

**Mother's Day
May 13**

May

**MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 28**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| ATTENTION Graduates! Please give your information (school, degree, future plans, etc.) to Pastor Matt or the church office. | | 1 Philip and James, Apostles | 2 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 7PM Peter Mayer Concert @ St. Peter's in Shepherdstown 6:30 Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel | 3 6PM Table Talk meets at the Daily Grind National Day of Prayer | 4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Yard Sale @ St. Thomas </div> | 5 Pastor @ Board Meeting for Camp Caroline Furnace |
| 6 10AM Worship with Holy Communion 9AM Sunday School 12:30-4:30PM Confirmation Book Club follows the service Feed My Sheep | 7 Spirit Night @ Panda Express to benefit the Parent Association of the Mustard Seed | 8 | 9 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel | 10 9AM CCAP Board meets The Ascension of our Lord | 11 8:30-9:30AM Mustard Seed Mother's Day Breakfast | 12 |
| 13 10AM Worship 9AM Sunday School Mother's Day | 14 7PM Church Council in the Lounge | 15 6:30PM Women's Banquet | 16 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel | 17 | 18 | 19 6PM Family Movie Night Carnival at Salem to benefit the National Gathering |
| 20 Confirmation Sunday 10AM Worship with Holy Communion 9AM Sunday School 3PM Synod Assembly Planning @ St. Peter's The Day of Pentecost | 21 | 22 Pastor @ Festival of Homiletics in DC | 23 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel | 24 | 25 | 26 11AM-1PM Friends Feeding Friends |
| 27 Holy Trinity Sunday 10AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School Craft Making Session to benefit the Nat'l. Gathering /FLYTE room | 28 Office Closed! Memorial Day | 29 | 30 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel | 31 Mary's Visit to Elizabeth | CAR WASH June 9th @ St. John's Parking Lot 10AM - 2PM Benefits The National Youth Gathering Trip | |

NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church

101 W. Martin Street

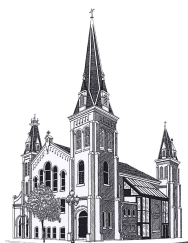
Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

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

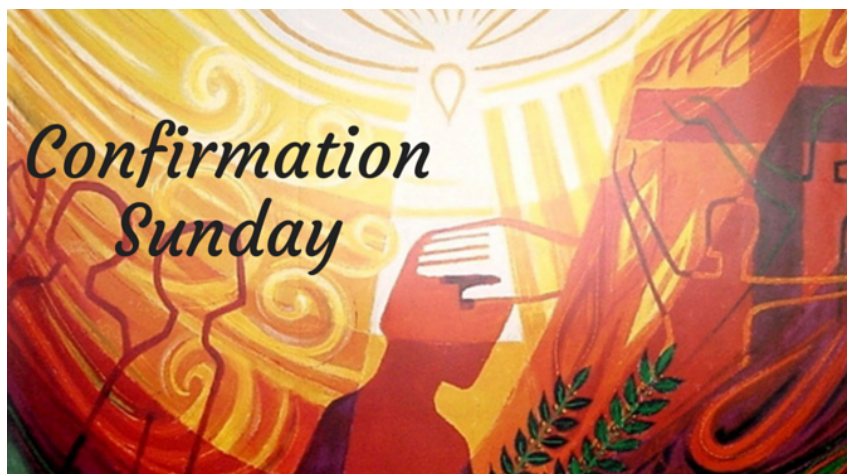
E-Mail: churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Website: www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Pastor: Matthew A. Day



MAY 2018



May 20 at 10 am

Join us as we welcome Abigail McBee, Ian Fleming, Trey Voorhees, Hunter Thatcher, Ben McQuaid and Nathaniel Edwards to our congregation through the Rite of Confirmation.

Easter Offerings:

Lenten Envelopes: \$605.00

In Lieu of Flowers: \$475.00

Both of these offerings will be divided between the National Youth Gathering, Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Friends Feeding Friends. **Many Thanks!**

Sun, May 6, 2018 at St. John's

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM EDT

Visit our website, click on the link, and register today so that we know you are coming.

**FIGHT OPIOIDS.
BUILD COMMUNITY.
TOGETHER.**

Be there as we launch One America West Virginia!

The One America Movement and the Hope Dealer Project invite you to join us as we launch our fight against opioids in the Eastern Panhandle. We'll build relationships with each other and our partners from Washington D.C., talk about the heroin crisis in a real way and share a meal.

