# MARCH 11 Corned Beef/Cabbage Dinner in Luther Hall following 2nd service

# March

# **DAYLIGHT SAVING** TIME Begins!! Sunday, March 11 Move Your Clocks Ahead One Hour!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
any t	us for Soup ime after 63 me to the L at 7:30PM	30PM befo	ore you ship	6 PM Table Talk meets at the Daily Grind		
8:30, 11AM Worship with Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School Feed My Sheep Sunday	5	6 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge	7 Lenten Services Noon - Morning Prayer 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30 Dinner 6-7PM Choir 7:30PM Evening Prayer	9AM Pastor at the CCAP Board meeting	9	10
<b>11</b> 8:30, 11AM	12 5-8pm	13 10AM	14 Lenten	15	16	17 on Retreat
Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 12:30PM Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner	Spirit Night at Chick -Fil-A benefiting the National Gathering 7PM Church Council	Glad Abouts in the Lounge	Services Noon - Morning Prayer 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30 Dinner 6-7PM Choir 7:30PM Evening Prayer			6PM Family Movie Night St. Patrick's Day
18 Confirmation Retreat  8:30, 11AM Worship with Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School 1PM The Book Club (lounge)	Joseph, Guardian of Jesus	20 10AM Glad Abouts in the Lounge	21 Lenten Services Noon - Morning Prayer 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30 Dinner 6-7PM Choir 7:30PM Evening Prayer	22	23	24 11AM-1PM Friends Feeding Friends 4-7PM M.S. Dinner w/ Easter Bunny at Hoss's
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Holy Week -	Be Apart of the	Journey		
PALM SUNDAY 10AM ONE Service- meet @ The Square	7PM The Mustard Seed Board	11AM Synod Chrism Mass in Morgantown, WV	1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6-7PM Choir Rehearsal	Maundy Thursday Noon &	Good Friday Tenebrae	
3pm Synod Assembly Planning Meeting at St. Peter's	Holy Monday	Holy Tuesday	Spy Wednesday	7PM	<b>7PM</b>	Holy Saturday

# 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

**MARCH 2018** 



# Announcing a change in worship time

staring April 8th.

After the recent Town Hall meeting held on February 4th and the survey conducted in January where 78% of those survey were in favor of moving to one wosrship, the council moved the change in time in the efforts to improve communication and congregational unity.

And there will be a coffee hour after each worship starting April 8th as well!

# YOU SHERE

Worship 10AM

stjohnsmartinsburg.org

# 2018 ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2018

Meeting called to order by: President Mindi Esswein

**Members present:** Mindi Esswein, Pastor Matt, Austin Propst, Jane Kelly, Shane Wagoner, Darrell Propst, Blaine Wilson, Connie Provard, Jerry Crites,

Diane Shewbridge, Bess Day (Treasurer)

Members Absent: Ray Bentz, Mike Noll, Anne Moore

**Devotions:** Diane Shewbridge

Minutes: January 2018 council minutes were corrected and accepted. (M/S/P

Jerry Crites: Austin Propst)

Financial Report: Financial report presented by Bess Day and accepted.

Pastor's Report:

• Pastor Matt presented the report on activities for the Month of January. Pastor shared some mock-ups for vinyl banners to post on Queen and Burke Streets announcing Easter services as well as signage announcing the Sunday School and Worship Service times when we move forward to one service on Sunday mornings.

### **New Business:**

- Shane will head up and coordinate the Easter Sunrise Breakfast/Brunch
- Two requests were entertained/approved for the use of Luther Hall. Mustard Seed staff will host a baby shower for a Mustard Seed employee on March 22, 2018. (M/S/P Jerry Crites: Austin Propst). Betty Lou Boynton will host a baby shower on April 14, 2018 (M/S/P/Jerry Crites: Austin Propst).
- Easter Lily and Lenten Folder contributions will be combined and divided equally between Pastor' discretionary fund, Friends Feeding Friends and the Youth Gathering (M/S/P Austin Propst:Jerry Crites)
- Several concerns regarding communication between the Mustard Seed and St. John's. Non-emergency concerns should go from the Mustard Seed (Michelle Seidel) to the Mustard Seed Board to take to Church Council. The Pastor should only be approached with emergency concerns (personal injury, water leaks, etc.) Pastor's official role in the Mustard Seed is to provide Spiritual and Visionary leadership. Mindi will attend the next Mustard Seed Board Meeting to discuss proper procedures and will report back to the Council.

