Church World Service

BLANKET FUND Appeal

February

Join Us for Wednesday Lenten Services

An envelope is included with this newsletter!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Soupe An	SUNDA BRUAR or Bowl M nual Mee g second	Y 4th eal and ting		6PM Table Talk at Dailey Grind	2	3
8:30, 11AM Worship with Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School Feed My Sheep 12:30PM ANNUAL MEETING & Souper Bowl	5	6 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge	9am Potamac East Conference Meeting 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30-8PM 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	8 9am - Pastor at CCAP Board Meeting	9	10 Caroline Furnance Board Meeting
8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	7PM Church Council in the Lounge	4:30-6:30PM Shrove Tuesday PancakeSupper to benefit National Gathering	14 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge ASH WEDNESDAY Services at Noon, 5:30PM and 7:30PM Communion and Imposition of Ashes	15	16	6PM Family Movie Night
18 8:30, 11AM Worship with Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School 12:15PM Women in the Fast Lane 12:30 - 4:30PM Confirmation	19 Presidents' Day	20 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge	21 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge Lent Services Noon, 5:30 and 7:30PM 6:30PM Dinner 6PM Choir Rehearsal in Nave	St. Matthias, Apostle	23	24 11AM-1PM Friends Feeding Friends
8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School Pulpit Exchange	26 7PM Mustard Seed Board	27 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge 6:30-8PM Sierra Club in Luther Hall	28 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge Lent Services Noon, 5:30 and 7:30PM 6:30PM Dinner 6PM Choir Rehearsal in Nave			

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: Matthew A. Day



February 2018

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13 - 4:30 to 6:30pm

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.

This year, the Potomac East Conference of Lutheran Churches will be cooking, serving and benefiting from the dinner. Money raised will go towards the National Gathering travel expenses. We are asking for a \$5 donation or \$20 a family.

Congregational Meeting and 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 for the youth gathering.



Ash Wednesday

February 14 12PM, 5:30PM & 7:30PM

Lent begins with a solemn service of reflection and prayer. We will ponder the meaning of life and death. We will be reminded of our fraility and mortality. We will also commit ourselves to time of intentional prayer of these next 6 weeks leading up to Easter.

Be a part of this journey this Lent and come on Ash Wednesday and make a committment to yourself and to God to engage your faith throughout these 40 days.

Lent at a Glance

Ash Wednesday - February 14 at 12 pm 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Wednesdays in Lent - Meant for This:

A Journey Through the Book of Esther

Morning Prayer at 12 pm

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

Every Wednesday in Lent

starting February 21 - March 21

Palm Sunday with the reading of the Passion from Matthew on March 25 - One Service at 10 am with the procession beginning outside.

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday - March 29 at 12 pm and 7:30 pm Good Friday - March 31 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.

2017 ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Highlights from the January 9, 2018

Election of Council Officers:

President - Mindi Esswein Vice President - Jerry Crites Secretary - Diane Shewbridge Treasurer (Non-Council Position) - Bess Day

Members at large:

Mike Noll
Jane Kelley
Connie Provard
Darrell Propst
Ray Bentz
Anne Moore
Shane Wagoner
Austin Propst
Blaine Wilson

What was discussed:

- -Reviewed Christmas Eve and discussed what went well, what did not go so well, and what we can improve upon for next year
- -Discussed a proposal for building use by the Sierra Club.
- -We made plans for the upcoming Congregational Meeting and Town Hall Discussion.
- -We review our plans for Lent. We also discussed having a coordinator in place for our Wednesday evening meals.
- -There was an updated about the National Gathering. We talked about the Potmac East Conference working together on the fundraising. The next fundraiser will be on Shrove Tuesday for the Pancake Dinner.
- -We also discussed the use of a large contribution and putting that Donation towards National Gathering expenses.
- -We also passed out a proposed evangelism plan that the council will begin to work on in the coming months.
- -Discussed some property repairs including the replacement of all toilets in Luther Hall for water-saver toilets.

Thank You Notes:

Sisters and Brothers of St. John's,

Our sincerest apologies in not getting to do this sooner. Pastor Diane was hoping to find some time to sit down and write each of you a thank you for all the generous gifts you have given us in welcoming Thomas into our lives. Time jsut seems to be eluding us left and right! In lieu of doing so, we wish to offer this belated thank you. Words cannot express our gratitude for all you have given us to make Thomas feel comfortable and loved, including your sage advice and overwhelming affection. Without your care and understanding, we wouldn't be able to enjoy this new blessing that God has brought into our lives. We are so blessed to be a part of this community of faith, and look forward to many more years of growing together. Thank you so very much for everything!

