn toward God and experience God's mercy. Prayer and fasting show us our hungers and longings, while nourishing us with God's life-giving presence. Sacrificial giving and works of love bring us to our neighbors' needs and hungers, revealing the divine image that rests in all of our neighbors. We cannot enter into the practice of faith alone, so we are strengthened by God's gifts of word and sacrament. We read scripture and reflect on the way God is speaking to us through the Word. We use devotionals to guide our reflections and help us open our hearts to hear God among us. We come to the table to be fed and nourished by bread and cup that are so much more than a bite of bread and a sip of juice, but is the very presence of the divine given for us.

So this Lent, we are invited to not have faith, but to do faith, to practice it, to encounter the human and experience the divine, for God is here, God's love is here, and God's gift of faith is here for you, for me, and for all.

Peace,  
Pastor Katie

### Find Us on Social Media

Like us on **Facebook** (@stjohnchurchmars) or follow us on **Instagram** (@stjohnchurchmars)

### Online Sunday Worship

**Join Zoom for service:** <https://zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411 PW: Luther  
Available on our **YouTubeChannel:** <https://www.youtube.com/@St.JohnLutheranChurch-2>

## 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 find someone to cover and tell the office of the change.

	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Young Reader</b>
<b>1-Mar</b>	Anna K	Ava N	Ella N	
<b>8-Mar</b>	Lydia M	Carissa M	Henry W	
<b>15-Mar</b>	Ella N	Josie W	Abby C	Ava N
<b>22-Mar</b>	Carissa M	Lydia M	Cate S	
<b>29-Mar</b>	Nathan K	Ava N	Ella N	
<b>5-Apr</b>	Ava N	Anna K	Nathan K	

### Adult Worship Leaders

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Assistant Minister</b>	<b>Bread Baker</b>	<b>Counters</b>
<b>1-Mar</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Keith C	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Missy K John T
<b>8-Mar</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Keith C	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Missy K John T
<b>15-Mar</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Keith C	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Missy K John T
<b>22-Mar</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Keith C	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Missy K John T
<b>29-Mar</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Keith C	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Missy K John T
<b>5-Apr</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Denise H	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Denise H Ruth Ann T



**Training is available** for any position. Sign-up in the Greeting Area or at <https://signup.com/go/JPakfVA>.

### Adult Choir

For major festivals (like Easter!), 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 Notes (continued)*

**Lenten Worship and Study Schedule**

Lent is a time for us, as Christians, to take extra time in prayer, devotion, and/or worship. We begin the season with ashes, remembering our humanity and mortality. Then, as we journey to the death and resurrection of Jesus, we **reflect on our faith and strive to deepen our connection with God and grow in our faith lives as disciples**. This year, we have multiple ways for people to connect with their faith lives each week. On Sundays we will have a traditional Bible study exploring the book of Matthew as we explore God's purpose for the church in Christ. On Wednesdays we will have an integrated time of worship, dinner, and faith exploration as we meet Jesus at the table at Dinner Church, focused on readings from the gospel of Matthew. There will be a community luncheon and reflection series on Fridays in Lent as well. As a bonus, a **NEW podcast, Facets of Faith**, is released the Thursday before each Sunday in Lent featuring Pastor Katie and members of the congregation as they explore the gospel reading for each week and the facets of faith we learn from these stories. You can find the podcast at [stjohnchurchmars.org/blog](http://stjohnchurchmars.org/blog) or on Spotify, Apple Podcast, Amazon podcast, and iHeartRadio.

**Lenten Devotions** are available in the Greeting Area. The purple booklet offers reflection questions based on the lectionary readings. The "Building Faith" packets offer prompts for Lego constructions with family conversations about the lectionary readings.

