

September
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
Church Office: (724) 625-1830
Office email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Pastor Katie's email: pastorkmcneal@gmail.com
Pastor's Cell #: 412-407-3166

Please call to ensure availability before coming to the office.

*"The church it is the people, living out their lives,
called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ!
We are the church! The body of our Lord
We are all God's children; we have been restored!"*

So goes a song I learned many years ago as a camper at Lutherlyn. I have always loved this song. It is a fun and upbeat way to remember what the church is and what our purpose as church is. We are church, called to be community supporting one another in the daily ups and downs of life, enlightened by God's presence in us, inviting us into a deeper connection with God, and sanctified, made holy, set apart to speak God's word and do God's work in the world, serving our neighbors near and far. Or as Burtness, Daubert, and Driver-Bishop, the team of authors responsible for our final summer book, *Meta Moments*, put it: "These three aspects are often lifted up as the essential elements of what it means to be church together: Up, Out, and In.... When life is right we are in loving relationship with God (Up), our neighbors (Out), and ourselves (in). This is what Jesus says God is all about. It is what God intends life to be about. As God's people in the church, it is what we are to be about as well."

Being church means holding, being, and doing all of these things in connection and in balance with one another. It's not easy to hold all three in balance. Inevitably, we will turn our attention to one element and let the others fall by the wayside. The challenge is to recognize this and to come back to center. But the beauty in that challenge is that coming back to center is not just up to us, as it says in Luther's Small Catechism, the Holy Spirit is continually moving in and through us and others to restore us, to call us to community, enlighten us to God's active presence, and sanctify us to do God's work with our hands and speak God's Word with our voices.

As we enter into the fall, as many ministries swing back into action, I invite you to reflect on the ways in which you might feel out of balance in your life as a Christian and seek ways to join in the Holy Spirit's work of bringing you to center, from where you, as a beloved member of the body of Christ, can move up, out, and in, each in turn and all in balance.

Peace,
Pastor Katie

Find Us on Social Media

Like us on Facebook ([@stjohnchurchmars](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnchurchmars)) or follow us on Instagram ([@stjohnchurchmars](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnchurchmars))

Online Sunday Worship

Worship with us online! Service is livestreamed on our YouTube Channel at 9:00am on Sundays at <http://youtube.com/@stjohnchurchmars/streams> or through the church app.

Services are recorded and available throughout the week at youtube.com/@stjohnchurchmars

Worship Beyond Sunday Morning

Service of Hope and Healing – Sept 10

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30) **This Service of Hope and Healing invites you to lay down your burdens at the foot of the cross. Filled with scripture, song, and prayer, this service offers a quiet, reflective space to dwell in God’s promise of hope and healing.**

Whether you are dealing with illness, grief, anxiety or another kind of hardship, this service offers peace. Service meets in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm and lasts approximately 30-45 minutes.

Messy Church – Sept 18



Messy Church is BACK! After a break over the summer, we are excited to be back to the messy exploration of scripture and celebration of God at Messy Church! **Our first Messy Church of the year will be Friday, September 18 at 6:00pm.** We will continue our schedule of the third Friday at 6:00pm.

At Messy Church, all ages come together in a creative, Christ-centered environment to hear God’s Word and talk about how to apply it to our daily lives through crafts and activities. **We begin our service with a family-style dinner, then we move into a time of flexible, self-paced exploration, then we end together celebrating God’s Good News for us.** All are welcome! Invite a friend and we’ll see you on Friday, September 18th!



YES Worship – Oct 4

Mark your calendars for a NEW way to worship! **YES Worship is specifically designed to be a fully-interactive worship service for families with younger children where we say YES to every request of “Can I help with that?”.** Preparing the altar, lighting the candles, blessing the elements of communion, every moment of the worship is



an opportunity for children to bring their minds, their hearts, and their bodies into worship participation. We begin our service by dressing the altar with kid-friendly supplies then move through **an abbreviated version of the Sunday liturgy where children are invited to bring their enthusiasm, their joy, and their curiosity to every element of worship.** Our first service will be Sunday, October 4th at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary and will continue the first Sunday of every month at 4:00pm.

