

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>8:30 & 11AM Worship Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School</p> <p>Congregational Meeting after Each worship for Council elections</p> <p>Church Decorating and Ginger Bread House Decorating after Second Service</p> <p>Feed My Sheep to Martinsburg</p>	<p>December 31 Fifth Sunday Worship ONE Service @ 10AM</p>				<p>1</p> <p>5:30PM Mustard Seed Dinner with Santa at Hoss's 5:30PM Martinsburg Tree Lightiung</p>	<p>2</p>
	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge</p> <p>6PM All Committee Meeting Night</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1PM Bible Study in the Lounge</p> <p>5:45PM Mustard Seed Staff Dinner</p> <p>6:30PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel</p> <p>St. Nicholas</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6PM Table Talk @ Daily Grind</p> <p>Ambrose, Bishop of Milan</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6pm till 9 Council Christmas Party at Pastor Matt's Home</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7PM Berkeley County Community Chorus at the Apollo Theater</p>
<p>10</p> <p>St. Nicholas Visits 8:30 & 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 1PM</p> <p>12:30-4:30pm Confirmation</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10AM Pastor Matt at Potamac East Conference Meeting</p> <p>10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1PM Bible Study in the Lounge</p> <p>6:30 Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel</p> <p>St. Lucy, Martyr</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9AM Pastor at CCAP Board Meeitng</p> <p>John of the Cross, Renewer of the church</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>The Great Church Outing Sight and Sound Trip</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:30 & 11AM Worship Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel</p> <p>Katharina von Bora, Renewer of the Church</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6PM Family Movie Night</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10AM-Christmas Pageant 6PM Family Christmas Eve Worship 10:30pm - Choir Prelude 11pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10AM Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion</p>	<p>26</p> <p>St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</p>	<p>27</p> <p>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</p>	<p>28</p> <p>The Holy Innocents</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11AM-1PM Friends Feeding Friends 9-2:30pm Blood Drive in the Chapel</p>
<p>31</p> <p>10AM Worship</p> <p>We will welcome our Mustard Seed Families and FLYTE as leaders this Day</p>	<p>Church Office Closed! December 25-27</p>				<p>No Sunday School December 24th & 31th</p>	

**Please Pick Up Your
Offerng Envelopes
in Luther Hall!**

January

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, February 5
Following the 2nd Service
 The meeting will be preceded by a
 luncheon served in Luther Hall!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 The Epiphany of our Lord
		6PM All Committee Meeting Night		6PM Table Talk @ Daily Grind		
7 8:30, 11AM Worship with Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School 1PM Book Club Lunch Feed My Sheep	8 7PM Church Council Election of Church Officers	9 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge	10 1PM Bible Study 6:30-8PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	11 9AM Pastor at CCAP Board Meeting	12	13
14 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	15 Deadline for Annual Reports Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge	17 1PM Bible Study 6:30-8PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	18	19	20 6PM Family Movie Night
21 8:30, 11AM Worship with Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School 12:15PM Women in the Fast Lane 12:30-4:30pm Confirmation	22 7PM Mustard Seed Board Meeting in the Lounge	23 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge	24 1PM Bible Study 6:30-8PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	25	26	27 11AM-1PM Friends Feeding Friends
28 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	29 Pastor Matt Away at Synod Continuing-Education	30 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge	31 1PM Bible Study 6:30-8PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel			
<p>Feed My Sheep Offering for January will be donated to the Shenandoah's Women Shelter.</p>						

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



DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017

Our Christmas Offering

Council has approved the designation of our Christmas offerings for 2017 to go to the Berkeley County Congregational Cooperative Action Project - known as CCAP/Loaves and Fishes.

