

# NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church  
101 W. Martin Street

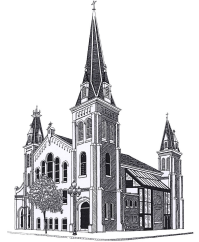
Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

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

E-Mail: churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Website: www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew A. Day



## SEPTEMBER 2017

### The GROVES CENTER

The Grove Center is a part of the East Ridge Health Systems.

As a part of our benevolence contribution, we send them quarterly check for \$350.00 to be used for whatever project or need that is not covered in their regular budget.

The second thing we do is ask our congregation to bring in your aluminum soda cans.

(Yes, we still collect them)

This, in turn, gives the clients a way to earn a paycheck by crushing them for re-cycling.

*"Wow - once again your support to our gals & guys is amazing!*

*We could never afford to continue to carry out the different training programs, as well as the most popular pizza and ice cream socials, without you. From the bottom of all our hearts, thank you so very much!"*

The Family & Friends of the Groves Center

### AT A GLANCE:

## RALLY DAY

September 10th  
and also  
Our Annual



at  
Poor House Farm  
Park

Fun starts at 3pm!!  
Food at 5

*Hot Dogs with Condiments,  
and Tableware will be furnished.  
Please bring a dish to share  
and your drink.*

**(Don't Forget Your  
Lawn Chair)**

# **A Letter from St. John's Council President**

Dear Saint John's Congregation,

Since council did not meet in August, I wanted to give you some information about things that are in the works for our congregation, The Mustard Seed, and Sunday School. All of these items are possible because the council and board go into each meeting with a focus on our purpose, with a mentality such as that set by Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you..." Knowing that we are simply the vessels that carry God's will, we listen to all of the thoughts and ideas that come from both in and outside of the council, board, or committees. Please know that as a group that works for the congregation and church, council meetings are open to all members of St. John's and all concerns are heard.

As most members are aware, cottage meetings were held recently to discuss our strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. Using the information gathered, council has created a one-year plan. As of this moment, and after much deliberation, we felt that the following issues could be accomplished within one year:

- Addressing congregants' fear of coming to evening services and events by creating a shepherding program, improving signage and décor, increasing lighting, and beginning to use parking ushers
- Creating more frequent social events – at least once per month
- Increasing FLYTE's interaction with the congregation, including better communication and more involvement in the services, such as children ushering once a month
- Developing a marketing plan to address low attendance and to draw new members

The Sunday School committee has also begun planning for this year's Sunday School classes. Bible lessons have been chosen for the entire Sunday School season and some new ideas are being implemented, including family projects and an adult classes. Anyone who has ideas or would like to volunteer is welcome to come to any meetings of the Christian Education committee. The schedule has been posted to our website at [www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org](http://www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org).

The Mustard Seed families have been invited to rally day this year and the board is working on a discount plan for St. John's members. Not only do we want to include the Mustard Seed in St. John's family, but these are also methods that could help increase our number of active attendees/members. The Mustard Seed board has been meeting every month and is working to update processes and procedures to ensure that the Mustard Seed is reaching its optimal potential for both the center and the church. If you have a chance to go to The Mustard Seed during the day and observe everything in full swing, you will find that excellent work is being done there and the Mustard Seed students are being filled with God's love and the Gospel.

With our growth, I expect that there will be growing pains. We - as a council, as a board, and as individual committees - are confident that our congregation will rise to meet any challenge and will come out stronger on the other side. As we grow and changes come about, I implore you to keep in mind Luke 11:17 - "But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls.'" Let us remain a united front, for within our differences, our uniqueness, and our various experiences lies the diversity needed to overcome any obstacle that might come our way.

Many Blessings,  
Mindi Esswein  
Council President for St. John's

## WANT TO KEEP UP BETTER WITH ACTIVITIES AND WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S?



Search for **St. John's Lutheran Church, Martinsburg** on Facebook and like our page.

Visit Our Website

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

Sermons posted weekly, information about faith practices, and more information about events happening at the St John's.



Send an email to [announcements@stjohnsmartinsburg.org](mailto:announcements@stjohnsmartinsburg.org) to sign up for weekly emails and announcements.

# 1 YEAR GOALS

## For St. John's

*In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### BY JULY 31, 2018, WE WILL:

- Help people feel more safe and welcome at our congregation by improving the lighting around the church campus (including the parking lot), having parking lot ushers to welcome people to the congregation for both day and night activities, and creating a shepherding program to help new members and visitors learn about our ministry.
- Hold a least one Social Gathering per month including but not limited to Pub Theology, Men's Group or an Ice Cream Social.
- Involve FLYTE kids more in worship at least once a month.
- Develop a Marketing/Evangelism Plan for the congregation.