Love, Pastor Matt and Pastor Diane

God is at home in a loving heart. He lives in you...

For the Kitchen - Our house has a saying that goes 'the kitchen is the warmth of the home'. We want to thank you for the delicious meal that you prepared for Harry Michener's Memorial Service. It was incredibly thoughtful and greatly appreciated. Many guests, family and friends traveled a distance to attend the service. Having a hot meal to share our memories over was a truly wonderful blessing. With deepest gratitude from Harry's children:

Kenny, Barbara, Paul, Bonnie & Jeff

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@stjohnsmartisburg.org to sign up for weekly emails and announcments.

Ash

Wednesday 12 and 5:30pm

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Spoken Liturgy that will Last no more than 30 minutes Perfect for your lunch break or right after you leave work.

&

7:30pm

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

A contemplative service where we will recommit ourselves to practicing our faith this Lent

Come and recommit yourself to your to your journey of faith this Lent

Lent Disciplines

For many people, Lent is a time when we give things up, but there is so much more to Lent than just giving up cake or coffee. Instead of giving something up for Lent, try doing something instead:

Reading a book, waking up in the morning and praying, reading a chapter from the Bible a night; working at a soup kitchen; walking to work, walking once a night with your family, playing a game with your family once a week, turn off your phone one day a week and spend that time with your family, volunteer to help around church, volunteer to ride around with Pastor Matt as he goes and visits shutins, do some manual labor, or simply clean the the garage.

These are a few ideas, but really all you need to do is look at your life and see the places that are lacking your presence. The possibilities are endless.

Come to both the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services. These are very important worship times in the church for we will hear how Jesus won our salvation. These services remind us of our salvation and the story we so love to tell. Without these two services, Easter makes no sense. So come and learn why we gather on Easter.

Give up a meal once a day and use the money for that meal to help the needy. This has been a tradition in the Roman Catholic Church for years. You simply skip a meal and place that money that you normally would have spent on that meal and give it to the poor. Put that money aside that you would have spent and donate it ELCA World Hunger or another cause close to your heart.

Do not eat meat on Fridays or maybe Monday (meatless-Monday). This has been a tradition in the Catholic Church for years, but it is another way you might find some spiritual growth. Sometimes, failing at this discipline teaches more than actually keeping the discipline. For in failing, you will see just how dependent we are on

meat in our diet where many in the world are lucky to have meat once a month.

Come on Wednesday for food and prayer. This is not just self promotion. Come and fellowship with other Christians and deepen your faith. Martin Luther once said, "Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?" So come find * Christ and see Christ in the face of your brothers and sisters.

Turn off all notifications on your cell phone. Sounds simple right? These notifications help us stay connected but they can interupt family time and sabboth time. Consider turning off your notifications this Lent and get to the emails and text messages later.

Turn off your phone for two hours a night. This might be a bit harder for some of us. Consider doing this as a family. Turn off all electronic devices between 7 and 9 pm. See what you can do as a family or what you might learn. Use that time to read or craft or play. Or try just turning off your phone when you go out to eat. Leave the phone in the car or bury it in your purse.

SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY. I don't think I can stress this enough. Spending time with your family is so important these days. In the blink of an eye, tragedies can strike. Take as much time as you can to be the people you love and who love you the most.

The most important thing to remember this Lent with whatever discipline you might pick is to not be afraid to fail at it. Failure teaches us what we did wrong so that we can fix it for the future. Don't be afraid to fail but come and bring your failures to worship where they can be forgiven. And do tell others about what you are doing this Lent. Don't hide what you are doing. Telling others will help hold you accountable and will help you succeed.