**Wednesday Schedule**  
6:30 pm – Dinner Church

**Sunday Schedule**  
9:00 am – Worship with Communion  
10:15 am – Sunday School for all ages  
6:30 pm Bible Study

**Friday Schedule**  
12:00 pm – community lunch with Lenten speaker series  
March 6 at St. John Lutheran  
March 13 at Penn Mar Apartments (St. John hosting lunch)  
March 20 at St John Lutheran  
March 27 at Penn Mar Apartments (MUP hosting lunch)  
April 3 at Mars United Presbyterian with Good Friday worship to follow

**Holy Week Worship Schedule**

- + Palm/Passion Sunday – Sunday, March 29, 9:00 am
- + Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm
- + Good Friday – Friday, April 3  
Community Service at Mars United Presbyterian, 12:00 pm lunch, service following Family Cross Walk, 3:00-5:00 pm  
Tenebrae service at St. John, 7:00 pm
- + Easter Vigil Service of Storytelling and Communion – Saturday, April 4, 7:00 pm
- + Easter Day – Sunday, April 5  
Community Sunrise Service (Adams Township Park), 6:30 am  
Easter Sunday Celebration at St John, 9:00 am

**Holy Week Worship Leadership**

If you would like to assist in worship leadership (assisting minister, greeter, usher, acolyte, offering collection, etc.) during Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil), please contact Pastor Katie.

## **Holy Week in Detail (March 29 – April 5)**

Details are also available at [stjohnchurchmars.org/holyweek](http://stjohnchurchmars.org/holyweek)

### **Palm/Passion Sunday Worship: 9:00 am**

Holy Week begins with celebration as we wave palm branches with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. But we quickly become somber as we recall Jesus' suffering, death, and burial, preparing ourselves for the slower pace of the rest of the services during Holy Week. This year, we will include a visual element to guide our reflections on the broad scope of the story of Jesus journey from a parade lauded with palm branches to the crucifixion.

### **Maundy Thursday Worship: 7:00 pm**

This service brings us to the table where Jesus ate his last supper with his friends. We recall his shocking act of service as he washed the feet of his friends. We hear his instruction to love one another. We eat together the bread and wine, remembering the gift of life we are given in these mundane elements. And we prepare for the pending death of Jesus by stripping the chancel of all decorations to the words of Psalm 22.

### **Good Friday Community Lunch and Worship: 12:00 pm**

We join with members of the community at Mars United Presbyterian for lunch and worship.

### **Good Friday Family Cross Walk: 3:00 pm**

We will explore the stories of Holy Week in a family-friendly manner that invites participants to actively engage in the story as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning. This free, all-ages together Holy Week storytelling event is open to all. Registration is requested at [stjohnchurchmars.org/crosswalk](http://stjohnchurchmars.org/crosswalk).

### **Good Friday Tenebrae Service: 7:00 pm**

Tenebrae is an ancient service of light and shadow. We gather in subdued silence before joining our hearts in prayer. We reflect on the story of Christ's death as candles are slowly extinguished, moving the sanctuary into darkness. A loud noise reminds us of the closing of the tomb before we remember God's continuing acts of faithfulness in the face of our repeated rebellion, praying for God's continued mercy following the pattern of Psalm 78. We end the service with a light of hope entering the space.

### **Easter Vigil Worship: 7:00 pm**

The Easter Vigil opens with strong, evocative language that declares the Easter Vigil as the culmination of Holy Week and as the center and apex of the baptismal life. We hear the ancient stories of our faith, proclaim the resurrection of Jesus in word and sign, remember God's promise at the font, and share the food and drink of new life. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, prepared to share the good news of the resurrection.

### **Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship: 6:30 am**

As the sun breaks over the horizon, we worship with members of the community in God's creation, celebrating the new day and new life that is promised in resurrection.

(Note: Worship is at the Adams Township Park)

### **Easter Sunday Worship: 9:00 am**

Come and hear the good news! Jesus is not in the tomb. He is alive! We sing our praises and celebrate the joy and life we know in resurrection!

*Worship Notes (continued)*

## **Youth-Led Worship – April 26<sup>th</sup> (at Mars United Presbyterian)**

We love supporting the faith formation and growth of our young people in worship! One way we can support them in their growth is by giving them leadership opportunities and inviting them to design and lead worship for us! Our spring Youth-Led Worship will be **April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Mars United Presbyterian. Please note the different time and location of worship!**

### **Chime Choir**

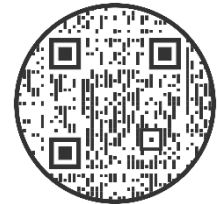
Have you ever wanted to make music with friends in praise and worship of God? **We are collecting names of individuals who might be interested in starting a chime choir at St. John.** Chimes are like handbells but require much less specialized care and technique in playing. Chime choir is excellent for people of all musical abilities – even if you don't read music! Reach out to Pastor Katie or Vern M if you are interested in learning more.



