

**TIME CHANGE!**  
**November 4th**  
 One Extra Hour of Sleep!

# November

Ushers  
 4 Arnold Bock/Andrew Banks  
 11 Bev & Pat Murphy  
 18 Sally Jenkins/Jane Kelley  
 25 Jon & Laken Edwards

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<b>Worship Assistants</b> Nov 4 Michael Noll Nov 11 Anne Moore Nov 18 Beverly Murphy Nov 25 Drew Catrow				<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b> Volunteers Landon Hutzler/Sally Jenkins Joseph Hutzler/Charlotte Hutzler Volunteers		<b>1</b>  <b>All Saints' Day</b>  <b>6PM</b> <b>Table Talk @ Daily Grind</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10AM Worship with Holy Communion <b>All Saints Sunday</b>  1 - 5PM Confirmation	<b>5</b> <b>Sunday on Monday</b> <b>5:45PM</b> <b>Light Dinner</b> <b>6:15 Class</b> <b>7:15 Evening Prayer</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>Election Day</b>	<b>7</b> 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge  6:30 Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	<b>8</b>  <b>9AM</b> <b>Pastor at CCAP Board Meeting</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>Confirmation Retreat at St James Uvilla</b> <b>6pm-10am</b>  <b>Christmas Craft and Bazaar</b>	<b>10</b>		
<b>11</b> 10 am Worship  11:30AM WELCA meets  1pm Conference Leaders meeting at the Daily Grind	<b>12</b>  <b>Veterans Day</b>  <b>7PM</b> <b>Church Council meets</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge  6:30PM Needlecraft group meets  6:30 Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>11:30AM</b> <b>Mustard Seed Thanksgiving Feast</b>  <b>Legally Blonde at the Apollo through Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>6PM</b> <b>Family Movie Night "Free Birds"</b>		
<b>18</b> Pulpit Exchange  10 am Worship with Holy Communion	<b>19</b> <b>Sunday on Monday</b> <b>5:45PM</b> <b>Light Dinner</b> <b>6:15 Class</b> <b>7:15 Evening Prayer</b>  7pm Trustee Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:30am Potomac Conference Meeting	<b>21</b> 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge	<b>Office Closed!</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>11AM-1PM</b> <b>Friends Feeding Friends</b>
<b>25</b> 10 am Worship with Holy Communion <b>Christ the King Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge  6:30 Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	<b>29</b>  <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>6pm</b> <b>Martinsburg Christmas Tree Lighting</b>			

# 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](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org)

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

Pastor: Matthew A. Day



## NOVEMBER 2018

# A Mighty Fortress is our God!

**A big thank you to everyone who came out for the Commeration of the 501 Reformation Sunday. We put the Word of God in the hands of many children and Adults! And we enjoyed a wonderful fellowship following worship.**



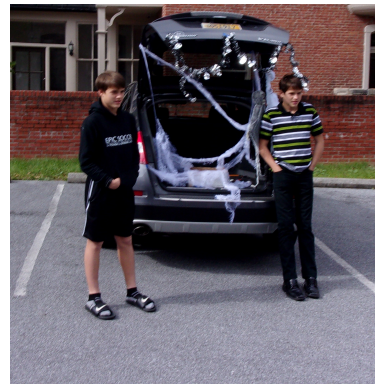
### \*\*\*Official Notice\*\*\*

A Yearly Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for November 4

to discuss the 2019 budget. Please be in attendance. The meeting will take place after the 10am service.



# Trunk or Treat 2018



# 2018 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Darrell Propst

Members present: Pastor Matt, Darrell Propst, Shane Wagoner, Blaine Wilson, Mike Noll, Anne Moore, Jane Kelley, Bess Day.

Members Absent: Mindi Esswein, Linda Payne, Diane Shewbridge, Jerry Crites, Ray Bentz, Austin Propst.

Devotions were given by Pastor Matt.

After the correction of the spelling of Sophie Palmer's name, the motion was made to accept the amended Sept. minutes by Pastor Matt and seconded by Mike Noll.