"Nobody can do it on their own," as one father whose son died of an overdose put it to a reporter. "But no drug dealer, nor cartel, can stand against families, schools, churches, and communities united together."

The One America Movement is a national organization that brings people together across divides in society to address pressing social problems in their communities. We're building a movement of Americans who are tired of being divided, who are tired of poverty and drugs and crumbling communities and who want to stand together to build a stronger country.

The Hope Dealer Project is a newly formed non-profit organization located right here in Martinsburg, WV. Its aim is to serve the client who is struggling with drug addiction. We want them to know that they are NEVER alone and we will stay with them throughout their recovery journey.

For Questions, Contact Areesa Somani:
areesa@oneamericamovement.org

Sponsored by the One America Movement, the Hope Dealer Project, the Jefferson County Health Department, Covenant Baptist Church, Adas Israel Congregation and a growing list of faith communities in Washington DC and West Virginia dedicated to fighting opioids together.

Carnival!



When: May 19 from 11:00-2:00

Where: Salem Lutheran Church

17626 Bakersville Rd

off of Sharpsburg Pike Route 65



Food

Games

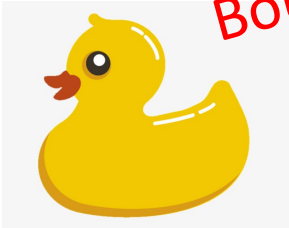
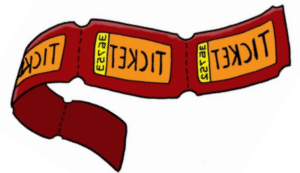
Prizes!

Dunk a Pastor!

Pie a Pastor!

Climbing Wall

Bouncy House



Sponsored by the Lutheran Youth
of the East Potomac Conference
Proceeds go to sending our kids to the
National Youth Gathering in Houston!

2018 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2018

Meeting called to order by: President Mindi Esswein

Members present: Mindi Esswein, Pastor Matt, Ray Bentz, Jerry Crites, Jane Kelly, Mike Noll, Austin Propst, Darrell Propst, Diane Shewbridge, Shane Wagoner, Blaine Wilson, Bess Day (Treasurer)

Members Absent: Anne Moore, Connie Provard

Devotions: Pastor Matt

Minutes: March 2018 council minutes were approved. (M/S/P Darrell Propst:Ray Bentz)

Financial Report: Quarterly Financial reports were presented by Bess Day

Pastor's Report:

- 181 attended Easter Services; 65 at Sunrise service and 131 at 10am service
- 1900 viewed the Facebook page
- Priscilla Horner and Mike Noll will represent St. John's at the Synod Convention which will be held at St. Peter's, Shepherdstown, in June this year

Unfinished Business:

- The Easter Banner for the exterior of the church did not get installed due to the weather. Permanent bolts will be installed on the Martin Street corner for seasonal banners, events like Bible School, special services, etc.

New Business:

- 70+ people receive the Newsletter electronically
- Online giving is going well; summer giving should remain steadier with regular online giving
- The safety gates in the elevator are difficult to slide; this will be looked into
- Several electrical outlets throughout the church and Luther Hall are old and loose. Darrell will look into the situation and check on the grounding and remedy options
- A retreat for adults at Caroline Furnace was brought forth to think about in the Fall

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education: No report; committee will meet soon

Social Ministry: A tea is planned for Sunday, April 29th

Evangelism: No report

Worship & Music: Mike Noll is training acolytes and crucifers. Would like to use more Lay Assistants in our services and suggested having volunteers to present the communion gifts of bread and wine.

FLYTE: Five youth from St. John's are attending camp Luther. Pastor reported that the church still has some scholarship money available if others are interested in going. Youth from 3rd grade to Senior High school are eligible to attend.

Property/Tech: No report

Mutual Ministry: Blaine Wilson reported that Mutual Ministry would like to continue the interaction with other churches as opportunities arise. Also, encourage Pastor Matt to take his time off to refresh and recharge to avoid burnout.