The service will last approximately 30-45 minutes.

For our first service – people are invited to bring stuffies and pictures of pets as we bless the animals (real, toy, and imaginary) in our lives.

Worship Notes

Young Worship Leaders

If you are unable to serve on your assigned week, please find a replacement and then notify the office of the switch.

	Acolyte	Offering	Offering	Young Reader
6-Sept	Nathan K	Lydia M	Abby C	
13-Sept	Ava N	Josie W	Cate S	
20-Sept	Josie W	Ava N	Ella N	Carissa M
27-Sept	Cate S	Carissa M	Henry W	
4-Oct	Abby C	Josie W	Ella N	

Adult Worship Leaders

Individuals are welcome to sign up to help lead worship in a variety of roles using the online sign up board at <https://signup.com/go/JPakfVA>.

The online sign up sheet is also available through the new church app.

	Greeters	Usher	Assistant Minister	Bread Baker	Counters
6-Sept	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C Vern M
13-Sept	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C Vern M
20-Sept	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C Vern M
27-Sept	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C Vern M
4-Oct	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Denise H Keith C

Worshipping with Children

Know that your children, and their wiggles, are most welcome in worship on Sunday mornings! However, the service is often geared more towards adults, with lots of things happening that might all sound very similar to children. After a pause in production over the summer, we will once again have children's bulletins to help our young worshipers **follow along with every element of the worship service using age-appropriate language and activities**. There are stickers to go along with each level of reader. Our visually inclined young worshipers are invited to make shapes out of pipe cleaners following the prompts in the bulletins. Our students who are still learning to read are invited to practice writing sight words related to the church season. And our young readers are offered opportunities to learn more about each element of worship with notes explaining what to do for our newest acolytes. **Grab a bulletin for your young worshiper in the Greeting Area next Sunday!** There are also worship bags that are filled with coloring books, fidgets, puzzles, and/or books that children are welcome to take into the sanctuary. And if your child needs a break from the service, know that you are always welcome to use the playroom in the lower level by the elevator.

Worship in Service – September 6

In preparation for the serving of a meal with Harvest Street Mission on Sept 13, we will be packing blessing bags during worship on September 6.

Bible Gift and Blessing – Sept. 20

Having a personal Bible is an important part of our faith journey. **To help our members of all ages on their faith journeys, we regularly give new Bibles to students so that they may always have an age-appropriate Bible at their reading level.** Students entering their first year of preschool receive a copy of the Frolic Preschool Bible, students in 1st grade receive the Whirl Story Bible, students in 3rd grade receive a full Bible using the CEB (Common English Bible) translation, and students in 6th grade receive the Collaborate Study Bible used in confirmation class. Anyone of any age in need of an age-appropriate Bible is encouraged to contact the office. Bibles for adults are also available. **If you would like your own personal Bible to be blessed, you are invited to bring it to worship this day as well.**



Blessing of the Quilts – Sept 27

You may have noticed that the Sanctuary is adorned with quilts again! **These quilts were lovingly stitched together to provide warmth and comfort and care to people around the world served by Lutheran World Relief.** Before the quilts make their journey, we will be praying over these quilts and for all who will receive them in our **annual Blessing of the Quilts September 27th during worship.** **Contact the office to find out how you can participate in this crafty ministry!**

Blessing of the Animals – Oct 4

Pets are beloved members of our homes. **To honor the special place our pets have in our lives, you are invited to bring a favorite stuffie or a picture of your pets to worship.** During worship we will pray for God's blessing on the animals in our hearts and homes and those in our care in the wild in recognition of St. Francis of Assisi (feast day Oct 4), a 13th century saint who taught people about the goodness and holiness of all of God's creation, including the animals.