CCAP is the story of many different faiths, working together to meet one common goal, to help our neighbors in need. We are the church visible in Berkeley County in cooperation with 40+ area churches. ... Housed by the grace of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Taken from CCAP's Website: *"We are financed by gifts from member churches, grants from United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) #85648, local food drives by scouts, churches, schools, businesses and other groups, USDA surplus Food, and donations from friends and local individuals. We serve people who live in Berkeley County; most are unemployed or work for wages below the poverty level.*

Besides food, we also write financial vouchers. These vouchers are

AT A GLANCE:

Youth Gathering

If you are in grades 8th-12th, you are eligible to go to Houston. Financial Help Available to all who wish to attend. **See Pastor Matt if you are interested.**

OFFICIAL NOTICE:

February 4 - Souper Bowl Sunday with a **Congregation Meeting to review the annual report as well as have a Townhall meeting** for the congregation to ask questions and share opinions.

a promise to pay for an item or bill and are made payable to a landlord, utility company, pharmacy, dentist, or store. For clients who are eligible, vouchers could cover: rent to avoid eviction, water/sewer bill, medications, work shoes/clothes, transportation, dental emergency, or cooking propane. But Food is our biggest category. We have twice as many food clients as all other types of help combined."



Christmas Eve Worship

All Earth is Hopeful, the Savior Comes at Last!

6 PM FAMILY WORSHIP

11 PM CANDLELIGHT
WORSHIP

6 pm Family Service

A service for children and parents,
to worship and be kids.

11 pm Candlelight Worship

A silent night that stills the chaos...
Carols, Traditions, and Candlelight.

Christmas Day

— 10 AM —

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DECEMBER 24 AT 10AM

We know the day is busy and there will be so many places that you will need to be. Take an hour to come and prepare your heart and mind for what awaits us when the sun goes down and we sing songs of praise for the birth of our savior. Our children know the story.

Come and listen!

THE

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

This Advent consider doing something different with your family. Instead of counting down to Christmas through a calendar, count down with a jar of food... This is how a Reverse Advent Calendar works!

Do you want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

Every day, put a non-perishable food item in a box. Make it a part of your family dinner and talk about food insecurity and hunger-related-illness with your family.

- Some 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life. That's about one in nine people on earth.
- The vast majority of the world's hungry people live in developing countries, where 12.9 percent of the population is undernourished.
- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths in children under five - 3.1 million children each year.
- One out of six children -- roughly 100 million -- in developing countries is underweight.
- One in four of the world's children are stunted. In developing countries the proportion can rise to one in three.
- If women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million.
- 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

This year we are partnering with Berkeley County Backpack Program. The items that need to provide their work include:

- Mac n Cheese
- Chef Boyardee
- Tuna Packets
- Soups (tab top openings)
- Water Bottles
- Peanut and Jelly (no glass jars please)
- Fruit Bars
- Cereal Bars
- Fruit Cups
- Cereal; small individual size boxes
- Popcorn
- Fresh produce; veggies & fruit
- Granola Bars

Bring your boxes on Christmas Eve and drop them off in Luther Hall. We will take them after Christmas. We will need a few hands to bring them so let Pastor Matt know if you are available.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

JUNE 27-JULY 1 + HOUSTON, TX

GATHERING@ELCA.ORG + 888-411-3522 + ELCA.ORG/GATHERING

FOR BY **GRACE** YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD. - EPHESIANS 2:8

[@ELCAGATHERING](https://twitter.com/ELCAGATHERING) [FB.COM/YOUTHGATHERING](https://www.facebook.com/YOUTHGATHERING) [@ELCAGATHERING](https://www.instagram.com/ELCAGATHERING)

PRE-GATHERING EVENTS + JUNE 24-27

#ELCAYG2018

myLe
MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT OF THE ELCA

the +Able
AN ELCA GATHERING OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Every student who is in the 8th grade or above is eligible to attend the Youth Gathering in 2018.

The Conference churches are working together to fundraise and travel down to Houston. We need to know now if you are interested in going. The Cost is around \$1500 but with fundraising and other support, we hope to make the cost free.

Please speak to Pastor Matt if you are interest. This is a once in a lifetime event so don't miss it!