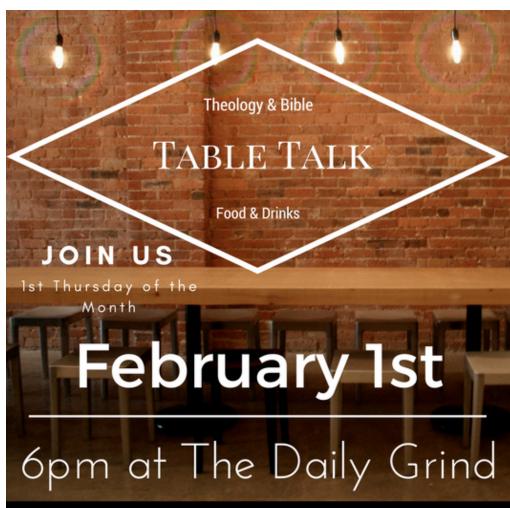
WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Meant for This:
A journey through the
Book of Esther

Morning Prayer at 12 pm

Dinner and Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm

Every Wednesday in Lent starting Feburary 21 - March 21



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 this month will look at the biblical understanding of slavery and servanthood. This is a big subject matter so it may expand over into the coming months. Don't miss out on the conversation.

1 6 3 YEAR GOALS

For St. John's

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

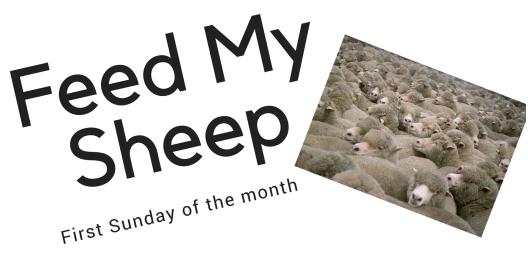
By July 31, 2018, we will:

- 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 create a shepherding program to help new members and visitors learn about our ministry.
- Hold a least one new Social Gathering per month including but no limited to Pub Theology, a men's group or an ice cream social.
- Involve FLYTE kids in worship at least once a month.
- Develop a Marketing/Evangelism plan for the congregation.

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'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.

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



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

MILESTONES IN FEBRURARY

Birthdays

- 1 Heather Edwards
- 2 Drew Cole David Hartley
- 4 Jessica Hancock Jessica Stroech 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.

<u>Anniversaries</u>

9 Heather and Jonathan Edwards









The Mustard Seed really enjoyed the holiday activities in December. We made Christmas food projects, celebrated Holiday Spirit Week, had Dinner with Santa at Hoss's, and hosted our Annual Happy Birthday Jesus Party.

The Parent Committee sponsored a Dinner with Santa. It was a great event. They did a wonderful job organizing and managing the crowd they served. Over 130 people enjoyed family and friends with Santa.

Our Sprit week was a great hit. Everyone had fun with the different specials of the week. We all enjoyed dressing up for Santa's Workshop Day.

Our favorite event of December is always our Happy Birthday Jesus Party. The children are so much fun to watch as they sing special Christmas songs. We had over 160 family members join us for this special time.

2018 came so fast! We currently have 62 children enrolled in the center. We are having our first Open House for our Summer and Fall enrollment on March 27th from 9:30am-11:00am. We have openings, mainly in our Pre-K program (age-4 by August 31st).

We hope everyone has a wonderful start to the New Year!

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

8:30 am Worship	Reader/Worship Assistant	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer	
FEB. 4	Andrew Banks	Bill Torbert and Ray Bentz	Sharon Brumback	Matthew Edwards	T
FEB. 11	Connie Reiter	Elaine Bennett and Bill Judy Hinnerich Torbert	Judy Hinnerich	Joseph Wonsetler	Wo
FEB. 18	Joyce Dailey	Jon Edwards and Andrew Banks	Jordyn Kelso	Trey Voorhees	RSI
FEB. 25	Pastor Matt	Douglas Widmeyer and Bill Torbert	Matthew Edwards	Nathaniel Edwards	HIP
11 am Worship	Reader/Worship Assistant	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer	NF
FEB. 4	Beverly Murphy	Blaine Wilson and	Emma Lore	Ian Fleming	EBR
FEB. 11	Katie Kline	Don Smith and Jane Kelley	Hunter Thatcher	Lee Thatcher	RUA
FEB. 18	Bess Day	Sally Jenkins and Blaine Wilson	Christian Gottlieb	Dylan Walker	RY
FEB. 25	Sue Wall	Linda Payne and Jerry Olsen	Landon Hutzler	Charlotte Hutzler	



Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

March 31, 2018 is the deadline for directing Choice Dollars earned in 2017. They expire that date and you will not be able to contribute them. If you have "dollars", please log into your account with Thrivent or call the home office at 1-800-847-4836 and indicate "choice dollars." A live representative will be glad to assit you.