Worship Volunteers Wanted



Lay leadership in worship is an important part of the Lutheran tradition. There are many ways that a person can utilize their gifts to offer leadership in worship. Read the descriptions of all the volunteer positions needed each Sunday and sign up online to offer your gifts in worship leadership. **Training is available** for any

position. You are welcome to **sign up for just one week to give it a try or multiple weeks** to practice and get comfortable! Sign up to volunteer for an open slot using the sign-up sheets in the greeting area or at <https://signup.com/go/JPakfVA>

Assistant Minister: Help lead worship by reading scripture and prayers and assisting in the distribution of communion. Bulletins are emailed to worship leadership on Thursdays to allow time to practice.

Greeter: Greet people as they enter for worship and hand out bulletins. Greeters are helpful at both the front and back of the sanctuary. If you do not see someone greeting people at either location please feel free to grab a stack of bulletins and welcome people to worship.

Usher: Ring the bell before and during worship, attend to lights and doors, and coordinate offering collection.

Bread Baker: Bake or purchase bread to be used for communion during worship.

Eucharistic Minister: (contact Pastor Katie, no sign-up sheet) Visit and take communion from our Sunday celebration to those unable to be physically in worship.

Altar Guild: (contact Pastor Katie, no sign-up sheet) Set up for and clean up after worship (including for communion); change the paraments to match the color of the day as needed.

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>

Skills to Serve: Drywall and Trim – Sept 19

Have you ever considered signing up for a mission work trip but didn't feel you had the qualifications? Our synod's Lutheran Disaster Response team is hosting the first of three skill training sessions, starting with drywall and trim. **Useful tips, tutorial videos, and opportunity to practice will help you learn**



new skills and build confidence for participating in disaster response. The next session covers drywall and trim at First Evangelical Church in Greensburg on Saturday, September 19 from 9:20 – 11:30 am. No registration is required. Questions can be directed to Synod Vice President Barb Nugent at barbara.nugent@swpasynod.org

Lutherlyn

Worship at Lutherlyn – Sept 13



You are invited to worship at Lutherlyn throughout the year. **Everyone is welcome and invited to join the Lutherlyn staff and other lovers of Lutherlyn in the Amphitheater** for worship on September 13th. Communion Worship starts at 3:30pm (plan to arrive early to allow time to park and walk to worship). If it is raining, we will worship in Baker Chapel. No RSVP is needed.

Family Halloween Fun at Lutherlyn – Oct 25

Register by October 18th for an afternoon at Lutherlyn full of Halloween fun! There will be hay rides, Halloween-themed carnival games, crafts, s'mores, a nature activity, scavenger hunt, and access to the jump pillow and discovery room! Registration is \$8/person and each family is asked to bring candy/items to pass out for trick-or-treating. Learn more and register at lutherlyn.com/Halloween.

Around the Church

Hospitality Hour Hosts

Being a faith community is so much more than just worshipping together. It's spending time in fellowship and learning together too! **To help us connect with this aspect of being a faith community, we are asking volunteers to host the hospitality hour. Hosts are asked to provide goodies for people to munch on while we play games together as a part of our faith formation hour.** In addition to providing goodies, hosts are asked to set up and clean up the goodie table. Goodies can be whatever is easy for you! Store bought cookies? Great! Homemade zucchini cake? Great! Yogurt and fruit? Great! Cake? Great! If you are willing to help with the set up/clean up but need help with the financial burden of supplying goodies, contact Pastor Katie. If you would like to volunteer to host the hospitality hour (we have the games covered), contact Denise H or the office.

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 also provide assistance.

Church App



Stay connected with St. John throughout the week! There's an app for that! In the Google Play store or the iOS App Store, search for "Church App – Tithely". Download the app, then search for St. John Lutheran Church in Mars. The app has links for the calendar, podcasts, worship leadership, bulletins, prayer resources, and more! Download the app today at <https://tithely.app.link/st-john-lutheran> or use the QR code. See a tutorial for how to download the app and an introduction to its offerings at <https://tinyurl.com/mtpdv6pz>.