Confirmation Schedule

2017-2018

Date	Subject - Year 1	Reinforcement Activity	Subject - Year 2	Reinforcement Activity
December 10 @ 12:30	Commandments 6-10	West Wing Episode - Take this Sabbath Day	The Nativity Story	Film - Nativity Story
January 21 @ 12:30	Apostles' Creed		Exodus	Film - Prince of Egypt
February 18 @ 12:30	Lord's Prayer	Field Trip - Grotto in Emmitsburg, MD	The Gospel	Field Trip - Grotto in Emmitsburg, MD
March 16-18	Confirmation Retreat - Topic: The Easter Story			
April 29 @ 12:30	Baptism/ Communion		Parables	
May 6 @ 12:30	Office of the Keys		Paul	
Confirmation Sunday - May 20 at 10am				



Community Lutheran Partners

www.clp-online.org (or)
PO Box 3054, Wheeling WV 26003
Please donate today and support our ministries in the WV-W MD Synod





Driven by God's Word
Empowered through the sacraments
We are Sent to serve in the heart of Appalachia



2017 ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2017

Meeting called to order by: President Mindi Esswein

Members present: Mindi Esswein, Pastor Matt, Jane Kelley, Bess Day, Connie Provard, Rick Losh, Darrell Propst, Austin Propst, Bev Murphy, Shane Wagoner, Mike Noll, Jerry Crites, and Cindy Moats

Members absent: Diane Shewbridge

Devotions: Jerry Crites

Minutes: October 2017 council minutes accepted with amendments (M Day/A Propst)

Financial Report: January to October 2017 report accepted (Losh/D Propst)

Pastor's Report: A summary report for the month of October 2017 was provided to the council by Pastor Matt. He also presented a list of proposals for the council to consider. Decisions were made on a few of the proposals at the November meeting, which were:

The Mustard Seed will have a space on our monthly agenda to present a report and/or requests

Motion made to purchase a supply closet for use by the Sunday School for one of the classrooms shared by the Mustard Seed (D Propst/A Propst) and approved.

A survey will be sent out prior to our next congregational meeting and the council is planning to hold a town hall style discussion at that meeting.

St. John's to participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar and the food raised would be donated to the Berkeley County Backpack program.

Motion made to allocate donations of the following as noted (Crites/D Propst) approved

Thanksgiving envelope: Lutheran Disaster Response

Poinsettias "in lieu of" donations: Community Lutheran

Partners

Christmas envelope: C-CAP

NEW BUSINESS:

Council and trustee nominations will be requested on the next two Sundays, November 19 and 26, and then the congregation will vote on December 3rd.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

3 Year Goals: Using information that came out of cottage meetings, the council selected 3 areas to focus on and to use as our 3 year goals. They are:

Increase Sunday worship attendance by 20% so that more people will be able to experience the great reward of being in a relationship with Jesus.

Have 50% of the congregation's confirmed membership fill out a Covenant so that we can seek out those ministry areas the Holy Spirit is leading

us to do.

Strengthen our physical involvement in community activities through participating in community organizations and schools.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education: Committee will be deciding on a VBS date soon for 2018.

WELCA: No report.

Worship & Music: No report

FLYTE: Lock-in was held on 11/11.

Social Ministry: The next movie night is November 18, and the movie title is Pocahontas. There are 20 people signed up for the bus trip to Sight and Sound Theatre in December.

Evangelism: Pastor Matt is ordering new Christmas mailers to be mailed out in mid-December.

Property/Tech: Steeple work had been delayed, but has now officially begun. More furnace issues are currently being addressed. Air conditioning units were installed in Luther Hall.

Mutual Ministry: No report.

Stewardship: The bloodmobile has been rescheduled for December 30th and will be combined with Trinity Episcopal Church. It will be held at St. John's. Bookcases were ordered for the future relocation of the church library.

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

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Moats

An update on the AC units in Luther Hall

The units have been installed and tested. The final step will be installation of the programming module.

Total contributed toward this project: \$620. Thanks!

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

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 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.

