

Worship Assistants

Dec. 2 Becky Kline
 Dec. 9 Joyce Dailey
 Dec. 16 Sue Wall
 Dec. 23 Lauren Haines
 Dec. 24 Andrew Banks
 Dec. 30 Blaine Wilson

December

Merry Christmas!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Acolyte/Crucifers December 2 Braydon Hill/Payton Hill December 9 Emma Lore/Elisabeth Gottlieb December 16 to be announced December 23 Laken Edwards/Ian Fleming December 24 6PM Bryar Moss/Trey Voorhees December 24 11PM Austin Propst/John Esswein December 30 Matthew Edwards/Katelyn Kline			Ushers Dec. 2 Linda Payne/Jerry Olsen Dec 9 Doug Widmeyer/Rick Losh Dec 16 Blaine Wilson/Arnold Bock Dec.23 Bev & Pat Murphy Dec. 24 6 & 11PM Volunteers will be needed Dec. 30 Ben & Jean DeAlexandro		1	
2 10AM Church Decorating Feed My Sheep	3 Sunday on Monday 5:45PM Light Dinner 6:15 Classes	4	5 1PM Bible Study 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 8:15PM Advent Compline in the Chapel	6 Conference Caroling Dinner at 5:30pm at St. Peter's	7	8 9-Noon Lion's Club "Breakfast with Santa" (using L.H.)
9 10AM Worship Service WELCA meets following service 1-5 Confirmation	10 7PM Council	11	12 1PM Bible Study 6:30PM Needlecraft group 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 8:15PM Advent Compline in the Chapel	13 9AM Pastor @ CCAP Board meeting	14 Mustard Seed Dinner with Santa	15 6PM Family Movie Night
16 10AM 4PM Confirmation	17 Sunday on Monday 5:45PM Light Dinner 6:15 Classes	18 Noon Habitat Board meets in lounge	19 1PM Bible Study 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 8:15PM Advent Compline in the Chapel	20 3:30PM Mustard Seed "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party	21 Winter Begins	22
23 10AM No-Fuss Christmas Program	24 6PM Family Christmas Eve Service 11PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service and Special Choir Music	25 10:30AM Christmas Day Service at Trinity Episcopal	Church Office Closed		27	28
30 10AM Worship "Lessons and Carols"	31	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services CHRISTMAS EVE 6PM Family Service (Especially for families with children) 11PM Candlelight Service with Special Choir Music CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30AM at Trinity Episcopal on King Street				

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 3

The meeting will be preceded by Souper Bowl sou in Luther Hall!

January

Please Remember
to Pick Up Your
Church Envelopes

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	3	4	5
6 10AM Worship Feed My Sheep WELCA Dutch Treat Lunch at Hoss'	7 Sunday on Monday 5:45PM Light Dinner 6:15 First Communion Class	8	9 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	10	11	12 9:30-2PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE in Luther Hall Please give the gift of life!
13 10AM Worship 1PM Book Club Luncheon at the Riley's	14 7PM Church Council in the Lounge	15 2018 Reports due into office	16 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	17	18	19 6PM Family Movie Night
20 10AM Worship Annual Reports Due 4PM Confirmation Classes	21 Sunday on Monday 5:45PM Light Dinner 6:15 First Communion Class	22	23 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	24	25	26 11AM - 1PM Friend Feeding Friends
27 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	28	29	30 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	31	<p style="text-align: center;">Ushers</p> <p>Jan 6 Doug Widmeyer/Bill Torbert Jan 13 Jon Edwards/Betty Lou Boynton Jan 20 Blaine Wilson/Rick Losh Jan 27 Ben & Jean DeAlexandro</p>	

NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church

101 W. Martin Street

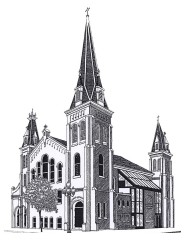
Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

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

E-Mail: churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Website: www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Pastor: Matthew A. Day



December 2018 / January 2018

Special Offerings in November and December

At the Council meeting in November, the Council designated the Thanksgiving Envelope to Lutheran Disaster Response, the "In Lieu of Poinsettia" offering to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and the Special Christmas Envelope to Immanuel's House.