Stewardship: No report

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

Respectfully submitted, Diane Shewbridge

CONFIRMATION WITH ST. JOHN'S & ST. THOMAS

Schedule

| Date | Subject - Year 1 | Reinforcement Activity | Subject - Year 2 | Reinforcement Activity |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| April 29 @ 12:30 | Baptism/ Communion | | Paul | |
| May 6 @ 12:30 | Office of the Keys | | Parables | |
| Confirmation Sunday - May 20 at 10am | | | | |

2018 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2018

Meeting called to order by: President Mindi Esswein

Members present: Mindi Esswein, Pastor Matt, Ray Bentz, Jerry Crites, Jane Kelly, Anne Moore, Mike Noll, Darrell Propst, Connie Provard, Diane Shewbridge, Shane Wagoner, Blaine Wilson, Bess Day (Treasurer)

Members Absent: Austin Propst

Devotions: Pastor Matt

Minutes: February 2018 council minutes were approved. (M/S/P Darrell Propst:Shane Wagoner)

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

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Matt presented the report on activities for the Month of Feb.
- Banner designs were approved for Easter Sunday services as well as banners announcing the new time for our single service – 10:00 am. These banners will be placed on the exterior of the church where they will maximize visibility from the streets. Sunday school will begin at 9:00am.
- Attendance at the Ash Wednesday services totaled over 80.

New Business:

- An after-church coffee hour will be started with an emphasis on keeping it simple. Coffee will be offered each Sunday with light refreshments, ie, donuts or cookies, on the first Sunday of each month. Committees or individuals can sponsor a Sunday.
- Committees will begin meeting after church in months with a 5th Sunday. Individual committees can schedule meetings at other times as necessary. Committee agendas will be distributed one week prior to the 5th Sunday meetings. Committee chairs should submit the agenda to Pastor an Martha; Pastor will post on the website, and make a poster to display in church. The first 5th Sunday committee meetings is slated for April 29th.
- Confirmands will be confirmed on May 20th; cake and punch reception will follow. Second year confirmands were each assigned to a council member mentor. Confirmands will attend a council meeting in either April or May.
- July council will meet on July 30th and there will be no council meeting in August.
- Mustard Seed needs someone to replace Darrell on their Board. Pastor will put a recruitment note in the April newsletter.
- Pots and pans are missing from the kitchen for a few months now; if anyone has borrowed them, please return them.
- Many thanks to Roger Wall for making and painting the custom silverware drawer dividers for the kitchen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education: Shane reported that Vacation Bible School will have to be scheduled for a July 8th start date due to the state-wide teachers walk out.

Social Ministry: Jerry reported that family movie night on the 3rd Saturday each month will continue. A tea is planned for Sunday, April 29th. The donations for the March Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner totaled \$372. All of this will go toward the Youth Gathering support. All the food was through Thrivent and other donations.

Evangelism: Pastor Matt will arrange for Acolyte and Crucifer training with Mike Noll.

Worship & Music: no report.

FLYTE: Pastor reported that the church has \$1000 available for scholarships to Camp Luther 2018. Youth from 3rd grade to Senior High school are eligible to attend.

Property/Tech: Darrell reported that the furnace has been reset after being stuck "open" and a leaky sink in the upstairs boys bathroom was fixed.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Stewardship: No report

With no further business, the congregational council closed with the Lord's Prayer.
M/S/P (Darrell Propst:Mike Noll)

Respectfully submitted, Diane Shewbridge

May 15 -

WOMEN'S BANQUET AT 6:30PM IN LUTHER HALL.

A delicious dinner, cooked and served by Jerry Crites and the men of the church, will be served.

Please fill out your reservation in the bulletin on April 29 or May 6.

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 & 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 not 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:

Thank you once again for offering Chapter 5 the use of your fellowship hall for our card party on March 3rd.

All profit from this event supports P.E.O. philanthropies. These include Cottey College, an independent liberal arts and sciences college; and five additional scholarship programs.

We deeply appreciate your generosity in support of our mission.
Betty Mulford, WV P.E.O. Chapter 5

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Dear Church Members,

On behalf of the Board, staff and clients of Community Networks, Inc/ Bethany House, thank you for your generous contribution of \$275.00.

Your generosity allows us to provide shelter, food and counseling to homeless women and their children.

Sincerely,
Christina Lundberg, President, Board of Directors

.....

I would like to say Thank You for my Mother. She received many nice birthday cards and they made her very happy. She said "she got so many that she wanted to count them and send you all a Thank You", which she never got the chance to do. So I wanted to Thank You for her.

I want to Thank Everyone, especially Pastor Matt for coming to the hospital and making my Mother very happy by his visit and by bringing her communion the night before she passed away, and also for coming to be with me after her passing, at the lowest point in my life.