## **Around the Church Strategic Planning Team**

St. John has witnessed incredible transformation of the Mars area over the last 125 years. As we look forward to what the future of St. John will hold as the area continues to grow and change, **we will be exploring the core identity of St. John as we plan to shape the future of ministry at St. John.**

This work will help to position the congregation to **be ready to invite and welcome people to experience the good news of Jesus Christ through the particular mission and ministry of St. John.** To help guide the conversations that will take place as part of this journey of self-discovery, the council has appointed a team of six individuals to serve on a strategic planning team: Keith C, David D, Denise H, Jeff M, Casey S, and Tim W. Please plan to come to one of the listening sessions scheduled at the church on March 7 (11:15a) and 8 (11:00a) to share your stories and help to formulate the guiding principles that will lead St. John into the coming years. The questionnaire form is also still open and may be found at <https://forms.gle/VreBtwvRAYBMLcUH8> or at the QR code to the right.



### **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 provide assistance.

### **Spring Ahead – March 8**

Don't forget to move your clocks **AHEAD** one hour at 2am on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> (or before you go to bed on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>), losing an hour.

### **Spring Clean Up – March 28 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)**

On Easter morning, the church is filled with the glory of Christ's resurrection! Prepare the building for this exciting day by coming for an indoor church clean-up day! **Caring for our building is one way that we can give of ourselves to participate in the ministry that happens at St. John.** Volunteers are needed to help wash all wood in the church, combat cobwebs, and prepare the grounds for spring growth. Bring your favorite rag and bucket or borrow one of ours! Many hands make light work!

### **Easter Egg Donations Requested**

Help us fill the Easter Eggs! The Elders will purchase all items, but monetary donations are welcome to help cover the cost.

*Around the Church (continued)*

### **Spaghetti Dinner – April 11 (4:30-6:30pm)**



The Spaghetti Dinner is coming soon; mark your calendars for **April 11!** The Deacons are handling the organizational aspects, but *many hands make the work light*. We are hoping that **all** members of St John will share their **time and talents** to make the dinner a success. **Help is needed with the set-up, cooking, serving, bussing tables, preparing baked goods, clean-up and more.** If you would like to help make meatballs on March 28, contact a Deacon for more information. Sign-up posters will be stationed in the greeting area. Of course, we are also hoping that you will **invite 10-12 of your friends.** 😊 Thank you.

## **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>

### **2025 Synod Assembly – June 12-13 (in person)**

**Jesus reminds us that faith is meant to be shared and lived openly.** Our witness is offered so others may find hope and see God's love at work. This year's theme invites us to notice and celebrate the many ways **God's presence is already shining through our communities.** In acts of care, justice, welcome, and creativity, vibrant faith takes shape in everyday ministry. As we gather, may we be



**VIBRANT FAITH**  
*GOD SHINES THROUGH US*

encouraged by one another's witness and renewed in our calling to reflect God's grace together.

**Voting members from our congregation have an important responsibility** on behalf of all the members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This assembly is the highest legislative authority of our synod; they will be making decisions that impact 143 congregations covering 10 counties in southwest PA. If you are interested in serving as a voting member at Synod Assembly, please submit your name to council by the March council meeting (March 17). Voting members are required to attend both sessions and must have a smartphone or tablet to use as a voting device. This year's synod assembly will be held at PennWest California.

## **Lutherlyn**

### **Lutherlyn Summer Camp Registration**

Lutherlyn Summer Camp Registration is OPEN as of **February 1!** Many of the camps fill quickly, so plan to register early! If your child would like to attend Lutherlyn, but finances are standing in your way, please contact Pastor Katie. Lutherlyn camperships are available! **Finances should never stop a kid from being able to experience the life-changing adventures in faith at Lutherlyn,** a place where each child is accepted, challenged, and sent out into the world to spread the love of Christ.