We want to tell you about these organizations. Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need. 100% of funds donated to LDR goes directly to the people whom they serve.

OFFICIAL NOTICE:

February 3 - Souper Bowl Sunday with a **Congregation Meeting to review the annual reports as well as have a Town Hall Meeting** for the congregation to ask questions and share opinions. Please be in Attendance

Immanuel's House is a local organization here in Martinsburg. They strive to bring justice and peace on earth, responding to God's call to love our neighbor and care for Creation.

They serve individuals and families facing economic, social, and spiritual instability. They are eager to reach out to people of all creeds, nationalities and cultures. Their desire is to proclaim our faith through action. They offer spiritual care and worship opportunities, but their services will be extended without expectation of participation in said programs.



Christmas Eve Worship

All Earth is Hopeful, the Savior Comes at Last!

6 PM FAMILY WORSHIP

11 PM CANDLELIGHT
WORSHIP

6 pm Family Service

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

11 pm Candlelight Worship

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

Joint Christmas Day

10:30 AM

Trinity Episcopal

No Fuss Christmas Pageant - December 23 at 10am

With the death of Linda McQuaid and Heather Watkins going on a leave of absence, we have to be a little creative with the pageant this year. Borrowing from other congregation, we are going with a no-fuss pageant. It requires no rehearsing, just people willing to read and look the part. We know the day is busy and there will be so many places that you will need to be. Take an hour to come and prepare your heart and mind for what awaits us. Our children know the story. **Come and listen!**

JOINT

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

IN FELLOWSHIP WITH TRINITY EPISCOPAL,
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN & FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

December 25

10:30 am

At Trinity Episcopal
200 W King St
Martinsburg, WV



After the survey results from February 2018, the majority of members were interested in doing a joint Christmas Day worship with our sisters and brothers at the First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal. It is a great idea and holy thing when God's people work together to sing praise to God! We will gather at 10:30 am at Trinity to hear the good news of great joy! Pastor Rufus will preach and Pastor Julie and Pastor Matt will preside.



... ADVENT ...
COMPLINE

PREPARING · WATCHING · HOPING

Join Pastor Christine and Pastor Matt and escape the chaos of the season through a time of prayer and contemplation leading up to the birth of our King.

Every Wednesday Night leading up to Christmas
at 8:15 pm in the Chapel at St. John's.

December 5

December 12

December 19



Church Decorating and Graham Cracker Houses

Christian Education and WELCA will have graham cracker house decorating on Sunday, December 9, after worship. While the kids are making their houses, the adults will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

* On the day of decorating, we will have a covered dish lunch. Please bring a dish to share and your drinks.

* There will be other ornaments for each child to make as well.

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.

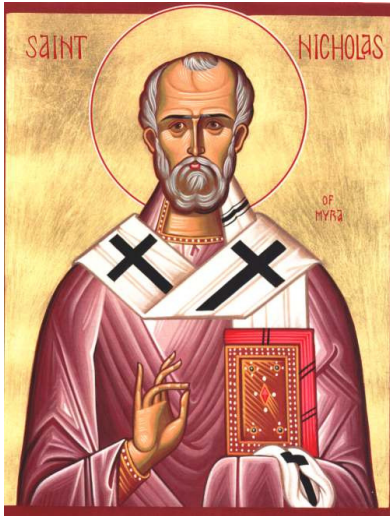
This year are we are partnering with Berkeley County Backpack Program. The items that need to provide their work include:

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

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.

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

Potomac East Conference

4th Annual Christmas Caroling



December 6

Meet at 5:30 p.m. at St. Peter's in Shepherdstown. A quick dinner will be served before we leave. We will then travel to a local nursing home to bring some Christmas Joy to the residents.