The Financial Report were presented by Bess Day. The Proposed 2019 budget changes were discussed. The motion to accept the Financial reports was Made by Mike Noll and seconded by Shane Wagoner. The new Budget presentation will be on Nov 4 at the Congregational Meeting.

Pastors Report: Discussed the Bible Presentation for Sunday Oct 28th. Members are encouraged to bring their Bibles to be blessed, and those without a Bible will be given one.

There will be a Pet blessing on Oct 7th at 1PM in the parking lot

Truck or Treat on Oct 28th following the German Potluck.

The Sunday on Monday Christian Education for families is going well

Pastor Matt was talking with Atlantic Security, and the Fire Marshall, about some changes to the security system. Darrell will follow up on this.

New Business: The subject of kneeling/Not kneeling/ continuous communion was discussed, but will table till next meeting.

Worship and Music: Mike Noll reported that some of the new Sound System is back ordered, and will not be available for Christmas.

Property: Darrell reported that the new mulch was now in use by the Mustard Seed. Work Day was discussed - there were some major jobs that may not be addressed, but everyone will be able to do something to improve the Church. The cost for the A/C was discussed, with Shenandoah being the lower bid over Griffith after getting an itemized estimate. We are still working on getting the dimmer panel replaced in the Church and getting lighting for the parking lot.

Mutual Ministry: Trinity is having a Spaghetti Dinner Oct 12 from 5-7 PM, Also at Trinity, on Oct 26, they are having a Hayride, Bonfire and a Movie.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Kelley

**WANT TO KEEP UP BETTER WITH ACTIVITIES AND  
WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S?  
DO THESE THREE SIMPLE THINGS:**



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



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

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



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

# SUNDAY ON MONDAY

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN'S

After a meeting of the Christian Education committee where we reviewed the surveys as well as the past year, we decided it was time to revamp our program. Instead of Sunday morning education, we will have "Sunday School" on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month starting September 17. Hence the name, Sunday on Monday.

### The Evening Schedule:

5:45pm - Pot Luck Dinner in Luther Hall

6:15 pm - Class

7:15 pm - 20 minute Evening Prayer to wrap up the night. The entire community is welcomed to come even if you cannot make it to the class!

### Classes and number of teachers:

Nursery (to the age of Kindergarten) 5th-Middle School

1st-4th grade: High School

Adult Class

### Curriculum

Nursery through 4th Grade will use the Spark Bible. Typically, we will have an Old Testament Lesson the first week and a New Testament Lesson the third week.

November 5- Joseph helps his Family

November 29- Bible Trivia

December 3- Angels Visits

December 17- Jesus is Born

January 7th- First Communion

January 21st- First Communion

February 4- Naomi and Ruth

February 18- Pick your favorite Parables

March 4- Daniel and the  
Lions Den

March 18 - Superhero Jesus  
(Healing the Blindman, Water to  
Wine, Calm the Storm, Feeding of  
5000 people, Walks on water)

April 1 - Jesus is Betrayed

April 15 - The Empty Tomb

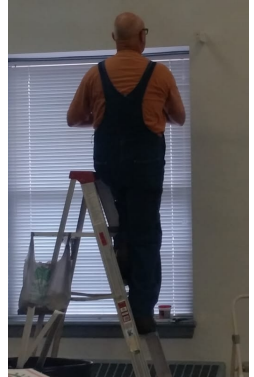
May 6 - Trivia Night

May 20 -Baptism - Your Baptism  
and Jesus

# Fall Work Day

Thank you to the 30+ volunteers who stayed after worship on October 14 and completed projects around our campus. We completed 14 out of 18 projects in 3 hours. We appreciate the hard work and are planning a similar event in the spring!