3 YEAR GOALS

For St. John's

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

BY NOVEMBER 30, 2020, WE WILL:

- Increase Sunday worship attendance by 20% so that more people will be able to experience the great reward of being in a relationship with Jesus.
- Have 50% of the congregation confirmed-membership fill out a Covenant so that we can seek out those ministry areas the Holy Spirit is leading us to do.
- Strengthen our physical involvement in community activities through participating in community organizations and schools.

Need a gift idea for someone that already has everything?

Socks are the least donated item at shelters...

And thank you!

Please considering donating a pair or two of new socks. We will distribute them at a Friends Feed Friends Meal.



yet... socks help us stay warm.



Need a Holiday gift idea for someone who already has everything?

Considering Donate \$75 in Honor or Memory of an individual to help us replace our 25+ year old tables.

St. Nicholas Day

Sunday, December 10



You are invited to join us this day as we learn a little bit more about the man known as St. Nicolas.

Join us for a Special Children's Message and a visit from the man himself!

WORSHIP AT 8:30 AND 11 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45 AM

Potomac East Conference

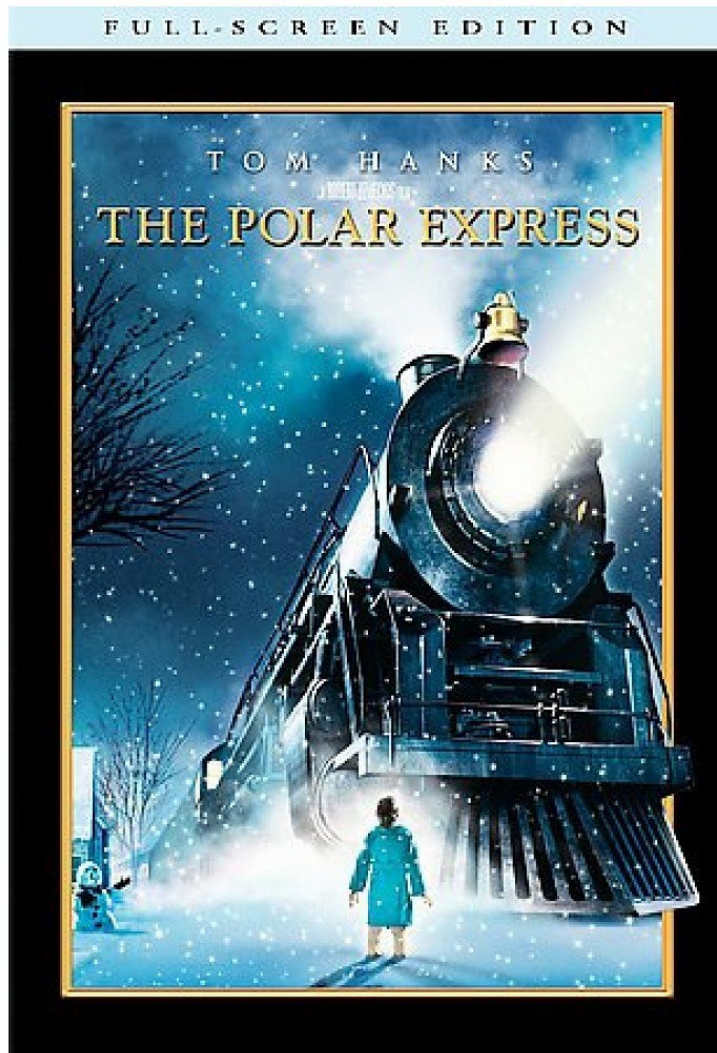
3rd Annual Christmas Caroling



December 21

Meet at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas in Charles Town. A quick dinner will be served before we leave. We will then travel to a local nursing home to bring some Christmas Joy to the residents.

Join Us For
Family Movie Night
December 23rd at 6:00pm



Free Movie
Free Popcorn
Free Drink

Next Movie night - January 20 at 6pm

Sponsored by the Social Ministry

Theology & Bible

TABLE TALK

Food & Drinks

JOIN US

1st Thursday of the
Month

December 7

January 4

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.

