

COFFEE w/ Pastor
9AM
In the Chapel

February 2019

Ushers
 Feb. 3 Arnold Bock/Andrew Banks
 Feb. 10 Bev and Pat Murphy
 Feb. 17 Sally Jenkins/Jane Kelley
 Feb. 24 Doug Widmeyer/Bill Torbert

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Assistants February 3 Sue Wall February 10 Ed Shewbridge February 17 Andrew Banks Febraury 24 Alison Poland		Crucifer Acolyte Feb. 3 Feb. 10 Feb. 17 Feb. 24			1	2 Pastor Matt at Caroline Furnace Board Meeting
3 10AM Worship with Holy Communion 9 AM Lector, Greeter and Usher Workshop in Chapel Souper Bowl Lunch Annual Meeting with Town Hall Forum	4 Sunday on Monday 5:45PM Light Dinner 6:15 Class 7:15 Evening Prayer	5 8:30AM Potomac Conference Meeting	6 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30 Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	7 6PM Table Talk at the Dailey Grind	8	9 2-6PM Luther Hall in use
10 10AM Worship Women in the Fast Lane following service	11	12	13 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	14	15	16 6PM Family Movie Night
Pastor Matt & Family Away on Vacation						
17 10AM Worship with Holy Communion *WELCA & VBS Planning meetings will follow worship Pastor away	18 Sunday on Monday 5:45PM Light Dinner 6:15 Class 7:15 Evening Prayer	19 Pastor Matt returns	20 1PM Bible Study in the Lounge 6:30PM Needlecraft Night in L.H. 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal in Chapel	21 Pastor at Continuing Education in Keyser 4-6PM Mustard Seed Training in Luther Hall	22 10 AM Naturalization Ceremony at US Federal Court	23 11AM-1PM Friends Feeding Friends
24 10AM Worship 1 - 5PM Confirmation classes	25	26 7PM Church Council in the Lounge	27 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel	28		

NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church
101 W. Martin Street

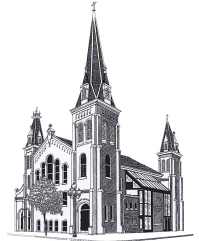
Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

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

E-Mail: churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Website: www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Pastor: Matthew A. Day



FEBRUARY, 2019

AT A GLANCE:

**Giving Statements
will be Available after
January 31**

The 2018 individual giving statements will be handed out at the Congregational Meeting on February. If you need your statement before the meeting, please contact the church office. We will mail any giving statements not picked on Monday, February 4.

**Souper Bowl Potluck on
February 3- 11:30AM**

after the worship service in
Luther Hall.

Bring your favorite crock pot of soup or just your appetite to help us celebrate the souper bowl. There will be a free will offering will go to support Friends Feeding Friends.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

February 3

Following Worship in
Luther Hall

Last year, we held a Town Hall style meeting inviting everyone to share their thoughts and visions for our future. It was success and we are excited to hear from you all again. Please join us for lunch followed by our Annual Meeting.

2018 ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2018

Meeting called to order by: Vice President Jerry Crites

Members present: Pastor Matt, Darrell Propst, Shane Wagoner, Linda Payne, Diane Shewbridge, Jerry Crites, Jane Kelley, Anne Moore, Mike Noll, Rick Losh (new), Drew Catrow (new), Bess Day (Treasurer)

Members Absent: Mindi Esswein, Ray Bentz, Austin Propst, Blaine Wilson

Devotions: Pastor Matt opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Financial Report: Finance Committee and Trustees met on November 19, 2018. Treasurer Bess Day reported that Endowment accounts were reviewed, cashflow projection for the coming quarter reviewed, additional authorized check signers were identified and the procedures for counting the offering were discussed to determine whether simplification is warranted. Priscilla Horner, Blaine Wilson and Rick Losh will be designated signers on the checking account. A follow up meeting will be scheduled.

Pastor's Report: As a follow up from the November meeting, Pastor presented a mock-up for a brochure and several suggestions and approximate costs for Evangelism Bags containing gifts for potential members/visitors. Council discussed various items that might be included: our brochure, cups, refrigerator magnets, pens, key chains, coloring pages, crayons, etc. Motion to go forward with purchasing tote bags and items to include in the bags for a per-filled bag at a total cost of \$10. **(M/S/P: Darrell Propst:Linda Payne)** . Pastor discussed with council the preparations for Christmas Eve. Temporary lighting will be installed again in the parking lot for safety. Advertising will be considered in the Journal Weekender and also on Facebook. Supplies will be ordered as needed.