Murder Mystery Dinner – Sept 12

At 5:00pm on September 12th, a troupe of actors from Mystery's Most Wanted will fill the basement with mystery and laughter as we eat dinner together and sort out the great Whodunit of the night. **You can buy your ticket now from the Deacons. Tickets are \$25/person** for this adult-only event. If you need help contacting a Deacon, the office can provide contact information. Buy your tickets now for this unique event!



Volunteers Needed for Clean up – Sept 19



The Trustees have been hard at work with many maintenance and cleanup projects around the church. The stairs to the back of the fellowship hall have had safety runners added, the outside steps by the bathrooms were power washed, the carpet in the Greeting Area and steps was cleaned, and so much more, but **your help is needed for big Fall Cleanup Days on September 19 (rain date Sept 26) and October 10 (rain date Oct 17)**. Projects for each of these days include yard cleanup, sealing the foundation, painting the outside trim, and general cleanup around the facilities.

Rally Day Ice Cream Outing – Sept 20

This year, we are supporting a new local business for our Sunday School kick-off ice cream party! After some time playing games getting to know the Bible, **we will walk down to Cosmic Treats on Pittsburgh St for ice cream**. All are welcome to join us for ice cream at 11:00am on September 20th!



Applefest – October 3



Applefest is a big deal in Mars, so this is a great opportunity to be an active presence in the community. It takes a lot of hands to get ready for the event as well as to be at the booth. Leading up to Applefest, we will need volunteers to make baked goods, make halushki, and bring other requested donated items. During

Applefest, we will need people to be friendly representatives of St. John, selling food and drink, playing games with kids, and inviting people to learn more about this CAKE (Christ-like Acceptance and Kindness for Everyone) congregation. **Mark your calendars now** and talk to one of the Elders or Deacons, or Pastor Katie if you'd like to help!

Stewardship



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



Giving through your IRA

Make a Gift From Your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can give any amount up to \$111,000 from your IRA directly to the ELCA ministry of your choice. You will not pay income taxes on the transfer. If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your obligation.

Secure Great Gift Annuity Rates

You can also use your IRA to set up a charitable gift annuity. (Using cash or appreciated stock to fund a gift annuity is also a great option.) Act now to lock in a great rate for life, regardless of what happens in the markets.

These and other tax-smart ways to give are available at

<https://foundation.elca.org/tax-smart-giving-2026>

Stewardship Corner: A Philosophy of Stewardship

Stewardship is about relationship. It begins with our relationship with God, from whom all blessings flow. In right relationship, we put God at the very center of our being. With God at the center, every other relationship settles into its right place, including:

Our relationship with our time, talents and treasures. We don't own our time, it's given to us to use wisely as we walk on the earth. Most people find it easy to think of time in this way, but it's harder to think of talents and treasures as things we don't own, aren't entitled to and have no right to hoard.

Our relationship to the earth. The earth is God's, and produces an abundance of the essentials for our lives: food, water, air, resources for keeping warm and building shelter. The earth belongs to God but is entrusted to us to use. Stewardship involves thoughtful consumption of resources so all will have enough and the processes that sustain life will not be harmed.

Our relationship to others. Jesus commanded us to love God first, and then our neighbor as ourselves. In a world where greed, anger, hatred and selfishness abound, Stewardship calls us to embrace God's love more fully, that we may embrace others.

Stewardship is a journey. Like all faith disciplines, Stewardship takes awareness, prayer and practice. This website is devoted to inspiring and equipping Christians to walk that journey.

Taken from <https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/about-soli/philosophy-of-stewardship/>

Serving Others

September – God's Work Our Hands MONTH!



"God's work. Our hands." is the ELCA's annual day of service, taking place Sept. 13. It is a blessed opportunity for all congregations to celebrate who we are as a church, engaging in projects and activities that explore our convictions as Lutherans: that **all life in Jesus flows from a living, daring confidence in God's grace**. The ELCA is one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor every day. This year, we are celebrating God's Work Our Hands, all month long!