Thank you to all. for your prayers, calls, & cards. Thanks to Betty Lou and the all who helped with the dinner following the funeral.

I am not sure how to make to make it without her, But It helps to know that I have My St John's Family.

Jane Kelley



Bob Frye, Denny Coffinberger, Sam Boynton, Harry Michener
Joyce Dailey found this picture from Harry - a faithful
and hard-working crew for many years.

(Photo by Pat Murphy)

A FEW "NEW" CEMETERY MOWERS NEEDED

**The season has started and will go into the Fall for the
up-keep of the Old Lutheran - Reformed Cemetery
located across from Brown Funeral Home.**

**We are in great need of "trimmers",
but you will need to bring your own equipment -
trimmers, pruners, rakes, etc.**

**Once we get the winter left-overs cleared away,
maintenance is much easier and less often.**

**We welcome any amount of time and help you can spare.
For more information contact Pat Murphy (304-263-0586).**



July 8th-13th
Dinner begins at 5:15pm

Grab your megaphones, lace up your cleats, and tune up your horn. It's time to gear up for the big game! It's go time! Whether you're the type to root from the stands, march in the band, cheer on the field, or hustle to the line, the time is now—it's Game On!

Kids are under so much pressure—to perform well, to be the best, to balance schedules that are full to the brim, to excel in every arena. From that vantage point, life's big game can seem like no fun. But when we step back, we realize that the goal is not competing in our own strength. God has already given us everything we need! He's given us His complete Word as the ultimate playbook. He's given us Himself, which gives us a reason to celebrate. He wants us to join His team, to train hard, to celebrate our salvation, to encourage one another, and spur each other on. So what are you waiting for? This is Spirit Week 2018. It's Game On!

Visit our website at www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org
Click on Ministries tab then look for
Vacation Bible School
to register your child today!

STIRRIN' UP THE WATER

A benefit concert for clean sustainable water around the world

May 2

*Fundraiser for
ELCA World
Hunger*

*Admission by
Donation
LIMITED
SEATING*

*See Ticket and
event
Information*



PETER MAYER AND BRENDAN MAYER

Wednesday, May 2—7:00 PM—St Peter's Lutheran Church, Shepherdstown

Singer, songwriter, and musician Peter Mayer is the lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reefer Band. With his son Brendan, they will perform original songs and classic covers in an evening of music for all ages. Their music evokes The Beatles, traditional Indian music, church hymns, and jazz standards.

Ticket and event Information—<http://bit.ly/StirrinUpTheWater>



Theology & Bible

TABLE TALK

Food & Drinks

JOIN US

1st Thursday of the
Month

May 3rd

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 coming months will be spent looking at the book, "Love Wins" by Rob Bell. This book caused a bunch of controversy a few years ago. Come see what all the fuss was about.

Don't miss out on the conversation.

Summer CAMP 2018



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 MAY

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Ian Fleming | 21 | Brad Moss |
| 2 | Emily Jenkins | | Jerry Olsen |
| 3 | Kristie Remsburg | 23 | Bryce Gatrell |
| 4 | Kevin Newman | | Bill Widmeyer |
| 5 | Elizabeth Park | 24 | Jan Hancock |
| 8 | Bernice Baker | 26 | Susan Bales |
| | Tyler Bennett | 27 | Hannah Hartley |
| | Amy Kelley | 28 Memorial Day | |
| 11 | Ken Stroeck | 30 | Daniel Clarke |
| | Justin Wilson | | |
| 12 | Bryar Moss | | |
| 13 | Mother's Day | | |
| 14 | Allison Losh Flynn | | |
| | Eric Losh | | |
| 17 | Lisa Clarke | | |
| | Marjorie Murphy | | |
| 18 | Landon Hutzler | | |
| | Aiden Murphy | | |
| 20 | Edward Eckberg | | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 6 | Allison & Mike Janney |
| 22 | Becky & Kevin Newman |
| 24 | Jan & Dan Hancock |
| 28 | Tiffany & Kyle Leighton |
| 29 | Amanda & Jamie Ferenchick |
| 29 | Danielle & Justin Ruble |





April News



We started off April with the Easter Bunny coming and hiding eggs throughout the basement, since the weather did not cooperate. Most of the children loved the bunny but not our little toddlers!

Our Open House at the end of March went very well. We currently have 63 children enrolled and we have a 6-month to a year waiting list for all classrooms but Pre-K. We have two openings for our Pre-K class that will begin in the fall.