Pastor had one proposal.

- Our constitution needs to be updated. Bishop Riegel has offered to meet at St. Johns with a group from our congregation to make revisions. A committee consisting of two council members, two members of the congregation as well as council president and Pastor Matt will be formed. After meeting with the Bishop revision recommendations will be presented to council. A 2/3 majority vote is required at each level. Council members who volunteered for the committee are Darrell Propst, Mike Noll and Drew Catrow. Congregation members will be recruited.
- Council discussed Christmas bonuses for Martha (church secretary) and Aaron (church sexton). Motion to give each of them a Christmas bonus of \$250. **(M/S/P: Anne Moore: Darrell Propst)**

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesdays in Advent – the Compline service begins in the Chapel at 8:15pm on December 9, 12, and 19, in partnership with Trinity Arden. This is an opportunity for a few very tranquil moments in an otherwise hectic season
- December 23 – congregational vote on new officers
- Christmas Eve - Family worship at 6pm, musical Prelude at 10:30pm followed by the Candle Light service at 11pm
- Christmas Day Worship is at 10:30am at Trinity Episcopal Church, Martinsburg
- 5th Sunday in December will be Lessons and Carols

Unfinished Business: Holy Communion concerns from the congregation were discussed. Some members have expressed a desire to have communion distributed without kneeling due to physical limitations and feeling uncomfortable standing while others kneel. After discussion, council decided to use continuous communion for 3 months beginning in January 2019. At that time council will evaluate feedback from the congregation. Communion will remain on the current schedule – 1st and 3rd Sundays and church holidays. **(M/S/P: Linda Payne:Diane Shewbridge)**. There is a Town Hall scheduled for Sunday, February 3rd following the service. This will be an opportunity to get feedback on Communion.

New Business: There was a tie between Drew Catrow and Trey Vorhees for new council members. A tie breaking vote was scheduled for Sunday, December 23rd. However, since that announcement, Ray Bentz has resigned from council. Motion was made to appoint Drew Catrow to fill Ray's unfinished term. **(M/S/P: Mike Noll:Diane Shewbridge)** The election of Trey (youth delegate) to fill the other council seat needs congregational approval. If any object, we will need to hold another congregational election meeting. Two requests for the use of Luther Hall were presented. Request from Beverly Hatfield (Mustard Seed) for Saturday, February 9th from 2pm to 6pm to host a baby shower for her daughter. **(M/S/P: Anne Moore:Linda Payne)**

The second request was from Anne Moore for Saturday, March 2nd from 10am to 4:30pm for a bridge party for PEO Sisterhood fundraiser for scholarships. Access was requested on Friday evening to prepare. **(M/S/P: Anne Moore:Mike Noll)** Several people have been presented for membership at St. John's. Motion to approve the Gottlieb family and George Myers. **(M/S/P: Pastor Matt:Anne Moore)**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education: no report

Social Ministry: (Jerry Crites) Home Alone is the family movie schedule for Saturday, December 15th. The December Friends Feeding Friends will be moved to the last Saturday of the month (December 29th). Notice of the change will be posted on the door of Luther Hall as well as posted at CCAP. Sock collection continues as the need is great.

Evangelism: Pastor reported that 150 people attended the Lion's Club Christmas with Santa Breakfast. Plans are to let the Lions' Club host this event at St. Johns again next year. Council will plan to use this great opportunity for evangelism to have St. John's brochures available as well as information on the Mustard Seed.

Worship and Music: Mike Noll reported that the sound system – in part – has been installed and will be finished for our Christmas services. Still needed are the cable to connect the chapel &

nursery along with cat-5 cable for future internet. The organ and piano have both been tuned. There is a need for new robes for acolyte and assistants, etc.