On September 6, we will pack bags that will be distributed at Harvest Street Mission. On September 12, you are invited to work with Glade Run Lutheran Service (RSVP by Sept 1). On September

13, you are invited to help serve with Harvest Street Mission. Or you are welcome to prayerfully and intentionally find another opportunity to serve our neighbors this month.

Serving Others(continued)

God's Work Our Hands at Glade Run Lutheran Services – Sept 12

RSVP by September 1 to chough@gladerun.org.

Join Glade Run Lutheran Services in Zelienople for a God's Work Our Hands Work Day on Saturday, September 12, 8:30am - noon. Meet in the lobby on the first floor of the Matthew building to begin a day including a light breakfast, opportunities to learn more about Glade Run, and service projects for all ages and abilities.

Harvest Street Mission – Sept 13



**HARVEST
STREET MISSION**

Each year, a team of volunteers pours love and energy into participating in the ministry of Harvest Street Mission. Harvest Street Mission's goal is to connect communities, grow relationships that inspire change, and love our neighbors as ourselves. They do this through providing a hot meal every Sunday to people who live on the streets, in shelters, or in low-income housing on the North Side of Pittsburgh. **They are currently serving approximately 150 people each week,** a 50% increase from previous years! The need is great, but God's love working in and through us and everyone who works with Harvest Street Mission is greater!

This year, St. John is preparing, providing, and hosting the meal on Sunday, September 13. We are still in need of bottled water, snack packs (shelf-stable cracker/pretzel packs), butter pats, and sealable sandwich baggies. Contact Kim R with any questions.

In addition to feeding people, they collect and distribute gently used clothing, shoes, bedding, and personal care items. Currently, their men's clothing shelves are completely empty. Below is a list of what they need (and don't need). Please consider how you might be able to support this vital mission serving our neighbors through your donations. Every act of kindness matters. Bring your items to St. John by Sunday, September 13th to be taken to Harvest Street Mission with the meal.

Exactly what they need

New or gently used:

- Jeans, sweatpants, sweatshirts and hoodies
- Long sleeve tees and base layers (long underwear)
- Winter coats, hats, gloves
- Sneakers and boots with tread left on them
- Adult backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, luggage, blankets

New only, please:

- Socks, white crew length preferred
- Underwear
- Hand warmers, toilet paper, body wipes
- McDonald's gift cards

What they can't use

Dress clothes or shoes, and anything with holes, stains, or broken zippers. A good rule of thumb: if you wouldn't wear it yourself, or wouldn't hand it to someone you love, they probably can't use it.

3rd Quarter Mission Emphasis: Quality EMS

Quality EMS provides emergency medical services, non-emergency medical transport, and community services to residents of Adams Township, Middlesex Township, Forward Township, Callery Borough, Mars Borough and Valencia Borough. To make an offering, label your gift with "Mission Emphasis."

Serving Others (continued)



St. John Food Pantry

The Food Pantry got an upgrade! The original little food pantry was a repurposed dollhouse of one of the youth of the church, but after seven years of faithful service, it was starting to show its age. We give thanks for the humble beginnings of this food pantry and look forward to being able to continue to serve our neighbors in love with this new one!

You can help support this ministry in several ways – bring in shelf-stable food items, paper products, or cleaning supplies, invite people to make use of the pantry, check items currently in the pantry and dispose of expired items. We are in particular need of food items right now – canned goods, box dinner mixes, vanilla instant breakfast, and pasta sauce are items that have been specifically requested by users of the pantry.

Items that may be sensitive to the heat are to be kept in the inside pantry. Access to the inside pantry is available during Thursday morning office hours and other times by appointment (or really whenever the church is unlocked!).

Faith Formation

Bible Study – Lutheran Lens of Christian Basics

It's back to school season, and we are back to Bible study! Beginning on September 16th, we will **explore the text of the Small Catechism and some of the scriptures that guided Luther in his explanations of the basics of the Christian faith**, including the Ten Commandments, Baptism, Communion, and Prayer. Whether you have the Small Catechism memorized or have never heard of it, you are welcome to participate in this topical Bible study. **Sessions are offered on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 6:30 pm beginning Wednesday, September 16 through Sunday, November 1st.** The Sunday session will cover the same material as the previous Wednesday. All sessions are offered in person as well as online through Zoom and last approximately an hour before we end in communal prayer. Members and non-members are welcome to participate, so invite a friend to explore scripture and the Lutheran approach to the basics of Christian faith with you! Neither registration nor any materials are required.