Feed My Sheep

First Sunday of the month



□ ————— □

When Jesus fed 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

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 starting at 6pm.

COMMITTEES MEETING THIS MONTH

Meeting first at 6pm

Christian Education

Meeting second at 6:30pm

Social Ministry

Check January's Bulletin for information about Committees meeting in January.

Child Care is Available!

WELCOME TO WELCA

Upcoming Dates:

1. November 26, during Sunday School in FLYTE room
- Assemble crackers for houses
2. November 29, 6:30 in Luther Hall – Craft Night – bring any easy to transport craft for a night of fellowship
3. December 3, after 2nd service – decorating graham cracker houses and make ornament

THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU

To all who helped with our Soup/Sandwich Sale

To all crafters who rented a space

To all who purchased soup, sandwiches, or crafts

To all the congregation for your support and prayers

WELCA could not have done this without YOU!!!

A list of charities to which we donated will be in the next newsletter.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY

Once again, we (WELCA on behalf of congregation) are adopting a Burke Street School family for Christmas. As soon as the family details are given to me, I will send out those details as well as date by which any contributions are due. The guidance counselor at the school said that last year's family was very appreciative.

All women of St. John's are considered members of WELCA whether meetings are attended or not. Many of you help with a particular project or two or more.

That being said: All women and guest are invited to attend our annual Dutch Treat Christmas Luncheon. This date and location will be announced shortly. We would ask that you would let us know in advance if you will be attending; so, we can give the restaurant a number for set up. Hope to see you there!!

The Book Club ... will be focusing on books by author, Charles Martin, for their next discussion. **This will also be their annual covered dish Christmas Luncheon at the home of Linda Riley at 1PM on January 7th.** Join us for good food, good books and a good time with friends!

Don't forget, too, the Christmas books are on the red cart in the lounge. There's a great selection.



The Mustard Seed had a lot of fun in October and Novemeber! We enjoyed making Fall food projects, carving pumpkin's, playing outside and our Annual Fall Parade through town. The local businesses are wonderful at supporting our center. Every year, the many in the local business community host a trick-or-treat walk for all area daycare centers like ours. Please take the time and walk Mainstreet downtown. There are lots of great people and shops!

Our Annual Thanksgiving Feast for the Mustard Seed children and families was on Thursday, November 16th starting at 11:30am. Thank you to everyone who helped out with serving and preparing the meal. The kids looked very cute in their turkey costumes.

On December 1st you are invited to join us at Hoss's for *Dinner with Santa*. So that we don't overload the kitchen staff at Hoss's, we asked that sign up to let us know when you are able to attend. Santa will be joining us around 6pm.

December 13th-18th we are having a Christmas Door Decorating Contest. Please take a walk through the center and check out the classroom doors. We will have Classroom gift boxes on the stage to cast your coin votes. All donations will go towards our annual *Happy Birthday Jesus* Party on December 20th. Thank you always for your support and we hope you have a wonderful Holiday season!

ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS

Thank you to all the individuals who volunteer to be part of the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild assists the congregation in its worship and are devoted to their tasks, reliable, and reverent as they have the privilege in serving their Lord. A special Thank You goes out to Jerry Crites who assists us all when needed and sees that the flowers are placed on the altar every Sunday. **If you are interested in being a member of the Altar Guild please let me know by filling out a covenant or talking to me directly.**

I would like to thank each and every one who volunteers to purchase flowers for the altar. It is now time to sign up for 2018. The calendar will be placed in the Narthex near the elevator or you can fill out the form below.

Thank you for your help.

Name: _____

Date for Altar
Flowers: _____

In Honor/Memory of:

Please pick up your flowers after the second service.

Flowers should be ordered from ***Flowers Unlimited,
144 N. Queen Street, Martinsburg WV 25401
Telephone number: 304-260-5770 (During regular business hours)***

Please contact Martha before your flower date of any changes to the above information so that we can have the correct information for the bulletin.