### **Annual Meeting and Town Hall Session Topics Addressed:**

- This format was received well; Council deemed it a success and plan to use this format again
- Bookshelf relocation to the Chapel: concerns about the safety issues and location of some of the shelving has been address. All units have been secured and located in compliance with safety codes. The remaining books will be moved from the lounge to the Chapel in the very near future.
- Committee meetings need to be organized to be inclusive and scheduled so that those wanting to serve can meet to minimize time commitment while maximizing productivity to achieve goals. Some suggestions are to have quarterly committee meetings following the service on Sundays when we have one service, create a tri-fold brochure for each committee addressing the function, opportunities and goals of the committee, have a coffee hour with simple refreshments on these Sundays for all while committees break out and meet. Pastor put all members of the congregation on the Evangelism Committee.
- The congregational survey results resulted in 78% of the voters in favor of one service on Sunday mornings. Questioned further in the survey, 10:00 am got the most votes for the time to set for the service. The congregation expressed/recognized the need and importance to include our youth in the service regularly. Council voted to begin on April 8, 2018 (M/S/P Jerry Crites:Austin Propst). Council members will make the announcements at the 8:30am and 10:00am service on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Bess Day reported that \$3,175 is to be disbursed in 2017 for Benevolence. She suggested the following and it was M/S/P (Austin Propst:Jerry Crites).

Rescue Mission	\$ 275
Meals on Wheels	\$ 200
Bethany House	\$ 275
Camp Caroline Furnace	\$ 475
LTS-Gettysburg	\$1050
WVII Campus Ministry	\$ 900

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Christian Education:** Shane reported that Vacation Bible School is scheduled to begin on June 17, 2018 with a Sports theme. The first meeting will be called before Easter but the date has not been set yet.

**Social Ministry:** Jerry noted that a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner following the service on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Evangelism: No report

**Worship & Music:** Mike Noll was absent but Jerry announced that choir practice will be at 6pm on Wednesday during Lent preceding the Lenten soup suppers.

**FLYTE:** Mindi reported that youth from combined churches will sponsor the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It will be a fund raiser for the Youth Gathering this June. A five-dollar donation is requested with a cap of \$20 suggested for the whole family.

**Property/Tech:** Darrell reported that 5 new water efficient toilets have been installed, with one remaining that was defective and had to be returned. That will be installed soon. The sink in the janitor's closet has been replaced. The shattered glass panel in the ceiling of the upper elevator lobby will be replaced by Berkeley Glass. Replacement of lights/bulbs throughout the church will be addressed. The old wooden banquet tables have been replaced with sturdy plastic tables that are much lighter to handle. There are still 3 or 4 of the old tables that need to be replaced. If anyone would like to purchase one, the cost is \$75.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Stewardship: No report

With no further business, the congregational council closed with the Lord's Prayer. M/S/P (Austin Propst:Jerry Crites)

Respectfully submitted, Diane Shewbridge

# CONFIRMATION WITH ST. JOHN'S & ST. THOMAS

### Schedule

Date	Subject - Year 1	Reinforcement Activity	Subject - Year 2	Reinforcement Activitiy
March 16-18	Conf	irmation Retreat -	Topic: The Easter	Story
April 29 @ 12:30	Baptism/ Communion		Parables	
May 6 @ 12:30	Office of the Keys		Paul	
	Confirma	tion Sunday - May	20 at 10am	,

# 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.

# 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.

# **Thank You Notes:**

Dear Pastor Matt,

Thank you for the wonderful service for our mother, Doris K. Brown. Thank you to Jerry for the music—Mom's favorite hymns. Also, thank you to all the ladies who prepared the wonderful food.

Susie, Jennifer and Family

Dear St. John's congregation,

The staff of Burke Street Elementary School and I would like to thank you all for the generosity that was given during the past Christmas season. Because of your kindness, a family enjoyed a wonderful Christmas together and many student have benefitted from the donations of hats and gloves. This kindness affects our students and their family more then you know; we are lucky to have you as part of our school community and I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. I wish you a blessed and wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Teressa Weller - School Counselor

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church family,

We thank all of you for the sandwich platter you sent for my Granddad's funeral. It was so thoughtful and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Aaron Maphis

Dear St. John's

Than you for your donation to Community Lutheran Partners int he amount of 1460 in 2017.

Much of our focus in 2017 continued to be the flood recovery from the 2016 flood event in Southern Central WV. In July, we added 5 counties in Northern WV after flood occurred. CLP proves support through financial assistance to flood survivor, disaster case management training for Long Term Recovery Groups, and helps to coordinate mission teams through WV VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters). If your congregation would like to put together a mission team for spring/summer 2018, please contact the CLP office. There is still a lot of work to be done!