**Please pray over these goals and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide you in helping us accomplish our goals over the next year.**

# WELCOME TO WELCA

## Upcoming Dates:

- September 17 – WELCA Meeting After 2<sup>nd</sup> service
- September 19, 6:30 – Needlecrafts
- September 24 – Blessing of Prayer Shawls & Swatches
  - Church-wide Ice Cream Social
- October 14 – Potomac Cluster
- October 21 – Apple Harvest Parade Concessions
- August 9-11, 2018 – SWO Convention at Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center, Huttonsville, WV
- July 2020 – 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering of WELCA, Phoenix, AZ

1. The SWO Convention was held on August 10-12 at Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center. There were 18 voting members present. Elections were held:  
Beverly McDonald – President  
Pat Shillings – Vice-President  
There were 3 new board members elected to the SWO Board filling only 3 of 4 vacancies.
2. On needlecraft night and at home, women have been working on prayer shawls and swatches. These will be blessed during 2<sup>nd</sup> service on 9/24. Congregational members are welcome to take a prayer swatch of their choice for use during their devotional time.
3. Available in this newsletter is the vendor form for the Craft/Vendor Sale November 10 and 11.
4. WELCA will need help with food preparation of soup and sandwiches as well as help on the days of the Craft/Vendor Sale. Please check your calendars to see if you are available.  
THANKS!!
5. Additionally, if anyone would like to donate Wal-Mart gift cards to help WELCA purchase ingredients needed for the soup/sandwiches, we would greatly appreciate it. THANKS!!!!!!!!!!!!

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## SCRIP SPOT

July 2017 – 156.85 & August 2017 (to date) – 144.66  
Year To Date – 1401.43

Holidays are coming!!! Don't forget gift cards are easy and inexpensive to mail! Gift cards can be used to purchase those extra groceries needed for baking and meals – Wal-Mart, Target, Martins, and Sam's Club. How about a special surprise for that college kid? Lots of cards for various fast food and table service restaurants.

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
101 W. Martin St.  
Martinsburg, WV 25401  
Fall Craft & Vendor Fair  
November 10 & 11 [Fri & Sat]  
10:00 - 7:00**

**Contact name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of spots requested** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website** \_\_\_\_\_

**Items selling** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact St. John's for more information at [304] 263-9291  
or email ChurchOffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org**

**Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church with craft fair in the memo line**

**Spot size is 10 x 10. Tables available for use on request or bring your own table. Cost for members \$25.00, non members \$30.00. Non-refundable after Oct.10, 2017. Set up on Thursday, November 9 from 6-9 pm or Friday starting at 8:00 am. Tables must be set up by 10:00 am on Friday and stay until 7:00 pm on Saturday. You will be notified after receipt of payment.**

**Agreement**

**All work must be family-oriented. Spaces are approximately 10 x10 and are assigned on a first come first assigned basis. Must have enough merchandise and stay set up for entire fair. I hereby and forever discharge St. John's Lutheran Church and all persons from all responsibility, personal liability, loss and or damage in connection with this fair.**

**sign** \_\_\_\_\_ **date** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEPTEMBER 10**

**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
RALLY DAY**

**September 10**

**A new year with  
classes for all ages  
We will have music,  
games for all ages,  
and plenty of snacks.  
Come and kick off  
another year of  
learning and growing**



And later that  
afternoon, Come  
by for our

**Church  
Picnic**

**At the Poor House  
Farm Park  
Games at 3PM  
Food at 5PM  
More details in  
your September  
newsletter – plan  
to be there!**





**Thank You to The Mustard Seed Board for putting together the Pancake Dinner on August 10th. We received over \$600 in donations!**



Our Summer Program came to an end, and many of our students have moved on to Kindergarten. We welcomed 25 new families to our center for the Fall Program. We are currently serving 62 children from our community. We still have a few openings in our Pre-K program. If you hear of anyone who is looking for care, let them know about us! We are looking forward to an exciting new year with lots of learning and new friends to share our days with.

