

# NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church

101 W. Martin Street

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

Telephone: 304-263-9291 FAX 304-263-4559

E-Mail: [churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org)

Website: [www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org](http://www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org)

Pastor: Matthew A. Day



## FEBRUARY, 2017

### AT A GLANCE:

#### Giving Statements Have Been Mailed

The 2016 individual giving statements have been mailed.

If you have not yet received yours, please contact the church office immediately.

Thank you!

#### Souper Bowl on February 5- 12:30PM

After second service in Luther Hall. Bring your favorite crock pot of soup or just your appetite to help us celebrate the souper bowl. There will be a free will offering. Jr. FLYTE (pre-K through 5th) and FLYTE (6th - 12th) are sponsoring a competition to see which group can bring in the most cans of soup. These will go to the Berkley Co. Backpack Program to replenish the extra food they keep on hand.



#### Shrove Tuesday

#### Pancake Supper

February 28 - 5:30 to  
8PM

Tradition tells us that in the ancient church Christians prepared for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season by holding a special meal on the eve of Lent. We celebrate, we eat, we enjoy the goodness of life in preparation for entering into forty days of fasting in remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice on the cross.

An invitation to other Lutheran Churches in our area to join us has been extended.

A basket will be available for a free-will donation. This money will be donated to the Community Lutheran Partners for use of families dealing with a disaster or in dire need.

# A gift for you...

Christmas Eve was such a holy time here at St. John's. Starting in darkness with only the light of our candles to make our darkness flee away, we heard how God set this plan in motion from the beginning of time to save us by sending to us his son. Born in humble surroundings, our Lord Jesus came and dwelt in our world. And we have beheld his glory. May this glory be with you all this new year!

# 2017 ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2017

**Meeting called to order by:** President Mindi Esswein

**Members present:** Mindi Esswein, Pastor Matt, Connie Provard, Darrell Propst, Jane Kelley, Shane Wagoner, Mike Noll, Bev Murphy, Jerry Crites, Diane Shewbridge, Cindy Moats, and Bess Day (Treasurer)

**Members absent:** Rick Losh, Austin Propst

**Devotions:** Cindy Moats

**Minutes:** December 2016 council minutes reviewed and accepted

**Financial Report:** report not available

**Pastor's Report:** A summary report for the month of December 2016 was provided to the council by Pastor Matt.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Council Officer Elections for 2017: President: Mindi Esswein, Vice President: Darrell Propst, Secretary: Cindy Moats, and Treasurer : Bess Day
2. Committee Liaison Designations: Council members will act as liaisons between committees at St. John's and the council in order to provide reports at future meetings. They were assigned as follows:  
Christian Ed: Bev Murphy, WELCA: Connie Provard  
Social Ministry: Cindy Moats, FLYTE: Mindi Esswein, Finance: Bess Day(non-council Member), Mutual Ministry: Rick Losh  
Property: Darrell Propst, Stewardship: Bev Murphy,  
Evangelism: Pastor Day, Worship & Music: Mike Noll

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion was held concerning the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, and everyone seemed to be well-pleased. The only negative issue was that of the problematic sound system.
2. Pastor Day talked about ideas he has for worship services on the months that we have a fifth Sunday, which are when we have one service only. He also shared some of his ideas for Lent 2017.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Christian Education:** No report

**WELCA:** No report

**Worship & Music:** No report

**FLYTE:** No report

**Social Ministry:** Upcoming social gatherings: 2/28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, 3/12 Corned Beef & Cabbage

**Evangelism:** No report

**Property/Tech:** Repairs were done to fix the Luther Hall heating problems. Also, the committee is working on how to update the current sound system and plan to have details soon.

**Mutual Ministry:** No report

**Stewardship:** Next meeting is planned for January 19 at 12:30pm in Luther Hall.

With no further business, the congregational council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Moats

## **2016 ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**December 12, 2016**

**Meeting called to order by:** President Mindi Esswein

**Members present:** Mindi Esswein, Pastor Matt, Andrew Banks, Bess Day, Connie Provard, Rick Losh, Darrell Propst, Austin Propst, Linda Gillet, Cindy Moats

**Members absent:** Jane Kelley, Priscilla Horner, Bev Murphy

**Newly elected members present:** Jerry Crites, Diane Shewbridge

**Devotions:** Pastor Matt

**Minutes:** November 2016 council minutes reviewed and accepted

**Financial Report:** January to November 2016 report accepted

**Pastor's Report:** A summary report for the month of November was provided to the council by Pastor Matt.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Cemetery Wall – There has been damage caused by the work the city is doing on the storm water maintenance. Bev and Pat Murphy have called the City Manager and the city will fix the damage.
2. Election of Council Officers for 2017. Three new members elected for the new term are Jerry Crites, Diane Shewbridge and Darrell Propst. The newly elected trustee is Priscilla Horner. There were two more seats on council that needed to be filled.

We will conduct a vote for these in January after the congregation has been notified and we confirm the list of nominees.