Your continued support of our agency is greatly appreciated. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of those living in the heart of Appalachia.

Yours in Christ, Sherri Schafer -Executive Director •••••••••••

Dear Members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

First order of business - Thank You! Your recent donation of a \$500.00 Wal Mart Gift Card and your donation of 175.55 pounds of food from your Advent collection to the Berkeley County Backpack Program demonstrates your compassion for others. Your gift helps us feed more than 600 school students weekly. We also feed approximately 200 children in the summer and offer fresh fruit and vegetables to add to their meals.

If you are wondering what difference your donation makes, let me share the impact of your generosity through feedback we have received.

- •From a parent: "The Backpack Program food bag my child receives has helped supplement the food in our pantry when there isn't enough money to buy everything we need to feed our family."
- •From another parent: "The hardest time in any pa rent's life, is the time they fear they will not have enough food in their home for everyone to eat and be full. Thanks to the backpack program, my family didn't have that issue. With 11 people in our home, and only 1 full-time income, every bit helped! The backpack program helped to ensure that on the weekends and summer, we always had something to eat. We never had to worry that in tough times, when money was low, that we would not have food. It has truly been a blessing to my family.
- •From a student: "To not have to worry about food for the weekend makes it easier to do my homework because I'm not hungry."

We are an all -volunteer organization and would love for you to experience the joy of feeding children. Please contact us at BerkCoBpProgram@yahoo.com or Lisa Henry at 304-433-S796 to schedule a visit, a food drive, or a mini-bagging session for your group.

Please consider liking us on Facebook at Berk Co Back Pack
Program. Check out our program Please consider liking us on Facebook
at Berk Co Back Pack Program. Check out our program's website
www.feedbcwvkids.org. Help us advance our mission of helping to end
childhood hunger in our county one backpack at a time.

Sincerely, Cindy Stegmaier, Secretary Bekeley County BackPack Program Inc

# 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



10 am on March 25, 2018 in the Martinsburg City Square

# There is an ancient tradition in the church to remember the procession Jesus made into Jerusalem a few days before his death.

Our three churches will come together to read scripture, sing praise to our God, and wave palm branches welcoming the Savior of the world to our town.

If there is inclement weather, the event will be canceled.

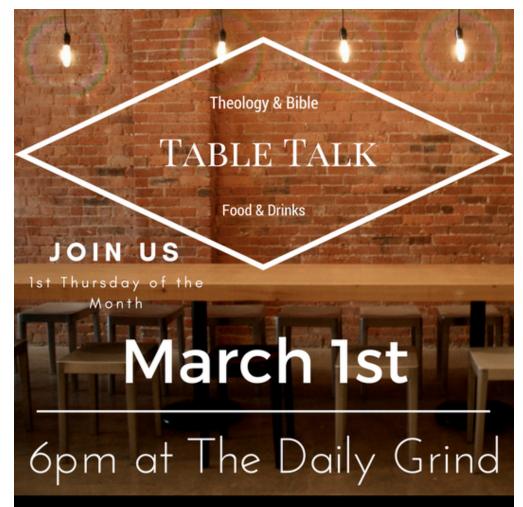
# Holy Week

Palm Sunday - 10 am
Maundy Thursday - Noon and 7:30 pm
Good Friday - 7:30 pm
Easter Sunrise - 6:30 am
Easter Morning - 10 am

Celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem; join Jesus in the upper-room; stand with Jesus as he faces Pilate; hear the crowd shout, "Crucify him, crucify him;" see him die to save the world; and accompany the woman as they go to the tomb.

St John's Scholarship Award began in 2011. In the past, eight scholarships have ben awarded in June. Previous recipients of the \$500 awards include Lauren Haines, Colin Banks, Harrison Banks, Christine Smith, Nicholas Crites, Jenna Taylor, Myranda McQuaid and Eryn Fleming.

Confirmed members of St. John's who apply must fulfill these minimum requirements: Contributed 25 to the community (church and non-church) through service, have a 2.5 GPA for the most recent grading period, have graduated from high school within the last three years, been accepted to an accredited college, university, or technical school, and complete a 500 word essay that explains the impact this one-time scholarship will have toward achieving their career and academic goals. Applications for the Scholarship Award are available through the church office and are to be returned to the church by April 15. Visit our website to download the application. The schlarship will be awarded during worship on June 4th.



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.