Please call Flowers Unlimited to order your flowers. Your specific arrangement will determine the price, starting at \$40.95 for 2 vases.

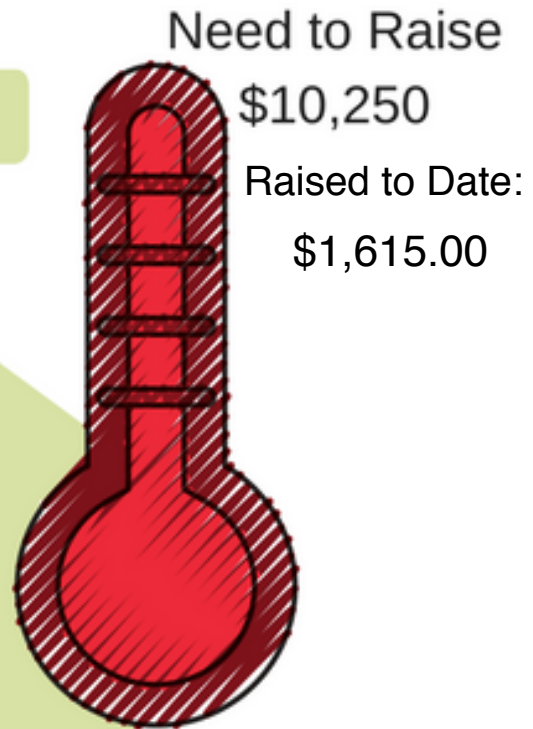
Flowers Unlimited will see that they are delivered to St. John's on Saturday and someone will see that they are placed on the altar on Sunday morning.

If, for some reason, you would like to use a different florist ***you will be responsible*** for their delivery and their placement on the altar for Sunday.

Gail Newman 304-579-4983

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.



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

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

Thank you for your generosity!

MILESTONES IN DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Joshua Robinson
- 3 Roxanne Spoon
- 5 Janice Hall
Ericka Link
- 6 Nancy Gregory
- 8 Mildred Park
Allen Williamson
- 9 Daniel Propst
- 11 Lori Taylor
- 12 Peter Leitzke
- 13 Traci Hall
Sue Wall
- 14 Carroll Neal
Vicky Torbert
- 15 Barbara Fulkrod
- 16 Lisa Burnell
Joshua Harpel
- 20 Bill Schuler
- 24 Sam Eyler
- 25 *Merry Christmas!***
- 27 Edward M. Shewbridge
- 28 Chad Robinson
Lauren Taylor
- 31 Roger Wall



ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Jessica and Martin Herbert
- 15 Sharon and Buzz Cole
- 17 Becky and Phil Eyler
- 20 Lauren and Tom Jackson

Don't see your important dates?
We'd like to update our lists. Please
send them to the office:
304-263-9291 or e-mail:
churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org

MILESTONES IN JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cindy Denton
- 2 Sharon Cole
Barbara Plotner
Betty Spickler
- 3 Todd Boslau
Bergan Cole
Christina Haarman
- 4 Mike Brewbaker
Karen Oliver
- 5 Peyton Janney
Vicki Rigot
Nathaniel Edwards
Doris Gambino
Linda Payne
- 8 John William Esswein
- 10 Kathy Hancock
- 11 Brian Crespo
Wilda Morrow
Jim Riley
Alex Torbert
- 13 Denise Martin
Andrew Banks
Denise Widmeyer
- 19 Darrell Propst
- 22 Mary Nicole Rigot
- 25 David Remsburg
- 26 Mollianne Harpel
- 27 Gary Roth



- 28 Hope Rodgers Crites
Jennifer Betancourt
Mary Lou Williamson
- 29 Nicholas Davis
Alden Rondeau
- 31 Rebecca Kline

**We'd like to include your family in our Milestones each month this year. If you are not listed, please call (263-9291) or email the church office at churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org with your dates.*