Finished projects
Garden Work
Put together Plastic Shelves in the Good News Classroom Closet and Organize Closet
Magic Erase scuff Marks
Install new screen
Hang railing in the stairwell leading up to Sacristy/Choir Loft
Dusting/Cleaning Wood Work in Sanctuary
Pencil Holder cleaned out and add new pencils to all holders
Patch hole in the wall at the altar
De-clutter
Move children's library over to the nursery at the church
Move Office Closet to the Children's Library
Move Sunday School Closet to the office Closet
Take down old window covers in Luther Hall
Put old choir music into plastic totes



Theology & Bible

# TABLE TALK

Food & Drinks

**JOIN US**

1st Thursday of the  
Month

**NOVEMBER 1**  
**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 this month will be on Martin Luther's Sermon on John 6. This sermon was used by Pastor Matt in August, but there was so much that could not have been included. We will look at the sermon and the insights Luther had on the Eucharist and John's words.



**2018 COVENANTS ARE  
AVAILABLE!**

**They are available in both the  
narthex or online. Go to  
stjohnsmartinsburg.org and  
click the link on the front page.**

Every year we wipe the committee  
list clear so that everyone can make  
a new commitment to the ministry  
at St. John's. **So, please let us  
know that you are interested!**



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## **All Saints Sunday November 4, 2018**

All Saints' Day is a universal festival of the Church. This festival day directs our attention to the richness of Christian history and the varied experiences of the grace of God by lifting up the lives of the saints.

The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) celebrates not only the martyrs and saints, but all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the mystical body of Christ.

Below are the names of the members and friends of our congregation who have died since All Saints' Day last year. We remember them in our prayers today, and we give thanks for their lives. We remember and find strength in their faith and the faith of all the saints both known to us and known only to God.

Harry Michener  
Carlton Esswein  
Doris Ann Brown  
Sandra Logsdon  
Ethel Kelley  
Hayward Plotner

Alice Pifer  
Sonny Rodgers  
Gary Garrish  
Beverly Zavash  
Linda McQuaid

# **Welcome to WOMEN of The ELCA**

## **Upcoming Events:**

1. Needle Craft Nights 6:30 PM in Luther Hall  
Bring a drink and a few dollars toward pizza from Bob's plus a project for a night of fellowship  
November 14  
December 12
2. Soup/Sandwich/Craft Sale – November 9 & 10
  - Prep days for soup/sandwich – Nov 6, 7, 8
  - Details below
3. Thank Offering service, Nov 11 – during meeting
  - If you have a Thank Offering, but cannot attend, please give contribution to Priscilla or Connie Provard
  - Thank Offering supports the ministries and programs of church-wide WELCA
4. Graham Cracker House decoration – December 2  
Covered Dish lunch followed by adults decorating the church. Children will decorate Graham Cracker houses and make ornaments
  - Bring a can of icing and bag of candy for each child attending; candy used to decorate houses
  - Sign ups will be in bulletin – so we are sure we have enough houses
5. January 6, 2019 – Dutch Treat Holiday Lunch at Hoss'

## **Soup/Sandwich/Craft Sale**

This is the “BIG” fundraiser for St. John's WELCA.

Any monies raised will go to various individuals or agencies within Berkeley County.

- Days of Sale – Friday, Nov 9 and Saturday, Nov 10
- Craft Sale – there are reservation forms to reserve your space. Drew Catrow is handling the reservations and publicity for this.

**NEW THIS YEAR – LUNCH FOR PURCHASE FRI AND SAT.**

**HELP NEEDED** – Sign up sheets will be circulated in late October:

1. Prepping ingredients for soups and sandwiches
  2. Cooking of soup and assembling sandwiches – includes canning quarts of soup
  3. Packing orders for pick-up at church; helping with pick-up
  4. Help with lunches on Friday and Saturday
  5. Donations of money, WalMart cards, canning jars to help us purchase ingredients needed
- See Priscilla with questions or more details

**For 2019** – Exhausted from holiday preparations, baking, decorating, and cooking all those meals? Join the women of St. John's for a relaxing lunch out at Hoss' on Sunday, January 6, at 11:30. Bring a guest or two– the more the merrier! This is a Dutch Treat. Hope to see you there!! Let Priscilla know how many are attending with you.