2018 Camp Theme

"This Changes Everything"

June 17 - 23, 2018

Located at Camp Caesar in Cowen, West Virginia

register online by visiting camplutherwv.com/

CAROLINE FURNACE
Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center



register online by visiting www.carolinefurnace.org/

Scholarships available to both camps

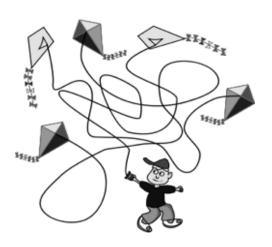
# MILESTONES IN MARCH

# **Birthdays**

- 1 Genevieve Gochenour
- 2 Colin Banks
- 4 Travis Propst
- 5 Karen Kelley Timothy Leitzke
- 9 Jane Kelley
- 12 Virginia Williams
- 16 Priscilla Horner Jason Noll
- 17 Johnny Link Jennifer Noll
- 20 Doug Horner Oliver (Pete) Long
- 21 Judy Hinnerichs
- 22 Lee Brumback Ken Remsberg Tripp Smith Sarah White
- 23 Laken Edwards Luke Hartley Michael Noll
- 28 Betty Calahan Deborah Haarman Wayne Whitmore
- 29 Michelle Byers Kandi Ruth
- 31 Thomas Lewis

# <u>Anniversaries</u>

30 Megan and Nathan Cosner



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.







The Mustard Seed really enjoyed our February activities this month. We had a great time making Valentines food projects, sharing Valentine's cards, and having special Valentine's classroom parties.

The Parent Committee is in the process of organizing spirit night at Chick-fil-a and Panda Express. We will also have Dinner with the Easter Bunny at Hoss's. Please be on the lookout for more information as it become available.

We currently have 63 children enrolled in the center. We are having our Open House for the Summer and Fall enrollment on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-11:00am. We have openings mainly in our Pre-K program (age-4 by August 31<sup>st</sup>) and a few in our Toddler program.

Thank you for all your dedication to The Mustard Seed! It is appreciated! Michelle Seidel

# **March 2018**

Worship Ass	•	reduct / wotstilp   Ostici	Acoiyte	oi uciici
_	ssistant			
-	inda Gillet	Jon Edwards and	Joseph Wonsetler	Benjamin McQuaid
		Douglas Widmeyer		
MAR. 11   Bev	Severly Murphy	Elaine Bennett and	Sharon Brumback   Buddy Newman	Buddy Newman
		Andrew Banks		
MAR. 18 Bu	Buddy Newman	Douglas Widmeyer	Laken Edwards	Jordyn Kelso
		and Bill Torbert		
l'	Jiane	Pat Murphy and	Abigail McBee	Rebekah Root
MAR. 25 Sho	hewbridge	Jon Edwards		

11 am	Reader/Worship   Usher	Usher	Acolyte	Crucifer
Worship	Assistant			
MAR. 4	Lauren Haines	Bev and Pat Murphy   Joseph Hutzler	Joseph Hutzler	Austin Propst
MAR. 11	Blaine Wilson	Ben and Jean DeAlexandro	Braydon Hill	Payton Hill
MAR. 18	Becky Kline	Don Smith and Blaine Wilson	James Esswein	Lee Thatcher

Altar Guild in March – Gail Newman and Jerry Crites

# 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.



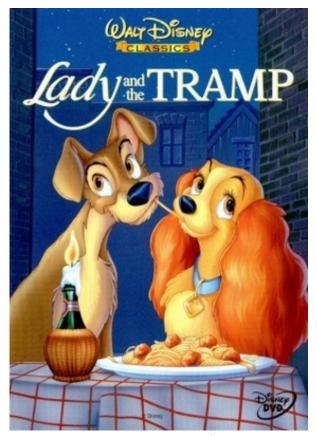
WOULD YOU CONSIDER MAKING A SPECIAL DONATION IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF SOMEONE?

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 MARCH 17 at 6:00pm

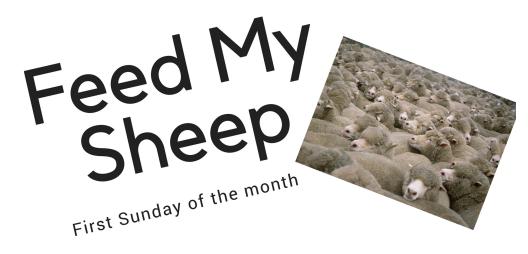


Free Movie Free Popcorn Free Drink

Next Movie night - April 2 at 6pm

**Sponsored by the Social Ministry** 

17



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



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 and click Online Giving And Thank You!