CONFIRMATION WITH POTOMAC EAST CONFERENCE

Date		6th and 7th Grade	Teacher	Subject - Year 2	Reinforcement Activity	Teacher
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 shrines to talk about prayer.	Pastor Christine
March	15-17	Confirmation Retreat: Commands	Bess Pastor Karen	Confirmation Retreat - Topic: Sacraments		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
Confirmation Sunday - Pentecost (or at your congregation's preference)						

ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2018

Meeting called to order by: President Mindi Esswein

Members present: Mindi Esswein, Pastor Matt, Darrell Propst, Shane Wagoner, Linda Payne, Diane Shewbridge, Jerry Crites, Bess Day (Treasurer)

Members Absent: Ray Bentz, Jane Kelley, Anne Moore, Mike Noll, Austin Propst, Blaine Wilson

Devotions: Pastor Matt led a discussion on chapters 3 and 4 of *Leading Beyond the Walls* as Council continues to read and discuss this book.

Minutes: October 2018 meeting minutes approved. **(M/S/P: Pastor Matt:Darrell Propst)**

Financial Report: Financial reports were presented by Bess Day. Offering was up due to 5 Mondays in October. Deposits are made on Monday.

Pastor's Report: The church Work Day and Garden Day was very successful. In 3 hours 14 projects were completed. Only four projects were unable to be completed. There will be another Work Day scheduled in the spring. **Pastor had 4 proposals for council consideration.**

- Designation of special offerings – Thanksgiving, In lieu of Poinsettias, and Christmas envelope offering. Thanksgiving offering delegated to Lutheran Disaster fund; In Lieu of Poinsettias delegated to Pastor's Discretionary Fund; Christmas envelope donations delegated to Emanuel House in Martinsburg. **(M/S/P: Jerry Crites:Diane Shewbridge)**
- Consider options for a program on the Sunday before Christmas: **Mindi Esswein will consult with parents attending the Graham Cracker House event and suggest a children's song presentation for the Sunday before Christmas.**
- Update on the Covenant results to be distributed to each Council member with plans going forward: **Linda Payne reported that fifty-three covenants had been returned to date. Thirty-one members who returned covenants last year have not submitted a covenant as of today (11/12/18) but covenants can still be submitted. Covenant results will be discussed at the**

next Council meeting.

- Present new sign/banner designs for the parking/towing sign currently at the parking lot entrance and decide on one of the designs or suggest changes. **Council approved a design with a few suggestions for improvement. Sarah Shewbridge will make the changes and submit to Pastor Matt.**

Special note: Caroline Furnace must replace their Sewage Treatment Plant at a cost of \$58,000. To date, \$44,000 has been raised. Pastor asked if we could find a way to contribute to their efforts. A special offering appeal will be made in January to be designated for this capital improvement plumbing project. **(M/S/P/: Jerry Crites:Darrell Propst)**

Upcoming Events:

- 12/2/18 - the congregation will vote on new Council members
- Our Advent Wednesdays will be a Compline service at 8:15pm at St. John's. Trinity Arden will be joining us for these services.
- 12/7/18 - the Council Christmas Party will be hosted by Pastors Matt and Diane Day at the Parsonage in Charles Town beginning at 6pm and continuing in the evening.
- 12/8/18 - from 9am to 11am there will be *Breakfast with Santa* sponsored by the Lions Club. It is free and St. Nicholas (Drew Catrow) will visit the children.
- Christmas Eve Services at St. Johns's will be at 6pm for families; a Candlelight service will begin at 11pm with a musical prelude at 10:30pm.
- Christmas Day Service will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church this year.
- 12/30/18 - (5th Sunday) church service will be the reading of the lessons and singing carols.

Unfinished Business: The discussion on Holy Communion is tabled until the December meeting.