The children enjoyed many activities this month including The Resurrection of Jesus, Recycling, Earth Day, Dinosaurs, and other themes that you can see displayed in artwork & crafts around Luther Hall.

We will celebrate our Mothers on May 11th with our Annual Mother's Day Breakfast, featuring crafts, gifts & food for our Moms.

The Mustard Seed Parent group is having a Spirit Night fundraiser at Panda Express on May 7th to support our center. We hope you will come out and help them as they support The Mustard Seed. A great excuse not to cook! We hope everyone has a great spring!

Michelle

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms



We welcome Rosalind Grace Vogel to the body of Christ on April 1st at our Sunrise Liturgy. She was only two weeks old when she was baptized! Welcome!!!

Funerals

Ethel Viola Kelley

Born: April 5, 1919 in Strasburg, VA,
Died: April 12, 2018 in Falling Waters, WV

Hayward L. Plotner

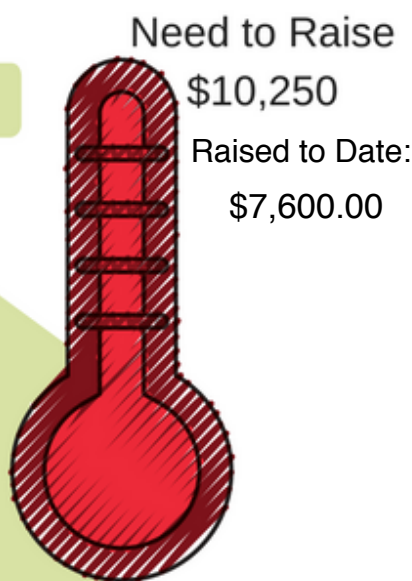
Born: May 23, 1929 in Hedgesville, WV
Died: April 17, 2018 in Martinsburg, WV

Interested in becoming a member?

Joining our faith group official means you want to be personally committed to the ministry of St. John's. We need each and every member to play a part in our mission and ministry here. If you have not officially joined our community, consider doing so. We love having your worship with us and we would love to have your commitment!

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
MAY 19 at 6:00pm
Located in Luther Hall



Free Movie
Free Popcorn
Free Drink
Sponsored by the Social Ministry

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



Pastor's Report

April 2018

Visitation

March Visits: 56

Conference and Synod

Conference Meeting

Synod Assembly Planning Meeting

Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night for National Gathering Fund

Chrim Mass in Morgantown

Worship

6 Sunday Worship Services

1 Pulpit Exchange on a Wednesday

2 Matins

2 Evening

2 Maundy Thursday

1 Good Friday

Church Committees

Council

Mutual Ministry

Church and Community Functions

Corn-beef and Cabbage Dinner

Community Cross Walk

Community Good Friday Liturgy (preached)

Easter Morning Breakfast Prep

Education

1 Confirmation Retreat

3 Sunday School Classes

Table Talk

Mustard Seed

3 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

Mustard Seed Board Meeting

Easter Bunny Dinner

Weddings

Funerals

Continuing Education

Choir

3 Choir

Mileage

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of March was 849 miles.

WV-WMD SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Assembly will take place on Friday, June 1, and Saturday, June 2, right here in the Eastern Panhandle. Voting members and guests will be staying at the Clarion Hotel in Shepherdstown, which is the site of the assembly meetings. Many will arrive on Thursday, May 31.

The Pastors in the Eastern Potomac Conference have worked hard to make this both productive and enjoyable. So.....

Thursday, May 31 – Picnic at Poffinberger Farm, 6623 Sharpsburg Pike (MD Rt 65). St. John's has been asked to bring cold salads, which should arrive to farm by 4:30. The meal will be from 5-7 PM. Following this, ghost tours of Shepherdstown will be offered at 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30; the cost is \$10 per person. Sign up online OR tell Pastor Matt.

Friday, June 1 – St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Shepherdstown will host an evening Eucharist service at 7:00 PM followed by a reception. Each church is being asked to bring several batches of homemade cookies. If you are planning on attending, you can bring your cookies with you by 6:15. If you cannot attend, but would like to make cookies, please see Priscilla Horner.

Bags of hard candy (Lifesavers, peppermints, etc) are needed. Please bring these to church and give to Priscilla Horner.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Babysitters – during the Assembly meetings, babysitting will be provided at the Clarion by willing members of our local churches.