### **Prayer Shawls and lap blankets are needed!!!**

- We give prayer shawls to church members who are ill or injured
- Lap Blankets are needed by Hospice
- You are welcome to join our needlecraft group OR work on your own to help with this project.
- We have had LOTS of yarn donated that you are welcome to use.
- Patterns are available, too. OR use your own.  
Just let Priscilla know if you can help. Thanks!!!

### **Goals for WELCA as determined by the SWO Board**

1. We encourage all women to lift up in prayer all God's creation as we deal with issues of diversity, violence, especially in the home, and all who are in crisis
2. We will involve more women in the ministries of WELCA.
3. We will continue to support: Community Lutheran Partners, Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU, Lutheran World Relief, and our sisters in Madagascar.

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Soup and Sandwich Sale

At 101 West Martin Street – Luther Hall

November 8, 9, 10

Sponsored by WELCA, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Purchase by Pre-Order ONLY by November 2**

### **SOUPS:**

**\$5.00 per Qrt      How Many ?                      Total \$\$**

Bean    \_\_\_\_\_

Chick. Noodle                                      \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetable Beef                                      \_\_\_\_\_

**SANDWICHES:**                                      **How Many?**                                      **Total \$**

Country Ham: \$4.00                                      \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Salad: \$3.00                                      \_\_\_\_\_

Pimento cheese Salad: \$3.00                                      \_\_\_\_\_

Ham Salad: \$3.00                                      \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL for Soup & Sandwiches:**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks payable to: St. John's Women of the ELCA*

### **Check your Pick-Up Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, November 8 from 4 – 7PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, Nov. 9 from 10AM – 7:00PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, Nov. 10 from 10AM – 4:00PM

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**To place an order by phone: 304-263-9291**

Regular Quart Mason Jars Are Needed

"Grab 'n Go" Lunch available Friday & Saturday:

Hot Dog, Chips, Drink - \$4.00

Steamer, Chips, Drink - \$4.00

Hot Dog with Steamer meat, chips, drink - \$5.00

## ALTAR GUILD/ALTAR FLOWERS

Once again, I would like to thank 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 as they have the privilege in serving their Lord. A special Thank You goes out to Jerry Crites who assists me whenever 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.

Special thanks go out to all who purchase flowers for the altar weekly so that this is not an expense for the church.

It is now time to sign up for 2019. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 Jerry 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

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## SCRIP SPOT

Holidays are COMING!!

What to buy, what size, color, style, how much will it cost? – these are questions we all try to answer for those Christmas gifts – BUT what if your child, grandchild, or other family member lives somewhere else? Gift cards to Penney's, Target, WalMart can solve that problem, for here or away!

There are plenty of restaurant cards available, too – from fast food to nationwide chains. Everyone has to eat! And the option not to cook dinner some evening can be a real treat.

AND, of course, there are grocery cards – turkey, stuffing, cranberries, pumpkin pie – YUM! Do that holiday shopping using a Scrip card. You purchase your groceries and still make a contribution to St. John's. Purchase a \$100 Martin's Card – \$4 goes to St. John's, but you still have the \$100 to use.

Don't forget with each purchase you can take the percentage for St. John's as a charitable contribution. AND we take check or cash.

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

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## **Socks are the least**

**donated item at  
shelters...**

And thank  
you!