Sunday School for All Ages

We are trying something new in Sunday School! We are constantly learning about scripture and the story of God's people and God's love for creation, and by engaging with people of different ages, we are brought into fresh perspectives and questions. **So this year, people of all ages are invited to participate in Sunday School together!** After the game at the beginning of the hospitality hour, we will have a brief prayer focusing our attention to the Bible story of the day. Sunday School participants will then be invited to join in an interactive telling of the story of the day before breaking into small groups to explore the story, wondering about how God's Good News for us is present in this story. To close our time together, we will all come together to reflect on our learning of the day, sing a song, and pray for the coming week. Students in middle and high school are still meeting in a separate space with Miss Ruth Ann to explore different facets of faith in daily life as a pre-teen and teenager. **Our first meeting of Sunday School will be on September 20th, though we will have a different schedule that day.** We will introduce the Bible through games and then all walk down to Cosmic Treats together for ice cream (funds are available to pay for people's treats!).

Faith Formation (continued)

Grades 6-12 Youth Group

The Mars Area Youth Group (a joint venture between St. John and Mars United Presbyterian for youth in grades 6-12) will be **starting on September 13! Meetings are on Sunday afternoons (4-5:30pm) and approximately twice per month. We will have meetings in the church building and service-based and social-based events.** Meetings in the church building will be at Mars United Presbyterian (232 Crowe Ave). To sign up **to receive updates and the group's schedule, please fill out the form at stjohnchurchmars.org/childrenyouth.**

Grades 2-5 Kids' Club – Sept 27

Our joint Kids' Club with Mars United Presbyterian (grades 2-5) will have its **first meeting on September 27! Meetings are on Sunday afternoons (4-5:30pm) and approximately twice per month. We will have meetings in the church building and service-based and social-based events.** Meetings in the church building will be at St. John Lutheran Church. To sign up **to receive updates and the group's schedule, please fill out the form at stjohnchurchmars.org/childrenyouth.**

Confirmation Class

This year, we are excited to hear three young people affirm their baptism after several years of intensive conversation and study through confirmation class. Specific dates are being discussed in consultation with the families of the students. **For those students still preparing for this significant moment in their maturation as members of this congregation, we will begin classes in October.** Generally these classes are for students in 6th-8th grade, though older students are also welcome to attend and participate.

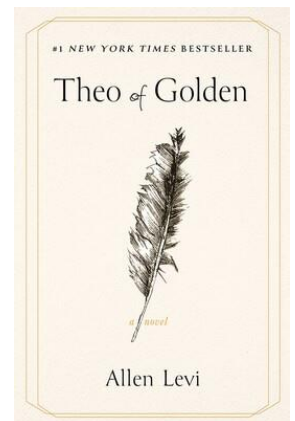
Facets of Faith Podcast



After a VERY brief overview of the contents and structure of the Bible in a Bible 101 series, **Facets of Faith will be returning to conversations centered on one of the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.** Listen to the podcast today at stjohnchurchmars.org/blog.

Upcoming Book Discussion

There are many sources for inspiration to talk about faith and what God is up to in this world. **In October, we will be gathering to explore the way a bestselling novel can help us connect with God, faith, and one another as the body of Christ.** What began as a self-published novel and has become “a word-of-mouth smash hit” according to The New York Times is “an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.”¹ **The book is Theo of Golden by Allen Levi.** You are invited to read this book and join a discussion in October. We may also break the reading into two sessions to accommodate the length of the book. The specific date(s) will be selected later. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Katie know so that we can do our best to accommodate everyone's schedule.