Times: Friday, 6/1 – 1 – 5

Saturday, 6/2 – 9-12 and 1-4

Registration Tables – Friday, 6/1 9-12

Other volunteer jobs can be found by visiting synodassembly2018.xyz

Please go to synodassembly2018.xyz to sign up as a volunteer and/or a ghost tour OR see Pastor Matt.

WELCOME TO WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Upcoming Events:

1. Friday, April 27, 6:30 in Luther Hall – Chick Flick Night
 - Bring camp chair, drink, snack to share.
 - Bring a DVD & we will decide on movie then.
2. Wednesday, May 9, 6:30, Luther Hall – Needlecraft Night
 - Bring some \$\$ toward pizza and a drink.
 - Bring ANY easy to carry craft.
 - We will have an evening of fellowship & sharing.
3. Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 Luther Hall - Women's Banquet
All women of the parish are invited to bring one or more guests to a lovely meal followed by entertainment. Heather Watkins' music students will be performing for us.
Sign up forms will be in bulletin.
4. Sunday, May 27, after service – Next WELCA meeting
5. SWO Convention – Here Am I, Send Me – Called to Serve.
August 10 and 11 at Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center in Huttonsville, WV. Bishop Matthew Riegel will conduct our Bible Study. Pastor Diane Day will conduct our Eucharist Service.
Registration forms will be in the next Lutheran Lines, SWO newsletter.

SCRIP SPOT

Don't forget to order scrip gift cards for grocery shopping, dinner out, or gifts. Graduation season is upon us. Scrip cards make great graduation gifts especially for a grandchild, niece, nephew, friend that live elsewhere in the US.

Orders must be in by Sunday; cards are available by Friday – each week.



MAY 2018

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, May 20 we will welcome six confirmands as full members in the body of Christ. They will confirm their faith before their friends and family and complete what has been a three year process of education and formation. Our confirmation program is a two year process where confirmands meet monthly for four hours. We gear the class around food, education, and some kind of practical or reinforcement activity. Mostly the practical or reinforcement activity includes a video that portrays a particular theme really well but can also include a field trip. This year, we took a ride up to Mount St. Mary's school to see the Grotto. We talked about prayer and how this holy place tells the story of Jesus. I am very proud of Abigail, Ian, Trey, Hunter, Ben and Nathaniel. They have worked hard and have to endure me talking with them for four hours each month. Please join us on May 20 at 10am to celebrate their accomplishment and welcome them into our holy family as full members.

Easter was really special this year. It was my first Easter with you all since last year, we were having a baby on Holy Saturday. It was nice to walk that holy journey with you all. Every year I seem to get choked up reading the gospel on Easter Sunday, especially from John's gospel. What usually gets me is the part where Jesus calls Mary by her name and in that moment she recognizes that the man is not the gardener but is Jesus. This year, the whole gospel got me. After 6 years of doing ministry, of burying members who had become my friend, or baptizing so many little ones and old ones too, the gift of the resurrection is that we will not lay in our tomb. We will have our mourning turned into laughter. The pain that we

feel with death is temporary, but we should never gloss over that pain. Mary's pain was real. She lost her Lord and she thought someone had taken his body. Her pain is real but it was in the resurrection that this pain was eased. It is why we preach resurrection so much at a funeral and have the Easter season last so long. We need this reminder so that we do not lose hope.

Losing hope is very unchristian. We are the hope-bearers. We preach hope even in death. The resurrection of our Lord is a powerful story that should get to all of us. It should make us all tear-up because it is proof that even when the world tries to snuff you out, God says, "I got you. Do not worry."

So, where do need to bear some hope? I am very happy to have St. John's being the host for the The One America Movement West Virginia Kick Off on May 6 from 3-6 pm. The goal of the event is to build relationships with each other and to talk about the heroin crisis in a real way. What I really love about the One America Movement is that they are not offering a cure but rather assistance in helping different community groups address the issue. I had a chance to meet with a representative from One America just the other day and I am very impressed. Will it work? I am not sure, but I think we need to give it a shot. I would really like to have at least 10-15 people from St. John's participate. A lot of members have commented that they want St. John's more active in the community—this is our shot. Let's not waste it because we are the hope-bearers! This is what we were placed on this earth to do. You have to register for the event but I made it very easy. Just visit stjohnsmartinsburg.org and click the link on the front page. Do not assume someone else will sign up—be that someone and encourage others from the congregation to participate.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Mark A. Dargatzis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pastor" written in a smaller, more legible script than the last name "Dargatzis".

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

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