**Thank you always for your support and dedication to The Mustard Seed.**



**Join St. John's Lutheran Church For  
Family Movie Night  
September 16th at 6:00pm  
Located in Luther Hall**



**Free Movie  
Free Popcorn  
Free Drink**

**Sponsored by the Social Ministry**

# MILESTONES IN SEPTEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Addison Janney  
Gail Newman
- 2 Ben Byers, II  
Dale Hicks  
Jeanne Rector
- 3 Scott Rodgers  
Faith Ruble
- 4 JoAnna Banks
- 5 Beverly Murphy
- 6 Karen Noll  
Karla Troppman
- 7 Valerie Link
- 8 Elaine Bennett
- 9 Jared Stroeck
- 10 **RALLY DAY!!**
- 13 Nicholas Byers  
Cheryl Losh
- 14 Teddy Roberts
- 15 Annette Mann
- 16 Doris Brown  
Scott Wood
- 19 Suzanne Boslau  
Joseph Hutzler, Jr.  
Christina White
- 18 Jeremy Horner
- 19 Phil Eyler  
Kevin Remsberg
- 20 Colton Crites
- 22 Brenda Boswell
- 23 Martin Herbert  
Andrew White
- 24 Steve Miller
- 25 B. J. Davis  
David Ettinger  
Bill Ruth
- 26 Betsy Shewbridge  
Charles Taylor
- 28 Nicholas Leitzke
- 29 Autumn Esswein
- 30 Karen Middleton



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Jennifer and Brad Moss
- 4 Karen and Wayne Middleton  
Karen and Michael Noll
- 13 Catherine and Wayne Whitmore  
Pat and Scott Wood
- 17 Mary Lou and Allen Williamson
- 23 Jean and T.A. Jackson
- 27 Amy and David Hartley  
Gail and Buddy Newman



3

**Ways**

**Give**

to



**At Worship**



**By Mail**



**Online**

Online giving enables those who no longer enjoy carrying a checkbook or likes to write checks to donate safely and securely to our congregation. It is easy to use and you can even set up recurring donations.



**Scan the QR Code  
or visit our website at  
[stjohnsmartinsburg.org](http://stjohnsmartinsburg.org)  
and click Online Giving  
And Thank You!**

THOSE ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

8:30 am Worship	Reader/Worship Assistant	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer
Sept. 3	Buddy Newman	Douglas Widmeyer and Pete Moats	Payton Janney	
Sept. 10	Traci Harden	Daniel Propst and Judy Hinnerichs	Matthew Edwards	Trey Voorhees
Sept. 17	Judy Hinnerichs	Andrew Banks	Danica Propst	Austin Propst
Sept. 24	Rosalie Bentz	Michael Janney and Alex Torbert	Joseph Wonsetler	Buddy Newman

11 am Worship	Reader/Worship Assistant	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer
Sept. 3	Sue Wall	Don Smith and Joe Hutzler, Sr.	Sally Jenkins	Katie Kline
Sept. 10	Anne Moore	Arnold Bock and Connie Provard	Hunter Thatcher	John Esswein
Sept. 17	Blaine Wilson	Blaine Wilson and Sally Jenkins	Charlotte Hutzler	Joseph Hutzler
Sept. 24	Harriett Eyler	Jane Kelley	Emma Lore	Payton Hill

Altar Guild in SEPTEMBER – Linda Gillet and Jane Kelley Bread – Gail Newman

Theology & Bible

# TABLE TALK

Food & Drinks

**JOIN US**

1st Thursday of the  
Month

# September 7

6pm at The Daily Grind

Ever want to explore theology in a way that is not intimidating or hard to understand? And do you enjoy, eating out with friends who want to know more about their faith? Then you need to join us for Table Talk.

Our conversation over the next few months will be focused on the what exactly the Bible and our theology defines the "church" to be. Bring yourself and your questions and maybe we will go in a different direction. Table Talk is all about exploring our faith together.

# Committee Meeting Night

In an effort to be better stewards of our time and talents, we are going to try to have the committees that need to meet, gather on the same night.

The Committee Meeting Night will be on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

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COMMITTEES MEETING THIS MONTH

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## **Christian Education Social Ministry**

### **Child Care is Available!**

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#### **BOOK CLUB NEWS:**

Due to a conflict in schedules our picnic has been changed to **October 8 at 1PM**. We will meet at the home of Linda Riley, 114 Rosewood Drive. Following lunch we will talk about *The Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah and other favorite books you read over the summer.

# Feed My Sheep

First Sunday of the month



When Jesus feed over 5000 people,  
his command to the disciples was,  
"You give them something to eat."



Bring in your non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of the month and place them in the bin below. The food donated will be dispersed throughout our community through our own food pantry here at church as well as through CCAP, Berkeley County Backpack Program, Shenandoah Women Shelter, The Rescue Mission, Bethany's House, Immanuel's House, Faith Collation for the Homeless, and The Martinsburg Children's Shelter.