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



**yet...  
socks help us stay  
warm.**

**Join St. John's Lutheran Church For  
Family Movie Night**

**November 17th at 6:00pm**

**Located in Luther Hall**



**Free Movie**

**Free Popcorn**

**Free Drink**

**Sponsored by the Social Ministry**

## CONFIRMATION WITH POTOMAC EAST CONFERENCE

Date	6th and 7th Grade	Teacher	Subject - Year 2	Reinforcement Activity	Teacher	
November	4	Creation	Pastor Karen Pastor Christine	The Torah	Vicar James	
November	9-10	<b>Middle/High School Confirmation Lock In at St. James Uvilla</b>				
		6-7th Grade 1st Year Confirmands 2nd Year Confirmands				
December	9	Disruption	Vicar James Bess (Pastor Diane)	The Nativity Story	Film - Nativity Story	Pastor Karen
January	6	Promise	Pastor Matt Pastor Karen	Gospel and Parables		Pastor Christine
February	24	Exodus	Pastor Karen Pastor Diane	Importance of Prayer...why do holy places matter...	The 9th Graders will be taking a Field Trip to Emmitsburg, MD to visit some religious shines to talk about prayer.	Pastor Christine
March	15-17	Confirmation Retreat: Commands	Bess Pastor Karen	<b>Confirmation Retreat - Topic: Sacraments</b>		Pastor Matt
April	7	Judes and Kings	Pastor Diane Caitlin	Paul	"What is the Church?" Activity from Luther Quest	Vicar James
May	5	Exile	Pastor Christine Bess (Pastor Karen)	Stewardship Social Justice	Spiritual Gifts Inventory Learn how to make a budget	Pastor Diane Pastor Matt
<b>Confirmation Sunday - Pentecost (or at your congregation's preference)</b>						

# 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'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.



# NOVEMBER MILESTONES

## BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Cheryl Burke  
Barbara Maxwell
- 5 Deanna Noll
- 6 Roberta Dana  
Gwen Ferenchick
- 7 Joshua Hancock
- 10 John Link
- 11 **Veteran's Day**  
Ann Cloud  
Rosalee Ettinger
- 14 Bernice Windholz
- 16 Lewis Harden, II
- 19 Margaret Bock
- 20 Brian Kelley
- 22 **Happy Thanksgiving Day**
- 25 Ben Byers, III
- 27 Carl Newman
- 29 Jenna Taylor
- 30 Katelyn Kline



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Megan & Kevin Remsberg
- 4 Rebecca & Kirk Kline
- 5 Deanna & Greg Noll
- 7 Kristi & David Remsberg
- 9 Debra & Teddy Roberts
- 28 Susan & Martin Bales

We would love to include you and your family  
in the Milestones each month. Dates can be submitted by:

Phone: 304-263-9291

Mail: 101 W. Martin St. or

E-mail: [churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org)

# October News



October was a fun month. We had so much fun at the Pumpkin Patch. There were over 100 people who joined us for the field trip. Each classroom took their pumpkins and turned them into storybook characters. As you can see, they were amazing this year. The class getting the most votes was treated to a little party.



We were very excited to see the playground be renovated. The children have really enjoyed the new space and climber. The rubber mulch feels like landing on a nice sponge.

Rada products will continue to be on sale. If you would like to Place an order or see a catalog they are located in the lounge. You may also go online to:

<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=1791265.309387>.

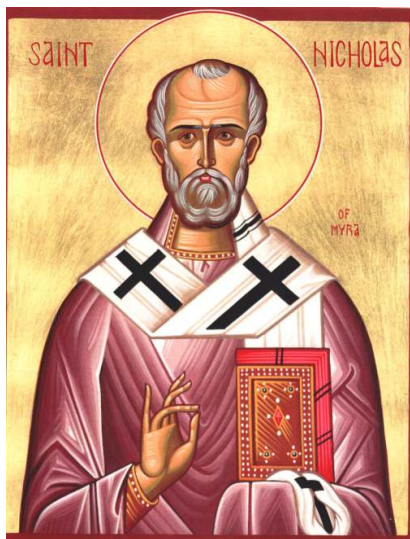
We will have our Annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:15am. We are expecting around 180 parents for a traditional dinner.

We hope all of you enjoy the upcoming holidays with your families.

Michelle

# St. Nicholas Day

## Sunday, December 9



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 10AM

### STAY AFTER FOR HOT CHOCOLATE AND SNACKS

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**Potomac East Conference**  
**4th Annual Christmas Caroling**

*December 6*

Meet at 5:30 p.m. at St. Peter's in Shepherdstown. A quick dinner at St. Peter's and then we head out to Care Haven nursing homes to bring some Christmas Joy around 7 p.m..