Learn more about the many different camps and what you can expect at a week of camp at

<https://www.lutherlyn.com/programs/summercamp/>.

**This year, we are excited to support several of our youth as they attend camp for the first time! Stay tuned for how you can offer support to them and their families as they prepare for an incredible adventure in faith this summer!**

# Stewardship

## Stewardship Reflection



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



**What does stewardship mean to you?** Stewardship is the way we care for and use everything that has been entrusted to us. It is so much more than money. It can be how we care for creation. **One simple thing you can do is care for God's creation through recycling!** Start a recycling bin in your home. Place your used bulletin in the basket by the door to be recycled by the church. Check what the recycling program in your community allows and try to find something additional you can start recycling. Instead of throwing things away, think about if it can be donated instead.

### **A Steward's Prayer:**

O Lord, we pray that as we be, People of God chosen by thee, That you give us strength and guidance every day, For our role as stewards to portray. That our voice and works may proclaim, The ministry of Christ is our aim. That our actions will speak louder than what we say, Where the security in our life is God's way. That we generously respond to what you first gave, Your Son, a Savior, our lives to save. And when we have decisions to make, To thee, O Lord, our prayers we take.  
(Keith A. Mundy, 1998)

### Online Giving

**How many times have you arrived at church and realized that you forgot your offering?** Online giving is a **safe and secure way to support the mission and ministries of St. John.** Any questions, please contact Kelly G.

#### Ways to Connect:

##### **Online**



Visit <https://www.stjohnchurchmars.org/giving> and click Donate Online and then Select Log In or Sign up to set up a one-time or recurring donation.

##### **QR CODE**

Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.



##### **Mobile App**



Download the Vanco Mobile app from your app store to set up a one-time or recurring gift. Search St John Lutheran Church Mars and then Select Log In or Sign up (if first time). Available on Apple and Android devices.

## **Serving Others** **Blood Drive – March 8**

St. John is hosting a blood drive through Vitalant on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. This could be a little girl in the ICU or a mother with Stage 3 leukemia. If you're worried about needles, don't be—most blood donors compare the experience to a mild, split-second pinch! The entire process is very safe and very fast, and you will feel amazing knowing you potentially saved up to three people. Appointments are encouraged through the Vitalant website ([vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)).



*Serving Others (continued)*



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

### **Personal Care Kit Collection**

Lent is often a time for giving things up. This Lent, consider giving back through a collection of simple items to make personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Needed items include towels, combs, nail clippers, bar soap, and toothbrushes. These simple items can help a person feel more human as they experience crisis. Specific instructions may be found on the handout in the Greeting Area. Monetary donations are also accepted to purchase items needed to finish partial kits and to offset the cost of shipping the kits.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Mission Emphasis: Inspired Hearts and Hands**

Inspired Hearts and Hands (IH2) is a community-wide coalition of inspired hearts and hands collectively focused on addressing economic hardship and food insecurity through food box distributions, community events, holiday angel trees, educational enrichment programs, and student appreciation activities. Together, we are serving those who are less fortunate, not just because it is a good thing to do, but rather because it is our hearts' desire to share our blessings with others.



To learn more about this organization, visit <https://inspiredheartsandhands.com/>.

You are invited to support this organization through designated financial contributions. To designate funds to be given to Inspired Hearts and Hands, mark your offering "Mission Emphasis." 100% of funds collected for mission emphasis go directly to the named organization. Stay tuned for other ways that you can support Inspired Hearts and Hands.

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



As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we do this by keeping the food pantry in good supply, even of thinking of items that might in some circles be considered "treats."

On behalf of everyone who visits the pantry, thank you. Please continue inviting people to make use of the pantry as needed! If you notice that the outdoor pantry is looking empty, **please move stuff from the inside shelves. Please be aware of how any items might store in**

**fluctuating temperatures** (typically items with liquid should not be outside during freezing temperatures). Currently, Thursday morning is the most reliable time for access to the indoor food pantry (or times when there is a meeting or service at the church). If you know someone who needs access at another time, Pastor Katie is happy to coordinate a time to open the building for them.