DECEMBER 2017

8:30 am Worship	Reader/Worship Assistant	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer
DEC. 3	Buddy Newman	David Gattrell and Michael Janney	Trey Voorhees	Joseph Wonsetler
DEC. 10	Andrew Banks	Daniel Propst and Douglas Widmeyer	Peyton Janney	Ben McQuaid
DEC. 17	Linda Gillet	Bill Torbert and Andrew Banks	Danica Propst	Austin Propst
6 pm DEC. 24	Michael Noll	Please call the office to volunteer	Ben McQuaid	Danica Propst
10am DEC. 31	Buddy Newman	Volunteers	Sharon Brumback	Joseph Wonsetler

11 am Worship	Reader/Worship Assistant	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer
DEC. 3	Sue Wall	Arnold Bock and Jane Kelley	Braydon Hill	Hunter Thatcher
DEC. 10	Becky Kline	Blaine Wilson and Jerry Olsen	John Esswein	Kendall Snyder
DEC. 17	Diane Shewbridge	Sally Jenkins and Don Smith	Payton Hill	Sally Jenkins
11 pm DEC. 24	Andrew Banks	Please call the office To volunteer	John Esswein	Austin Propst

Altar Guild in December – Karen and Michael Noll

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS!



St. John's Lutheran Church along with our neighbor church Trinity Episcopal will host a blood drive on December 30 from 9-2:30 pm here at our church in the chapel. Please considering donating. Its a wonderful way to help other people with just a little bit of your time and treasure. If you would like to donate, please give Bev Murphy a call at 304-263-0586 or come the day of the drive.

Did you know the Auxiliary at the Village at Rockville (the National Lutheran Home: Purchases Equipment, Support Ongoing Projects, &



A National Lutheran Community

sponsors programs. 100% of your membership contribution directly benefits the residents. Contact them at auxiliary@thevillageatrockville.org or 301-354-8460. Make checks payable to the Auxiliary, TVAR.

There are still 2 Open Dates for Altar Flowers in December.

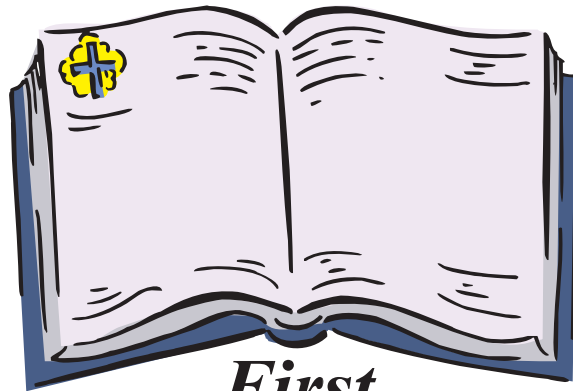
They are: 12/17 and 12/31.

Please see Gail Newman or call the office if interested.

The Lions Club is still collecting used eye glasses.

There is a box in the narthex and in Luther Hall where you can donate your old glasses!

Book Club is meeting on January 7th at Linda Riley's home at 1pm. Please bring a covered Dish to Share. Read any book by the author Charles Martin



First Communion

Classes to be held on January 14 and 21st during Sunday School. Everyone in Sunday School will participate in the class. This way, everyone gets a refresher class on Holy Communion. Parents are then asked to decide if they feel their child is ready to receive the sacrament.

First Communion Sunday will be held on January 28th during both services.

Committee Heads: Please Turn in all Year-End Reports by January 15 so that the booklet of reports can be collated and prepared for Sunday's Meeting.

What should you include in the report? Tell us about your year and what went well and where you want to improve in the coming year.

Who should write a report? Anyone can write and submit a report to the congregation. The booklet of reports are meant to inform everyone of the work God is doing in our congregation. If you are asking, "should I write a report?" the answer is probably yes.

How long should the report be? No more than a page and do not be afraid to include pictures!