New Business: Jerry Crites and Linda Payne are the Nomination Committee for Council members and Trustees. An announcement will be placed in the Bulletin asking for anyone who would serve on council or be a Trustee to contact Mindy Esswein or Linda Payne. Mindy read a letter from the Mustard Seed director and signed by all the Mustard Seed

Employees. The letter expressed great displeasure with the thermostats in Luther Hall being controlled remotely by Church leadership rather than Mustard Seed employees having the capability to change the settings in each room themselves. After some discussion by the Council, it was decided that Council refer the letter to the Mustard Seed Board. **(M/S/P: Jerry Crites:Diane Shewbridge)**. Erica Propst requested the use of Luther Hall on Sunday evening, December 16th, for Danica's softball team end of season party. Request was approved. **(M/S/P/:Jerry Crites/Linda Payne)**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mustard Seed Report: 58 children are enrolled; there are 3 openings in Pe-K. The playground renovation is nearly complete. New equipment purchased through a grant has been installed with a few more pieces to be added including a basketball hoop. Old mulch has been replaced by rubber mulch. The Licensing specialist, Shannon Westover, executed a surprise visit: everything went well. Upcoming events: November 16, Annual Thanksgiving Feast 11am. Betty Lou Boynton will assist with the luncheon. December 20, Happy Birthday Jesus Party.

Christian Education: (Shane Wagoner) Sunday on Monday is going well. Shane may announce ahead of time what the lesson topic and meal is going to be if folks want to bring a dish to compliment the meal.

Social Ministry: (Jerry Crites) Free Bird is the free movie on Saturday, November 16. The next Friends Feeding Friends will be Saturday, November 24th, with Salisbury Steak dinner planned. Jerry appealed for sock donations to distribute at the luncheon – most needed are men's socks but women's and some children's are also needed. Table Talks at the Daily Grind continue on the First Thursdays of the Month at 6pm.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no Table Talk in December, but will resume the first Thursday in January.

Evangelism: No report

Worship and Music: No report

FLYTE: No report

Property/Tech : The Air Conditioning installation has been completed. Shenandoah Air Conditioning & Heating did a good job. Quotes for preventive maintenance have been requested. The lights in the church,

dimmers, and switches will be done in January. Trenary Service Company is scheduled to come cap a radiator.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Stewardship: St. John's will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Mobile at Luther Hall on Saturday, January 12, 2019, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Donors can donate every 56 days. There is a critical need for blood so please come out and donate.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. (M/S/P:**Jerry Crites:Bess Day**)

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Shewbridge

THE BOOK CLUB...

will meet Sunday, January 13
(snow date-January 27)

at the home of Linda Riley, 114 Rosewood Drive,
for a Covered Dish Luncheon.

Come after the worship service and bring a covered dish to share.

Anyone interested in reading and discussion/fellowship
is welcome to visit with us!

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.

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.

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:

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

1st-4th grade: High School

Curriculum Adult Class

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

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



Some Pictures from November

Thanks to some careful planning, we were able to remount our new, larger screen in Luther Hall. This new screen is just the beginning to the updates we are making so that Luther Hall can be used for more ministries program here at St. John's. Special thanks to Darrell, Austin, Shane and Pastor Matt for spending the day on this project.



Pastor Christine snapped some photos from our Christ the King Liturgy. Thank you to all the extra readers and choir this day. We learned a lot about the church year and it was a great way to remember the past liturgical year!



3 YEAR GOALS

For St. John's

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

BY NOVEMBER 30, 2020, WE WILL:

- Increase Sunday worship attendance by 20% so that more people will be able to experience the great reward of being in a relationship with Jesus.
- Have 50% of the congregation'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.



St. John's Lutheran Church will be hosting a blood drive on January 12 from 9-2:30 pm here at our church in Luther Hall. Please considering donating. Its a wonderful way to help other people with just a little bit of your time and treasure. If you would like to donate, please give Bev Murphy a call at 304-263-0586 or come the day of the drive.

Need a gift idea for someone that already has everything?

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.



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

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



Beaming Book Fair

Shop books to help kids thrive emotionally, socially, and spiritually. All books are sold at a special discount!

Check out the books over at the church anytime between now and Christmas
Orders will need to be placed by December 9th to make sure they will be here by Christmas. Orders can still be placed after December 9th

If we order \$200 in books, St. John's will earn 20% of the sales. Grab an order form today!