¹ <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Theo-of-Golden/Allen-Levi/9781668236567>

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.

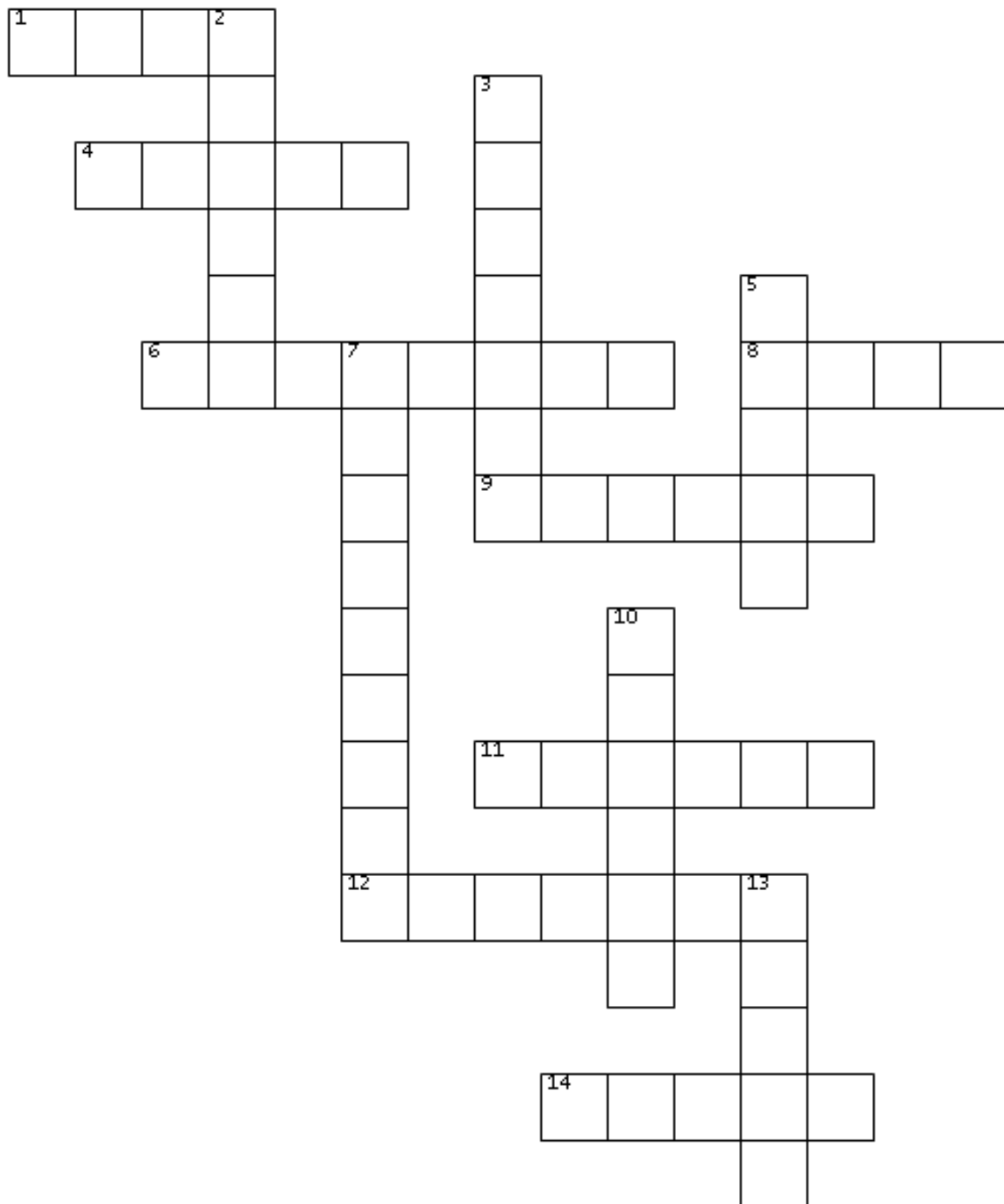
How well do you know women in the Bible?
Use the clues below to complete the puzzle on the next page!