People who use our pantries have asked that we focus our offerings on **toiletries, cleaning supplies, and paper products as well as easy-to-make meals** (e.g., soups or other microwaveable meals). **We also have had several special requests for favored food items. These include Kellogg Raisin Bran, Lucky Charms, Carnation Instant Breakfast packets (vanilla), and pasta sauce.**



### **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).

# Faith Formation

## Confirmation Class – March 28

Confirmation class is a time for our students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade to develop deeper scriptural understanding and more robust connection to their faith and identity as a member of the church. While we cover many topics ranging from Bible study to the Small Catechism to whatever else strikes the curiosity of our students, we continually remind the students that the goal is not to use these classes to learn everything there is to know about faith, church, and the Bible, but rather to **start to practice asking the questions and engaging with our faith on a more mature level that will help carry the students into adulthood.** Class meets the fourth Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30am.

## Kids Club/Youth Group – March 1, 15, and 29

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.

The groups will meet at the respective churches 4:00-5:30pm with **dinner served at Mars United Presbyterian on March 1 and 29 and at St. John Lutheran on March 15 after the meetings.** To sign up to receive updates and the group's schedule, please fill out the form at [stjohnchurchmars.org/childreneyouth](http://stjohnchurchmars.org/childreneyouth).

## Messy Church – March 20



**Messy Church is an intentionally intergenerational place for people to meet and experience fun and messy ways to engage in faith, including crafts and activities, celebration, and a shared meal no matter their connection to church. At Messy Church, we celebrate the creative, joyful God revealed in Jesus Christ.** Bible stories are explored in ways that invite our whole messy selves into God's story of the good news of Jesus Christ - that we are freed and forgiven in God's abundant grace and that God's love is for us, all of us. Come and bring your neighbors and friends to share in this interactive, creative, and celebratory worship service!

**We begin by eating dinner together at 6:00pm.** Then after a brief, interactive story-telling, activities are opened for families to explore together at their own pace in a flexible environment. At the end of the evening, we bring our whole selves - our hearts, voices, and bodies to celebration of God's creative goodness in praise songs and prayer, **ending at 8:00pm.**

## Communion Classes

Each week, we give thanks to the ways God has moved in and through God's people across scripture before we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. **Communion class offers an opportunity for people to hear the story of Jesus' last supper and its connection to the exodus in the Hebrew Bible.** We will explore the different supplies and practices surrounding communion as well as bake bread to be used at an upcoming worship service.



**If you are interested in your child receiving their first communion this year** at St. John, please contact Pastor Katie and dates will be selected for these sessions. The Lutheran church does not have a specific age at which communion is first offered. It is a decision to be made for and with each baptized child and their family. The class is not required for a child to receive communion, but will help the child put the ritual into context. Classes are aimed at children in and around 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and plans for an adult in the family to participate alongside them.

*Faith Formation (continued)*

**Adult Bible Study – The Gospel of Matthew**

Whether you're reading Matthew for the first time or the 50<sup>th</sup>, this study will invite you to find the delight and challenge in this gospel that for many is integral to how Christians talk about faith and learn what it means to follow Jesus. All are welcome to come and explore the gospel of Matthew regardless of church affiliation or familiarity. **This series begins on Sunday, March 1 and will continue to through Sunday, March 29, meeting at 6:30pm in person or via zoom.** Attendance at previous sessions is not required for participation in upcoming sessions.

On **Wednesdays**, we will explore the gospel of Matthew through the **Dinner Church format**. We begin by entering a time of worship through prayer, confession and forgiveness, and the breaking of the bread. During dinner, conversation centers around scripture through discussion questions. After dinner, the service continues with prayer and singing around the cross and sharing in the cup as we conclude the eucharistic liturgy. No zoom option is available on Wednesdays in Lent.

**Sunday Faith Formation Hour**

Each Sunday, we gather in the lower level of the building for Faith Formation for all ages. Hospitality is offered in the form of goodies and drinks. At approximately 10:15am, we begin an all-ages together Bible game to help all of us develop greater familiarity with the Bible. At approximately 10:30am, people are invited to move into age-based groups to explore different topics as outlined below.

Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Pre-K through elementary classes will explore stories of Jesus' ministry through interactive storytelling and crafts. Students are asked to bring their Bibles to each class as they will be encouraged to find stories in their Bible, learning to mark their Bibles as they engage with the story. Students will be given a take-home sheet each week to help families continue the conversations at home. See below for a schedule of lessons to be covered each week this month:

**March 1** – Greatest Commandment

**March 8** – Woman at the Well

**March 15** – The Last Supper

**March 22** – Holy Week

**March 29** – Palm Cross Making and Holiday Meal Kit Shopping

**April 5** – Easter Sunday (no class)

Middle and High School

A note from the teacher, Ruth Ann: "The theme for the confirmation aged students during this winter term has been quite interesting. Discussions have been funny and sometimes serious. Some topics have dealt with running away from home - The Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32); what it really means to be rich – The rich young man (Matthew 19:16-21) and things that are not fair – the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). We also discussed the word Hell! Always one step away from an adventure with these young people. Just when you think they aren't listening – well think again."

Adult Sunday Faith Formation

The Bible is full of stories. Stories that are full of success and failure, surprise and expectation, joy and sorrow. Each week we will tackle a different story in the Bible, hear how it fits into the grander narrative of the story of God's people in scripture and discuss how it impacts our own stories.

**March 1** – God's People on the Move – Exodus – Deuteronomy

**March 8** – Getting Settled – Joshua – Ruth

**March 15** – Kings and Kingdoms – Samuel – Chronicles

**March 22** – Trails of Tears and Joy: 2 Kings – Esther, Lamentations, Daniel

**March 29** – Palm Sunday, Passion Narrative Discussion

**April 5** – Easter Sunday (no class)

# March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship, 9:00a Faith Formation, 10:15a Kids Club / Youth Group, 4:00p Adult Bible Study, 6:30p	2 Elders' Meeting, 7:00p Trustees' Meeting, 7:00p Deacons' Meeting, 7:00p	3 Dinner Discussion & Devotion, 6:30p	4 Dinner Discussion & Devotion, 6:30p	5 Lenten Lunch, at St. John, 12:00p	6 Lenten Lunch, at St. John, 12:00p	7 Strategic Planning Listening Session, 11:15a
8 Clocks Change (2a) Worship, 9:00a Faith Formation, 10:15a Strategic Planning Listening Session, 11:00a Blood Drive, 11:00a-4:00p Adult Bible Study, 6:30p	9 Dinner Discussion & Devotion, 6:30p	10 Council Meeting 7:00p	11 Dinner Discussion & Devotion, 6:30p	12 Lenten Lunch, at Penn Mar, 12:00p	13 Lenten Lunch, at Penn Mar, 12:00p	14
15 Worship, 9:00a Faith Formation, 10:15a Kids Club / Youth Group, 4:00p Adult Bible Study, 6:30p	16 Council Meeting 7:00p	17 Council Meeting 7:00p	18 Dinner Discussion & Devotion, 6:30p	19 Lenten Lunch, at St. John, 12:00p Messy Church, 6:00 – 8:00p Newsletter Articles Due	20 Lenten Lunch, at St. John, 12:00p Messy Church, 6:00 – 8:00p Newsletter Articles Due	21
22 Worship, 9:00a Faith Formation, 10:15a Adult Bible Study, 6:30p	23 Dinner Discussion & Devotion, 6:30p	24 Dinner Discussion & Devotion, 6:30p	25 Dinner Discussion & Devotion, 6:30p	26 Worship Planners 7:00p	27 Lenten Lunch, at MUP, 12:00p	28 Church Cleanup Day, 9:00a Confirmation Class 9:30a Meatball making
29 Palm/Passion Worship, 9:00a Anniversary/Birthday Celebration Faith Formation, 10:15a Kids Club / Youth Group, 4:00p Adult Bible Study, 6:30p	30 Communion at Penn Mar 1:45p	31	April 1	April 2 Maundy Thursday 7:00p	April 3 Good Friday Lunch and Worship at MUP, 12:00p Family Cross Walk, 3:00-5:00p Tenebrae, 7:00p	April 4 Easter Vigil, 7:00 p



03/01 William Greb  
03/11 Janet Ford  
03/16 Lydia Miller  
03/29 Barry Steigerwalt

# March Newsletter

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Address service requested

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