FLYTE: no report

Property/Tech: Darrell Propst reported that the new projector in Luther Hall has been installed and wired.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Stewardship: Linda Payne distributed the covenant results/rosters of the committees and who indicated they would serve. A total of 65 covenants were returned. The committee chairs have the results as well and can begin making plans with their members.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. (M/S/P:**Darrell Propst:Jane Kelley**)

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Shewbridge

2019 ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2019

Meeting called to order by: Vice President Jerry Crites

Members present: Pastor Matt, Darrell Propst, Shane Wagoner, Linda Payne, Diane Shewbridge, Jerry Crites, Jane Kelley, Anne Moore, Mike Noll, Drew Catrow, Blaine Wilson Bess Day (Treasurer)

Members Absent: Rick Losh

Devotions: Pastor Matt opened the meeting with prayer.

Election of New Officers:

Nominations for President: Jerry Crites (M/S/P: **Linda Payne:Jane Kelley**) and Rick Losh (M/S/P: **Darrell Propst:Drew Catrow**). **Council voted in Rick Losh.**

Nominations for Secretary: **Diane Shewbridge by acclamation.**

Nominations for Vice President: Jerry Crites (M/S/P: **Ann Moore:Diane Shewbridge**) and Drew Catrow (M/S/P: **Shane Wagoner:Darrell Propst**). **Council voted in Jerry Crites.**

Nominations for Treasurer: **Bess Day by acclamation.**

Minutes: December 2018 meeting minutes approved. (M/S/
P:Drew Catrow:Jane Kelley)

Council Liaison to committees were chosen:

Christian Education – Shane Wagoner

Social Ministry – Jerry Crites

Evangelism – Pastor Matt

Music & Worship – Drew Catrow

FLYTE – TBA

Property – Darrell Propst

Mutual Ministry – Blaine Wilson

Stewardship – Linda Payne

Pastor's Report: Pulpit exchange dates for 2019 are March 3, March 27, May 19, September 1, and November 17. Pastor's Housing Allowance for 2019 will be \$7,000. Wednesday evening Lenten services, "A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil" will follow *Evening Prayer* format. Topics for the 5 Wednesdays in Lent are: Creation, Flood, Deliverance at the Red Sea, Salvation Freely Offered to All, and Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace. Light supper in the Chapel will begin at 6:30 with worship at 7:00. Pastor wishes to consider changing our Mission Statement to **Proclaimers of Hope** and will ask for discussion at the upcoming Congregational meeting on February 3rd. Discussion regarding creating a U-tube channel to promote our services and activities; this will be explored. Also discussed was Pastor's interest in sponsoring with St. Thomas' to offer an adult or marriage retreat. Council Committee liaisons have been given the results of the Covenant Surveys and will begin working with committee members. According to surveys, Sundays after church work best for meetings.

Upcoming Events:

- January 19- Bishop Riegel will be here to meet and review our Constitution
- January 27 – Refresher Workshop for the Altar Guild
- January 31 – Morning Prayer Workshop with Bishop Riegel for the Conference to be held at St. John's. Pastor is providing dinner.
- February 3 – Refresher Workshop for Lectors, Greeters, and Readers

- March 6 – Ash Wednesday
- March 10 – Theology Workshop for all Conference Lay people with Bishop Riegel at St. John’s at 1:30pm
- March 13 – Wednesdays in Lent begin

Financial Report: Bess Day presented the Financial Report to date; final annual report will not complete until all income/ expenses are in. In 2017 our budget was short \$84,000; we are \$86,000 short for 2018. Quarterly endowment fund is lower due to the downturn in investments.

Mustard Seed revenues exceeded expenses this year and we are making strides towards reducing our initial investment from 2001. Keeping enrollment up to near full is key.

Old Business:

- Continued discussion on Evangelism Bags budget and contents. Pastor has been working with the vendor to price out totes for adults and items to include (up to \$10 each bag total cost). Also to be included are brochures/information on St. John’s. Darrell Propst will provide backpacks for children to include biblical theme coloring pages, crayons, etc.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesdays in Advent – the Compline service begins in the Chapel at 8:15pm on December 9, 12, and 19, in partnership with Trinity Arden. This is an opportunity for a few very tranquil moments in an otherwise hectic season
- December 23 – congregational vote on new officers
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Unfinished Business:

- Continued discussion on Evangelism Bags budget and contents. Pastor has been working with the vendor to price out totes for adults and items to include (up to \$10 each bag total cost). Also to

be included are brochures/information on St. John's. Darrell Propst will provide backpacks for children to include children's inserts, biblical theme coloring pages, crayons, etc.