St John's Lutheran Church has been the recipient of choice dollars in the past. **Thank you** to all of you who have directed these dollars to the church. If I can assist you, please do not hesitate to call.

Sharon Brumback Garrish

CONFIRMATION WITH ST. JOHN'S & ST. THOMAS

Schedule

Date	Subject - Year 1	Year 1 Reinforcement Activity Subject - Year 2 Reinforcement Activitiy						
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/ Parables Communion							
May 6 @ 12:30	Office of the Keys		Paul					
Confirmation Sunday - May 20 at 10am								

2017 Year End Financial Report

St. John's Lutheran Church			
Statement of Income & Expenses	Actual	Budget	Actual
	2017	2017	2016
Income			
Current Offering	\$ 139,721		\$ 144,449
Benevolence	33,190		36,865
Improvement Fund	3,664		5,495
Special Offering & Income	5,330		8,451
Memorials & Other Donations	 6,400		7,548
Total Income	 188,305		202,808
Expenses			
Worship and Music	26,970	27,847	28,097
Administration	53,914	53,942	58,612
Evangelism	3,403	3,400	2,519
Stewardship	786	750	1,475
Youth	966	1,000	469
Social Ministry	275	3,500	38
Christian Education	3,158	4,750	3,848
Ministry	71,585	73,540	83,439
Property	77,545	63,972	75,942
Benevolence	37,170	50,000	37,100
Total Expenses	 275,771	282,701	291,539
Excess of expenses over income	 (87,467)		(88,731)
Other Income	11,415		16,268
Other Expenses	8,689		17,379
Total excess of expenses over income	\$ (84,741)	=	\$ (89,842)
Capital Improvements			
Designated Gifts	14,975	_	-
Capital Improvement Expenditures	\$ 16,582	_	\$ 1,638

SJLC Mustard Seed Statement of Income & Expenses			
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	2017	2017	2016
Income	\$ 357,126	376449 \$	347,710
Expenses			
Wage Expense	276,977	296143	281,563
Other Expenses	70,752	77126	74,574
Excess of income over expenses	9,397	3,180	(8,426)
Carryforward loss from 2001-2016	(68,563)	(68,563)	(60,137)
Total Expenses Over Fees to Date	\$ (59,166) \$	(65,383) \$	(68,563)

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Funds 2017 Summary Report

Year-to-Date	12/31/2016 V	Vithdrawals	Fees	Earnings	12/31/2017
Bank of Charles Town	110,298	(60,000)	(1,011)	16,147	65,434
Thrivent	435,356	-	-	54,681	490,037
ELCA Mission II	53,148	-	-	799	53,947
ELCA Mission III	57,677	-	-	1,101	58,778
Totals	656,478	(60,000)	(1,011)	72,729	668,196

2ND ANNUAL

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

FAITH FORMATION IN A MISSIONAL AGE

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2018 MAR-LU-RIDGE



To register, email pddemdsynod@gmail.com or visit www.demdsynod.org/young-adults.html



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.



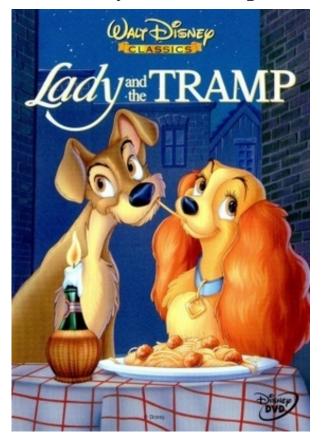
WOULD YOU CONSIDER MAKING A SPECIAL DONATION IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF SOMEONE?

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

Thank you for your generosity!

Join Us For

Family Movie Night February 17 at 6:00pm



Free Movie Free Popcorn Free Drink

Next Movie night - March 17 at 6pm

Sponsored by the Social Ministry

ort
)

November 2017

Visitation

November Visits: 31

Conference and Synod

Conference Meeting

Lee Brumback Installation

Caroline Furnace Board Meeting (conference Call)

Worship

6 Sunday Worship Services

Pulpit Exchange

Church Committees

All Committee Meting Night - Christian Education

Council

Church and Community Functions

Family Movie Night

CCAP Board Meeting

CCAP Press Conference

Lunch with Pastors

Rescue Mission Breakfast

Lock-in

Education

2 Bible Study

2 Confirmation

4 Sunday School Classes (one class at St. Thomas)

Table Talk

Mustard Seed

4 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

Board Meeting

Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-a

Parent Association

Thanksgiving Dinner

Funerals

Harry Minchener

Continuing Education

Mountain Topics at Mar-Lu-Ridge

Choir

3 Choir

Mileage

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of November was 608 miles.