ACROSS

1. She was one of the Hebrew midwives who refused to obey Pharaoh's order to kill newborn Hebrew boys. (Exodus 1:15)
4. She was a follower of Jesus and leader of the church in Corinth. She asked Paul for help in dealing with tensions in the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:11)
6. She was one of the Hebrew midwives who refused to obey Pharaoh's order to kill newborn Hebrew boys. (Exodus 1:15)
8. She was an elderly widow who served God in the temple. She recognized baby Jesus as the Messiah (Luke 2:36)
9. She was the mother of Samuel, whom she dedicated to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:20)
11. She was a disciple known for her good works and helping the poor. Peter prayed for her, and God restored her to life after she died. (Acts 9:36)
12. She was wise and humble. She stopped David from taking revenge and later became his wife. (1 Samuel 25:32)
14. She was in prison with Paul and is named as "prominent among the apostles" (NRSV) and served as a leader in the early church. (Romans 16:7)

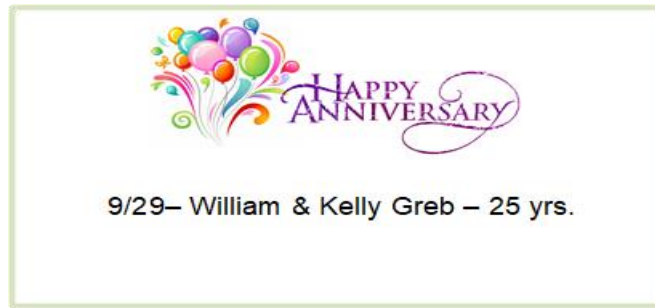
DOWN

2. She was a prophetess in Jerusalem during the reign of King Josiah. When the Book of the Law was discovered in the temple, she confirmed God's message and guided the nation's spiritual renewal. (2 Kings 22:14)
3. She was a judge who led Israel with wisdom and courage. She helped lead the nation to victory in battle (Judges 4:4)
5. She was Sarah's servant and the mother of Ishmael. God saw her distress in the wilderness and cared for her and her son (Genesis 21:17)
7. She was an early church leader who served alongside her husband Aquila. She helped teach Apollos and supported the growth of the early church. (Acts 18:26)
10. She was the sister of Moses and Aaron and a prophetess in Israel. She helped protect Moses as a baby. (Exodus 15:20)
13. She was a dealer of purple cloth. She welcomed Paul into her home and supported the early church. (Acts 16:14)



September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Vestry Board Meetings 7:00 pm	2	3	4	5
6 Worship 9:00 am w/ Service Project Hospitality hour 10:15 am	7	8	9	10 Service of Hope and Healing 6:30 p	11	12 Murder Mystery Dinner
13 Worship 9:00 am Hospitality hour 10:15 am Harvest Street Mission Serving	14	15 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	16 Bible Study 7:00 pm	17	18 Messy Church 6:00 pm	19 Clean up day 9 am
20 Worship 9:00 am with Bible Gift and Blessing Hospitality hour 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Ice cream outing 11:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm	21	22	23 Bible Study 7:00 pm	24	25	26
27 Worship 9:00 am with Blessing of the Quilts Sunday School 10:30 am Hospitality hour 10:15 am Youth Group/Kids Club 4-5:30p Bible Study, 6:30 pm	28	29	30 Bible Study 7:00 pm	Oct 1 Worship Planners 7:00 pm	Oct 2	Oct 3 Applefest



9/29– William & Kelly Greb – 25 yrs.

9/02 Nicholas Claus Jr.
9/04 Larry Werner
9/06 Nicholas Claus
9/06 Henry Wach
9/09 Sally Foster
9/15 Jamie Weaver
9/15 Sam Barill
9/17 Kelly Greb
9/27 Susan Fritz
9/27 Don Gross
9/30 Matthew Claus

September NEWSLETTER

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
420 BEAVER STREET
P.O. BOX 411
MARS, PA 16046

Address service requested