Martinsburg Lions Club *presents*



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
9AM-NOON

St. John's Lutheran Church - Parish Hall
101 W. Martin St., Martinsburg, WV

Kids 12 and under *FREE*
Adults welcome (*donation appreciated*)



***Saturday,
December 15 and
January 19***



Family Movie Night

We will provide the movie, popcorn
and drinks.

All you need to bring is your family!

Movie starts at 6pm!

Welcome to WOMEN of The ELCA

Upcoming Activities

Dec 2 – after service – Decorate Graham Cracker Houses & covered dish

Dec 9 – after service - WELCA Thankoffering collection & service; meeting

Dec 12 – 6:30 Luther Hall – Needlecraft night

Jan 6, 11:30 –Post Holiday Dutch Treat lunch at Hoss's

Jan 13 – WELCA meets after service in Luther Hall

FRIST and foremost – a very sincere thank you to this congregation for your support of our annual Soup & Sandwich Sale. Our gross income was \$3,440. Once all the expenses are in, we can determine our net. This would not have been possible without your contributions of items, time, purchase, and, most importantly prayer.

Please join Dutch treat lunch! You're finished with all the decorating, buying & wrapping, baking, cooking....

So, NOW is the time to treat yourself and a guest or two to a lunch out! You deserve it! Please tell Priscilla how many in your party; so, we can have plenty of room at Hoss's.

Prayer Shawls – we are in need of prayer shawls. If you cannot attend our needlecraft group, please make one or two at home using your own pattern. Each should be big enough to overlap in the front. We have PLENTY of yarn (that has been donated) to give you.

WELCA is looking for new women from middle school to 100+ to attend meetings (which are brief) as well as help with any projects. We will be creating a survey to determine what we can do better to fulfill your spiritual needs. This survey should be ready in January 2019. Please help us by completing it.





December News

The Mustard Seed was really disappointed we had to cancel our Thanksgiving Feast because of the snow. Children were able to enjoy the feast on the Monday after for their normal lunch time. We were able to freeze the hams and Miss Wendy will make them for lunch in December.

On December 14th you are invited to join us at Hoss's for *Dinner with Santa*, sponsored by the Parent Committee. So that we don't overload the kitchen staff at Hoss's, we asked that sign up to let us know the time you are able to attend. They did a wonderful job organizing and managing the crowd they served, with over 130 people enjoying family time and meeting Santa. We hope you will be able to join us this year. Signup sheets will be available (or you may call).

On December 20th we will have our Happy Birthday Jesus Party in Luther Hall starting at 3:15pm. The children are already preparing for their special time on stage.

We will enjoy Spirit Week starting on December 17th.

Monday-Christmas Hat Day

Tuesday- Dress like your favorite Character Day

Wednesday- Santa Workshop Day

Thursday- Dress to Celebrate Jesus

Friday- Pajama Day

We hope everyone has a Wonderful Holiday Season!
Merry Christmas!

Michelle

ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS

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

I would like to thank each and every one who volunteers to purchase flowers for the altar. It is now time to sign up for 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:

Please pick up your flowers after the second service.

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

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

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

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

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

Gail Newman 304-579-4983

Milestones in DECEMBER

Birthdays

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



Anniversaries

- 11 Jessica and Martin Herbert
- 15 Sharon and Buzz Cole
- 17 Becky and Phil Eyler

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

Milestones in January

Birthdays

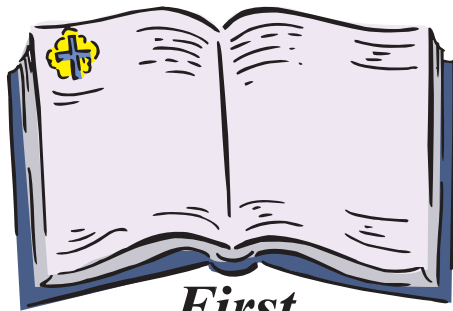
- 1 Cindy Denton
- 2 Sharon Cole
Barbara Plotner
Betty Spickler
- 3 Todd Boslau
Bergan Cole
Christina Haarman
- 4 Mike Brewbaker
Karen Oliver
- 5 Peyton Janney
Vicki Rigot
Nathaniel Edwards
Linda Payne
- 8 John William Esswein
- 10 Kathy Hancock
- 11 Wilda Morrow
Jim Riley
Alex Torbert
- 13 Denise Martin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



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

*We'd like to include your family in our Milestones each month this year.