# Spirit Night For

# Conference of Lutheran Churches

Monday, March 12, 2018

5:00-8:00 pm

Proceeds from the night will help defrey costs for the sending our youth and adults to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX

Bring this flyer for dine-in or drive-thru to Chick-fil-A on Foxcroft Avenue in Martinsburg to support the Spirit Night.

Help them earn 20% of the sales you bring in.







### Pastor's Report

January 2018

## **Visitation**

January Visits: 28

# **Conference and Synod**

Conference Meeting Caroline Furnace Board Meeting Synod Assembly Planning Meeting

# Worship

6 Sunday Worship Services

**Church Committees** 

Council

De-decorating the Sanctuary

# **Church and Community Functions**

CCAP Committee Meeting CCAP Board Meeting Family Movie Night

### **Education**

I Confirmation3 Sunday School ClassesTable Talk2 Wednesday Bible Studies

### **Mustard Seed**

3 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed Mustard Seed Board Meeting

# Weddings Funerals

Funeral planning with the Esswein Family
Carlton Esswein Visitation
Carlton Esswein Funeral

## **Continuing Education**

Synod Con-Ed

Choir

3 Choir

## Mileage

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of January was 319 miles.



### **MARCH 2018**

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Back in the fall when our congregation's council met and discussed having a Town Hall meeting, I was a bit nervous. I was not sure what would happen or if anyone would participate. I was blown away by the conversations and participation. There was so much that was discussed that the council will be busy for the next few months working through it all.

One item that I wish to discuss was my "executive decision" to put everyone in the congregation on the evangelism committee. I was serious when I said it—every member of the congregation needs to work on evangelism. Evangelism is the work of proclaiming the gospel. Proclaiming the gospel does not only happen in the pulpit but can be done in multiple ways. EVERYONE needs to take on this task. One the comments shared the most on the survey was the need for growth in congregation. Our church won't grow if we don't share the good news (the evagelous) of Jesus Christ.

So, what does this mean? If you see someone new sitting in your quadrant of pews at church, introduce yourself. If they are sitting alone, sit with them. If you see them struggle to follow along in the service, help them out. That is evangelism in its most simple form. Be willing to answer their questions and make sure you point them out to me so that I can welcome them. Don't assume that someone else will welcome them to worship--be the leader that I know you all are and make sure everyone is welcomed.

On April 8th, we will be moving to one worship on Sunday morning. I heard many say that having two worship services made it feel like we were two congregations. Starting April 8th, you may see people you might not recognize--go introduce yourself to them. Even if they have been a member here for 20 or 30 years, go and welcome them. I know many of you are afraid of welcoming someone who is already a member. Why don't we agree for the next few months to not worry about this and just welcome everyone. There will be some hurt people in our congregation over losing their worship time. We need to be mindful of that and the best way to do this is to be welcoming and kind to everyone.

But before we get to April 8th, we have a lot to do liturgically in the

church. Palm Sunday was phenomenal last year. None of us expected that high of a participation at the square. Pastor Julie, Pastor Rufus and myself have met and we are excited to be doing this holy work again this year. Like last year, we are going to start our Palm Sunday Worship together in the square for the blessing of the palm branches and the reading of the processional gospel starting at 10am. There is this tradition in the church that Palm Sunday always starte outside and walk in to our sanctuary just as Jesus walked into Jerusalem. What better way to welcome our Savior into Martinsburg than to do the same thing. If you can't walk, don't worry. Wait for us back at St. John's but if you can walk, please join us at the square. Let us bring some hope to community and remind them that Jesus is with us! If it is raining, we will meet in Luther Hall for the start of the worship service.

Our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will go on as normal. Easter Morning will start at 6:30am with the Sunrise service and breakfast will follow around 7:30am. We will have our festival Eucharist at 10am. This will be my first Easter with you all since last year I was a little busy becoming a dad. I still cry thinking about when he was born. He is truly one of the best things to have happened to me and my wife.

On a personal note, I really want to encourage you all to participate as much as you can for Holy Week and Easter. If you have never been to a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday worship, come this year. I promise you that you will never experience anything like it anywhere else. These services are based in ancient traditions and mystery and do a wonderful job teaching the story of Jesus. Which means, it is very appropriate to bring your children! Don't worry about them not getting it or getting scared, or making noise. I have been attending Holy Week services since I can remember. I am sure I made noise and drove my mom nuts, but I learned the story and look where that led me. You might think that your kids are getting nothing out of church but they are and we as a congregation are receiving joy knowing that there is life, vitality and hope in their noises. This week is for them just as much as it is for us adults! I will have a book for them to use and collect stickers.

Make time to deepen your faith.

RAW/

In Christ,

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

Return Service Requested