Pastor's Report

November 2017

VISITATION

October Visits: 28

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD

Conference Meeting
Caroline Furnace Board Meeting
Conference Reformation Service

WORSHIP

9 Sunday Worship Services
Pet Blessing

CHURCH COMMITTEES

All Committee Meeting Night - Christian Education
Council

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

Family Movie Night
CCAP Board Meeting
Friends Feeding Friends
National Lutheran Home
Apple Harvest Festival Parade and Sale
German Pot-Luck Dinner after 5th Sunday

EDUCATION

3 Bible Study
Confirmation
5 Sunday School Classes
Trunk or Treat
Table Talk

MUSTARD SEED

4 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed
Board Meeting
Trick-or-Treat
Parent Association

WEDDINGS

Paul/Harvey Wedding

FUNERALS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Mountain Topics at Mar-Lu-Ridge

CHOIR

3 Choir

MILEAGE

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of October was 153 miles.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,
Why are we bothering with Advent? The rest of the world does not have an Advent season. But we do bother with Advent. Advent is important because it prepares us for the coming of Christ, and not just the sweet, little baby in a

manger, Jesus. We get so caught up in the idea of the sweet, little, baby Jesus in the feeding trough that we forget that Jesus was born, lived for about 33 years, died on a cross, and was resurrected. Advent is less about getting ready for Christmas and the sweet, little baby Jesus coming into the world as it is about us getting ready for Jesus coming into a world. That is why our lessons over the next four weeks are more about the end of time and the prophets preparing the way for Jesus. The birth narrative will come with all its splendor, but first we need to talk about what it means to have Jesus present in our world. I hope you take time this Advent Season to prepare, not so much for Christmas, but for Christ coming into your world and life.

With that said, we have a bunch of activities to help get you ready for all the above. Let's start with the Spiritual exercises first:

- Advent Devotionals** are in the narthex for you to use as a part of your daily prayer life. I am guilty of getting caught up in the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas and my prayer life usually suffers. Setting aside some time for prayer and devotion is a wise thing to do this Advent. Use this book! Special thanks to everyone who wrote devotions and for Jerry taking the time to put these books together.
- Participate in our Reverse Advent Calendar.** There is a flyer in our Newsletter explaining everything that you need to do. Check it out.
- Come to worship.** We have some great things planned each week that really work. Set aside some time this month and be with your church community.

Now for the fun activities:

- St. Nicholas of Myra** will be remembered on Sunday on December 10. We will have a special guest this day to teach our children and adults about St. Nicholas and why we remember him. Bring the kids and grandkids!

-We moved the Christmas Pageant to December 24 at 10 am.

That's right, Christmas Eve is on a Sunday so technically, we are suppose to have Advent 4 in the morning and Christmas Eve at night. We thought this would be the best way to help us conclude our Advent Season with the children telling us the story that changed the whole world.

And then come and worship with us on Christmas Eve. We have two times for you to be with us:

-Family Service at 6 pm. Don't worry about the kids making noise or running around - this is their service so bring the whole family!

-Candle Light Service at 11pm. Our Choir is putting together a wonderful prelude so come early. Services times for both were changed this year to better accommodate everyone's wants and schedules.

-And on Christmas Day, we will gather back at 10 am for a much quieter Christmas Day service. **This is my favorite of all the Christmas services. If you have never been able to attend, I highly suggest making the effort. And, I somehow convinced Pastor Diane to preach this Sunday!**

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you all. We will be taking a month off for the newsletter so look for us in February 2017! We are going to be cleaning up our mailing list in the month of January. Our website allows us to do a lot including hosting our newsletter.

Everyone on our mailing list will receive a letter asking if you want to continue to receive the newsletter or would rather be removed from the newsletter list entirely; if you wish to receive a print copy, would you mind picking it up on a Sunday morning to save us a stamp?; or if you would rather receive the newsletter electronically via email, what email address(es) should it too? We hope to cut down our mailing list so that we would no longer have to purchase a bulk-mailing permit which would also allow us to mail the newsletter faster and more efficiently. So look for that in the mail.

In Christ,



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

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