If you are not listed, please call (263-9291) or email the church office at



First Communion

Classes to be held on January 7 and 21st during Sunday on Monday. Everyone in Sunday School will participate in the class. This way, everyone gets a refresher class on Holy Communion. Adults will also get a refresher on the topic as well. We leave the decision up to the parents as to when they feel that their child is ready to receive the sacrament.

**First Communion Sunday will be held
on February 4th.**

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

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

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

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

Pastor's Report
October 2018

VISITATION

October Visits: 25

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD

Conference Meeting

Spaghetti Dinner at Trinity Lutheran

WORSHIP

4 Sunday Worship Services

1 Evening Prayer

Bible Presentation and Blessing

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Council

Work and Garden Day

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

Family Movie Night

Friends Feeding Friends

Homeless Ministry with Bethel Assembly of God

German Potluck

Trunk or Treat

EDUCATION

1 Sunday on Monday

Table Talk

Conference Confirmation

MUSTARD SEED

3 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

Pumpkin Patch Day

Playground Renovation

Spirit Night at Blaze Pizza

FUNERALS

Linda McQuaid Funeral (Jim Riley Preached and Presided)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CHOIR

3 Choir Rehearsals

MILEAGE

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of October was 399 miles.



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

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

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

- Advent Devotionals** are going to be online this year. Pastor Matt and Pastor Diane are planning to do a short video each day. Just log onto our facebook page and click the video. We will try to have them up by 7 am each day.
- Participate in our Reverse Advent Calendar.** There is a flyer in our Newsletter explaining everything that you need to do. Check it out.
- Come to worship.** We have some great things planned each week that really work. Set aside some time this month and be with your church community.

Now for the fun activities:

- St. Nicholas of Myra** will be remembered on Sunday on December 10. We will have a special guest this day to teach our children and adults about St. Nicholas and why we remember him. Bring the kids and grandkids!
- No-Fuss Christmas Pageant to December 23 at 10 am.** With the death of Linda and also with Heather taking a leave of absence,

we have had to get creative with the Christmas Pageant. Anyone (and I mean anyone) can participate in the Christmas pageant this year. We will need people to look and act the part of all the characters from the Christmas Story. There is no rehearsal necessary, just come the day of pageant and be ready! We will have more information for parents and families at the Graham Cracker House making on December 2.

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

- Family Service at 6 pm.** Don't worry about the kids making noise or running around - this is their service so bring the whole family!
- Candle Light Service at 11pm.** Our Choir is putting together a wonderful prelude so come early. Services times for both were changed this year to better accommodate everyone's wants and schedules.
- And on Christmas Day,** we will gather back at 10:30 am for a much quieter Christmas Day service at Trinity Episcopal. **This is my favorite of all the Christmas services. If you have never been able to attend, I highly suggest making the effort. What is special about this service is that it is the first ecumenical Christmas Day service.** We plan on setting up a rotation and will have the Christmas Day liturgy at either our church, Trinity or First Presbyterian. We have worked with these two other congregations on Palm Sunday and we thought we try taking this relationship to the next level. Pastor Rufus will be preaching and Pastor Julie and I will preside.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you all. We will be taking a month off for the newsletter so look for us in February 2018! We have another congregation meeting on February 3 that will include a town hall time where we hope you bring questions and concerns. The leadership here wants to make sure we are meeting your needs as well as pushing all of us to be better disciples of Jesus Christ. A blessed Advent and Christmas to you and your family!

In Christ,



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

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