3. Mustard Seed Update: At a recent Mustard Seed meeting, the mission and vision statements were revised. They currently are planning to meet on a monthly basis.
4. Christmas Eve: Information on the two services will be mailed to invite members of the community to join us at St. John's on Christmas Eve. Will also send them home with the Mustard Seed students. Pastor Matt will be asking for volunteers to help with the service, and to serve as ushers, greeters, and parking lot attendants.
5. Sound System: Has been problematic. Will be working on a cost effective solution in the future.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Christian Education:** No report

**Memorial:** SCRIP: November 2016 total was \$254.75, Year-to-date: \$2302.05.

**WELCA:** Upcoming event: Women's Dutch Treat Lunch on January 8, 2017 after second service at Hoss's.

**Worship & Music:** No report

**FLYTE:** Over \$100 raised so far from fundraisers to use toward a 2018 trip. More fundraisers are being planned.

**Social Ministry:** No report

**Evangelism:** No report

**Property/Tech:** Currently having problems with the heat in Luther Hall. Darrell Propst will work on this problem tomorrow (Dec. 13).

**Mutual Ministry:** No report

**Stewardship:** No report

With no further business, the congregational council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Moats

# WELCA Soup and Sandwich Sale

## Pre-Orders ONLY

**Soups: \$4.50 per Quart**

Specify Kind	How Many?	Total
Bean _____	_____	_____
Chicken Noodle _____	_____	_____
Vegetable Beef _____	_____	_____

**Sandwiches:** \_\_\_\_\_ **How Many?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Country Ham:	\$ 4.00	_____	_____	
Chicken Salad:	3.00	_____	_____	
Pimento cheese Salad:	3.00	_____	_____	
Ham Salad:	3.00	_____	_____	

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to St. John's Women of the ELCA

Due to limited cooking/refrigerator space there are

**TWO** pick-up dates:

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, February 9 from 11AM – 4PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, February 10 from 10AM – 7:30PM

**Orders must be picked up on the day you choose**

\* Deadline for Orders is Sunday, February 5th

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

To place an order by phone call 304-263-9291

Regular Quart Mason Jars Are Needed

\*\*\*Weather Alert: Snow Dates: February 16 and February 17  
with pick-up times following the same schedule\*\*\*

# MILESTONES IN FEBRUARY

## Birthdays

- 1 Heather Edwards
- 2 Drew Cole  
David Hartley
- 4 Jessica Hancock  
Jessica Stroeck Brooks
- 6 Pat Murphy
- 10 Lauren Riley Jackson  
Edward L. Shewbridge
- 12 Jonathan Edwards
- 14 Matt Denton
- 16 Ruth Miller
- 17 Joanne Calabrese
- 18 Douglas Boswell
- 19 Tiffany Noll Leighton
- 20 Kristen Kirkpatrick  
Oliver (Pete) Long
- 21 Frances Coffinberger  
Deanna Clarke Rapp
- 22 Heather Brewbaker  
Donald Castleman, Jr.
- 23 Eric Burnell
- 25 Trina Bartlett
- 26 Justin Ruble  
Wayne Whitmore
- 27 Catherine Whitmore
- 28 Savannah Calabrese

**We would love to include you  
and your family's special dates:**  
Just give us a call: **304-263-9291**  
Drop us an e-mail:  
**churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org**  
or put them in the offering plate.

## Anniversaries

- 9 Heather and Jonathan Edwards



The Mustard Seed had a wonderful November and December. The Children enjoyed special holiday activities with friends and family.

The Thanksgiving feast had 176 people who attended to watch the children perform and enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving feast.

In Mid-December the children enjoyed Pajama day, which ended up in Luther Hall watching a Holiday movie.



Our Happy Birthday Jesus party had 168 people who attended. We all enjoyed watching the children sing, cake and ice cream.

During Winter break we were able to create the town snowman with the children's little hands.

The Children have really enjoyed getting to know Pastor Matt and really enjoy their weekly Chapel Time.



We look Forward To an exciting New Year with our current enrollment of 52 children.



# *Cottage Meetings*

At St. John's

The Stewardship team is looking to bring our members together to talk about our congregation and how to better meet the needs of all who come to our place for worship, prayer and study.

## **Here are the Dates:**

- February 2 at 2 pm at the Home of Ray and Rosie Bentz
- February 8 at 3 pm at the Home of Bev and Pat Murphy
- February 16 at 2 pm at the Home of Donna and Lynn Aikens
- February 23 at 7 pm at the home of Linda and Jerry Olsen
- February 24 at 7 pm at the home of Pastors Matt and Diane Day
- February 28 at 1 pm at the home of of Jean and Ben DeAlexandro

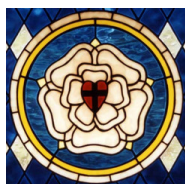
Please come and be a part of these conversations. You may sign up for one of these events on the clipboard located in the Narthex. Seating is limited in the homes so please sign up soon!

# THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

8:30 am Worship	Reader/Worship Assistant	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer
Feb 5	Judy Hinnerichs	Bev and Pat Murphy	Laken Edwards	Nathaniel Edwards
Feb 12	Connie Reiter	Gail Newman David Gattrell	Sharon Brumbach	Matthew Edwards
Feb 19	Donna Aikens	Ray Bentz Douglas Widmeyer	Judy Hinnerich	Joseph Wonsetler
Feb 26	Harry Michener	Bev and Pat Murphy	Benjamin McQuaid	Trey Voorhees

11 am Worship	Reader/Worship Assistant	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer
Feb 5	Bess Day	Don Smith Robert Widmeyer	John Esswein	Sally Kenkins
Feb 12	Katie Kline	Jane Kelley Joe Hutzler, Sr.	Emma Lore	Ian Fleming
Feb 19	Sue Wall	Blain Wilson Arnold Bock	Hunter Thatcher	<b>Available</b>
Feb 26	Arnold Bock	Jane Kelley Sally Jenkins	John Esswein	Payton Hill

Altar Guild in February – Vicky Torbert and Sue Wall and Bread – Vicky Torbert



# 1517 **Education** Festival Event

**March 11, 2017 from 10-3pm  
at St. John's Lutheran Church**

Come and learn why Reformation history matters still today in the 21st century. We will begin the day with Morning Prayer, a panel discussion and three short lectures. Lunch will be provided. There will also be education opportunities for children of all ages.

Pastors, this will be an excellent event to bring Confirmation Students.

**The Event is Free**

Lunch will be provided.

A Freewill Offering will be collected to benefit Community Lutheran Partners.

**1517festival.org**  
for registration and more information

From St. Thomas Lutheran Church...

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER HONORING

Diane Day

AND BABY

Ott-her



or



Ott-he

SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH

*from one to four in the afternoon*

SAINT THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
111 S. SEMINARY STREET  
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

*rsvp to Caitlin Mitchell*

BY FEBRUARY 18TH AT [THEMITCHELLS33@YAHOO.COM](mailto:THEMITCHELLS33@YAHOO.COM)

DIANE IS REGISTERED AT TARGET AND AMAZON

# Lent at a Glance

**Ash Wednesday - March 1 at Noon and 7:30 pm**

**Wednesdays in Lent - In Love and Awe:**

A Journey Through Martin Luther's Small Catechism

**Lunch at 11:15 am and Morning Prayer at 12 pm**

(To-go containers will be available if you can't make it  
for lunch!)

**Dinner at 6:30 pm and Evening Prayer at 7:30 pm**

*Every Wednesday in Lent starting March 8 - April 5*

**Palm Sunday with the reading of the Passion from  
Matthew on April 19 - One Service at 10 am with the  
procession beginning outside.**

## **HOLY WEEK**

**Maundy Thursday - April 13 at 12 pm and 7:30 pm**

**Good Friday - April 14 at 7 pm**

**Easter Sunday - Sunrise at 6:30 am**

**and Festival Eucharist at 10 am**

Deepen your faith this Lent by making time to  
come and worship with us. Learn about the  
mysteries of our faith with others. See the  
story of how Jesus saved us come alive.



**FEBRUARY 2017**

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

So you probably notice the different format of the newsletter this month. Martha and I have been talking for the past six months of a better way to present the newsletter that was easier to collate, easier to read, and could be produced much easier. We don't know if we have accomplished our goals here so please tell us what you think.

It feels like it has been a long time since I have wrote to you all. Christmas was truly a whirlwind here at St. John's. I remember the first time I walked into the sanctuary after the tree and the decoration had been hung with so much care. I felt overwhelmed by it all, but now that the tree and decorations have been taken down, I really do miss it. I miss the excitement that we all had as we prepared to celebrate the birth of our savior. Christmas is a magical time, but so the season after Epiphany. And this year, we have extra Sundays in this time because Lent is much later than in recent years. Don't be a stranger. When you are here, we are stronger. Our voice is louder, our love is made stronger, and the gospel – well that is always holy, but it will be shared with all the more fervor.

We have a few things coming up this month that I want to draw your attention towards. First, we are going to hold six cottage meetings. Please sign up and participate in these gatherings. Essentially, these are social times for people of our congregation to gather and talk about our strengths, weaknesses and how we (as a congregation) do a better job of

meeting YOUR spiritual needs. More information can be found in this newsletter.

And I said Lent was later but it is just around the corner. March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday, which means Shrove Tuesday is February 28. Shrove, which comes from the English word *Shrive* which means absolve. Think of it like this, Martin Luther once said, “If you are to sin, sin boldly” because where there is sin, there is also forgiveness. So on the night before Ash Wednesday, we will gather and indulge in food that is really bad for us (Pancakes and syrup!) and then the next day, will come and ask God to forgive us and make a promise to avoid such fatty foods throughout Lent. Does it need to make much sense? Not really because pancakes are just good especially when smothered in butter and syrup, and eaten in the presences of our friends and family. So mark February 28 from 5:30-8pm on your calendar.

I will be taking some time off in February to gear up for Lent and the arrival of our first child. People call this a “Baby moon.” I am just calling this a Sabbath rest. I want to thank you all for your prayers for Diane and me. I also want to thank so many of you who gave donations for the teachers bonuses at the Mustard Seed. We are incredibly blessed with wonderful, giving people here at St. John’s. Till next time...

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Mark Day". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the end.

St. John's Lutheran Church  
101 W. Martin Street  
Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

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