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.**

# Save the Date!

## Breakfast with Santa

The Martinsburg Lion's Club will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 8th from 9 to 12pm in Luther hall.

Lots of pancakes and kid-friendly activities!



**Community Lutheran Partners**  
**[www.clp-online.org](http://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**



## **Pastor's Report**

October 2018

### **VISITATION**

September Visits: 27

Mountaineer Challenge Academy Mentor Program Training

### **CONFERENCE AND SYNOD**

Conference Meeting

Conference Leaders Gathering

God's Work. Our Hands Service Day.

Dennis Propst Installation

### **WORSHIP**

5 Sunday Worship Services

Pulpit Exchange

Evening Prayer

### **CHURCH COMMITTEES**

Stewardship

Council

Trustees for Budget Preparation

### **CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS**

CCAP Board Meeting

Friends Feeding Friends

### **EDUCATION**

Sunday on Monday

Table Talk

Parent/Confirmant Planning Meeting

### **MUSTARD SEED**

3 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

### **FUNERALS**

Bev Zavesh Memorial

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

LARCUM

### **CHOIR**

3 Choir Rehearsals

### **MILEAGE**

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of September was 989 miles.

Non-Billed Mileage was 134 miles



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

We say these words every week when we confess our Christian faith. For many of us, we know them by heart, others may remember the old words once said. But what do these words mean?

Luther's explanation on the third article of the Apostles' Creed teaches us that we cannot come to faith on our own but that the Holy Spirit has come to us and influenced our faith.

*I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.*

This is almost required memorization for Confirmation Students (I say "almost required" because I don't like to require students to memorize things since I lack that ability myself). This explanation teaches us that it is not about us but it is about God doing the work in our life and that at the end of our journey, God will raise us up as well as all believers in Christ to eternal life. St. Augustine once said that "Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." We must wait in order to see the fulfillment of the final part of our Creed, but we and all the saints will see it fulfilled. It is why Luther concludes this and all three explanations by saying, "This is most certainly true."

When I hear this Third Article of the Creed, I believe that the Holy Spirit can move me in ways and give me a voice to speak God's message of love and mercy. I believe that God gave us a church where we can glimpse his coming dominion in the smell, sounds and tastes of

worship. I believe in this great communion of saints - this gathering of those who have died who we miss having them near us. I believe that God can even forgive wretched sinner like me. And I believe that more to life than just the small snippet we experience on earth.

What do those words mean for you? Do you simply say this every week and never think about it? That's okay and we all do it, but I want you to try to engage these words over the next month. With the celebration of All Saints and a month of reading focused around life and death, please have discussions with your family about death and the hope you have for the life still to come. So often we hide death which is not very healthy. All of us will experience death and loss in this lifetime and hiding from it won't make it any easier. Have you ever told your spouse about your wishes for when you pass? I think this is important for couples of every age. A few years ago, I was having to deal with some health issues. After this experience, I decided to talk to my wife about what to do with my body after I am gone. One night, I even took the time to put together my own funeral bulletin (I know it sounds morbid, but it brought me a lot of comfort). Take time this month and talk with your family about death and be open about your wishes. Write a Will to make sure your family is well taken care of after you are gone. Bring me your thoughts and questions, as I would love to know where you all are at in your faith and beliefs about death. I know this is morbid and may not be something you wish to discuss, but ignoring death will not make it go away.

Our congregation has lost a number of people this past year. 11 members have joined the church triumphant since the last All Saints Sunday. Many of these men and women have been pillars in our church. There are many on the list whose death really affected me. I am forever grateful for this community of faith we have here because part of being a congregation means I did not have to go through this grief alone. None of us ever have to face losing a dear friend alone. We have each other and more importantly, we have the gospel that tell us that death's sting is gone.

In Christ,





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