Pastor's Report

December 2017

Visitation

December Visits: 62

Conference and Synod

Conference Meeting

Conference Wide Caroling Event

Caroline Furnace Board Retreat

Worship

8 Sunday Worship Services

Family Christmas Eve

Candle Light Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Church Committees

Council

Congregational Meeting

Church and Community Functions

Family Movie Night

CCAP Board Meeting

Meeting with Around the Panhandle

Council Christmas Party

Great Church Outing

Friends Feeding Friends

Education

1 Confirmation

3 Sunday School Classes

Table Talk

One-on-One Confirmation

Mustard Seed

3 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

Happy Birthday Jesus

Dinner with Santa

Continuing Education

Choir

3 Choir

Christmas Eve Choir Prelude

Mileage

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of December was 407 miles.



FEBRUARY 2018

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

The great fast of Lent is quickly approaching us. Lent is one of my busier times as a pastor but I enjoy it because we Lutherans do Lent very well. We do contemplation and reflection very well. We Lutherans love to feel guilty because in guilt, there is forgiveness. We are all about forgiveness, but we do not always do a good job of telling others about the forgiveness we feel and experience. Don't be ashamed to tell someone, anyone, about the freedom you feel in being a part of our congregation and worship.

So, extend an invitation this Lent to someone who does not have a church home and invite them to join you on Sunday or during the week. I am very excited about our Wednesday in Lent this year. The book of Esther is a book that many Christians glance over or never even read. This year, in partnership with St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Charles Town, we going to dive deep into the pages of Esther. We are calling the theme, Meant for This. Wednesdays will be busy, but a good busy. We are going to explore our faith and grow together. So do join us. Here is the schedule for Wednesdays:

- Wednesday Morning Prayer: 12 pm Morning prayer will only last 30 minutes so it is the perfect lunch break activity.
- Choir will be held from 6-7pm in the Nave.
- Wednesday Evening Prayer: 7:30 pm Dinner served at 6:30 pm in the chapel. This is a great time for families to come. You don't have to worry about feeding the kids. We will feed your family and also help you in teaching the faith to your kids.

Before we get to Wednesday in Lent, we first must go through Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a strange day in the church year. We scratch dirt on our foreheads and are reminded of our immortality. The interesting part of Ash Wednesday this year is that it falls on Valentine's Day. Nothing says love like talking about mortality and death. We have three times to worship this year: Spoken liturgies at 12 pm and 5:30 pm; and Choral liturgy at 7:30

pm. We need your help getting the word out about our worship times. Spread the message on facebook and with your colleagues at work. Or what would even better is for you to bring someone. People have the tendency to come if they know someone at the church. We need you to be bold and brave!

Ash Wednesday is also a good time to make a commitment to your faith and building it up. I suggest you take on discipline this year. You can find some ideas on our website or on page 6 of the newsletter. I am not really big into giving up things like chocolate or coffee for Lent. How will you giving up coffee benefit your faith? Will giving up chocolate bring you closer to Jesus? Maybe giving up coffee and chocolate will benefit your faith, but what if you added something to your daily routine? What if you add reading your Bible or the Small Catechism to your daily routine? I am more about adding something to your life or taking something away so that you can add a new discipline.

Whatever you do, I hope you tell someone what you are doing to help hold you accountable. This Lent, I am going to give something up. I know, I just said giving something up might not be the best thing, but I have decided that I am too attached to technology. Since I have become a pastor, I have rarely taken a lunch break where I was not working on something for church. So this Lent, I am leaving my techology and work at the office and will enjoy my lunch. However, Lent is busy and I might fail more than I succeed with this discipline. With that said, I encourage you all not to be afraid to fail at your discipline. Failure teaches us how to succeed. So tell me, what are you going to do this Lent? I would love to hear what you are doing and help you stay accountable.

May God continue to bless you all this Lent. Until next time... In Christ,

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

Return Service Requested