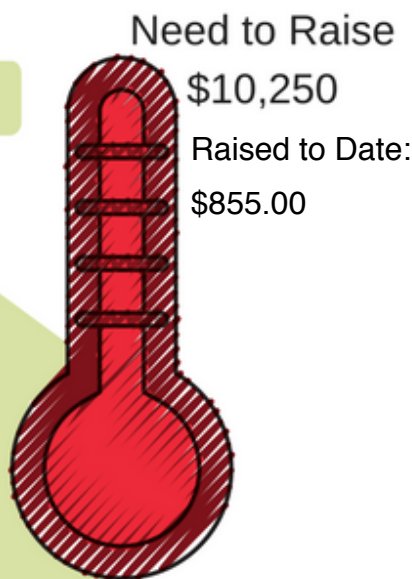
**"If you love me, feed my sheep."**  
John 21:15-19

A decorative graphic of a green leafy branch, positioned behind the text at the bottom of the page.



# We need your help...

One June 25th, the congregation approved the replacement of our current sound system with the funding coming from donations earmarked for the project.



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WOULD YOU CONSIDER MAKING A  
SPECIAL DONATION IN MEMORY  
OR IN HONOR OF SOMEONE?

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A big part of being a welcoming congregation is making sure everyone can hear the message of the gospel.

**Thank you for your generosity!**



# **Pastor's Report**

July 2017

## **VISITATION**

July Visits: 45

## **CONFERENCE AND SYNOD**

Eastern Potomac Conference Meeting  
Caroline Furnace Board Meeting (Conference Call)

## **WORSHIP**

8 Sunday Worship Services  
Fifth Sunday Bluegrass Worship and Potluck

## **CHURCH COMMITTEES**

Council  
Mutual Ministry  
Congregational Meeting

## **CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS**

Family Movie Night  
CCAP Board Meeting  
Mary Poppins-to see St. John's Kids participating  
Friends Feeding Friends  
Low Country Boil at the Knights of Columbus - Martinsburg

## **EDUCATION**

Vacation Bible School

## **MUSTARD SEED**

Open House  
4 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed  
Board Meeting

## **WEDDINGS**

1 Barrett/Shackelford Premarital Counseling  
Barrett/Shackelford Rehearsal  
Barrett/Shackelford Wedding

## **FUNERALS**

Mary Jane Clowser Viewing and Funeral

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

## **CHOIR**

## **MILEAGE**

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of July was 461 miles.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been a nice, quiet month this August. My tendon is coming along very nicely and Thomas is growing! What more can a man ask for? We

enjoyed our time away at the shore in August to relax and recover from a very active summer here at the congregation, but now it is time to look forward to the school year and the fall programming.

Sunday School will start up again on September 10th at 9:45 with our Rally Day celebration. We have some music, games, and snacks planned for this day. That afternoon, we will gather at Poor House Farm for a picnic, fellowship and games. I do want to say that Sunday School this year will be a bit different. We had a very productive Christian Education committee meeting at the beginning of August. We talked about restructuring Sunday School to incorporate a different service project each month, children's choir, and age appropriate learning. I am excited for what we planned and look forward to what God is doing with our Sunday School program.

On September 17th, we will have a planning meeting for parents and students wishing to participate in our confirmation program. Typically, our class is made up of 8th and 9th graders. It is a two year program where we talk about faith, the Bible and the church. I am one of those strange pastors who actually enjoys teaching confirmation and take it very seriously. So, if you have a child who is entering either 8th or 9th grade, bring your schedules on September 17th.

I have also been asked to start an evening Bible Study this fall by a few people. When I was in college, I would sometimes go to this Pub Theology with one of my friends. I always enjoyed being able to talk theology and Bible while enjoying a meal at a local restaurant. So we are going to try to do our own Pub Theology, and I am calling it Table Talk.

**We will meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Daily Grind around 6pm.** I love the food at the Daily Grind and they have a wide assortment of drinks to choose from. I have some ideas of what I was thinking of talking about but I am really going to leave it up to the group to see where this ministry is heading. So, do you like to eat out? Do you like to talk about faith, theology, the Bible or the church? Then you should come and be a part of Table Talk.

I want you to get involved and make us a part of your routine because when you come, our community better. We sing stronger, we pray stronger, we act stronger. Without YOU, we are not complete. Come, experience the power of the Holy Spirit and this life-altering gospel.

In Christ,



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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Martinsburg,  
WV

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