New Business:

- Christmas Eve recap - 6pm service attendance was 106 or more, several Mustard Seed families attended; 11pm service attendance was 139. Both services and the music were very well received. Council discussed some changes in greeter assignments at the parking lot, exterior and interior doors. Perhaps having name badges or lanyards to identify greeters as church members and placing a sandwich board at the parking lot entrance to direct overflow to the city lot across from the Apollo Theater. Banner hooks have been permanently installed on the building to hold the banners for our various services and activities throughout the year.
- Annual Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 3rd, Souper bowl Sunday. Since FLYTE is under reorganization, soup donations will be greatly appreciated and Favored Team love offering will be donated to C-Cap and Friends Feeding Friends. Socks are still greatly needed; mens, womens and older childrens. Topics to be discussed will include the State of the Church, the single service, Mustard Seed, FLYTE, Communion, and any other topics the congregations wished to bring up for discussion or comment. Announcements will be made the next 3 Sundays inviting the congregation to attend and participate on February 3rd.
- Luther Hall Request: Bethel Assemblies of God church in Martinsburg has requested to use Luther Hall quarterly on Tuesdays to serve dinner to anyone in our community in need. (like our Friends Feeding Friends). Dates requested are January 29th, April 29th, July 30th, and October 29th. They set up at 4:30pm and serve the meal at 6pm. They bring everything with them and are responsible for set up and clean up. This group used Luther Hall ___ and our custodian, Aaron, reported that they were extremely responsible and outstanding to work with. **(M/S/P: Drew Catrow:Ann Moore)**

Luther Hall Request: Drew Catrow has requested that Luther Hall be scheduled for the Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Friday/Saturday, November 8th and 9th. Setup will begin on Thursday

evening after the Mustard Seed are finished in Luther Hall. (M/S/
P: Drew Catrow:Darrell Propst)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education: no report

Social Ministry: Movie Night will be Saturday, January 19th.

Darrell will investigate the cost of a license to allow us to post and legally show the movie we want to show. We can only announce a generic 'MOVIE' without a license due to copyright laws. Friends Feeding Friends will be January 26th from 11am-1pm. Chili is on the menu for January.

Evangelism: no report

Worship and Music: Mike Noll reported that we need more acolytes and crucifers. Training will be scheduled.

FLYTE: no report

Property/Tech: Darrell Propst reported permanent hooks have been installed on the exterior of St. John's to tether any banners we make to announce activities/services. He is looking into solar powered lighting for the parking lot. The electrical work inside the church has been arranged and materials ordered. Restoration on the steeple is still in progress but taking time.

Mutual Ministry: Blaine will schedule a meeting in the next week.

Stewardship: Linda Payne reported that 22 donors were able to donate blood at the recent Red Cross Blood Drive at St. John's sponsored by the Stewardship Committee.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. (M/S/P: Linda Payne: Diane Shewbridge)

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Shewbridge

Official Acts

Deaths

Gaylor Offerdahl

Born: April 24, 1936 Died: December 28, 2018

James Edward McQuaid, Sr.

Born: October 12, 1950 Died: January 19, 2019

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

With Pastor Matt



Got Questions? Need to catch up with the pastor? Do you just like Coffee? You can do all three before worship on Sundays this fall. The gatherings will be informal and the coffee will be hot!

Sunday mornings
at 9am in the
Chapel

**Socks are the least
donated item at
shelters...**

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



**WE ARE REALLY IN NEED
OF WOMEN'S SOCKS!**

And thank
you!

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



**Tables hold food,
allow conversation,
and help us grow in
so many ways!**

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

MAIL AND THANK YOU NOTES

I want to thank everyone for their kindness with beautiful cards, prayers, prayer chains and telephone calls during my recovery from cancer surgery and my ongoing Chemo treatments. A special thank you to Martha who sends me the church bulletin every week, and to Pastor Matt. He and Thomas spent an afternoon with me at my home prior to my surgery. He was at the University of Maryland Medical Center the day of my surgery and sent me to the operating room with a prayer. He also visited me later that week. Additionally, a special thank you to the women of ELCA of St. John's. I continue to count my blessings every day.

*Thank you, Oliver (Pete) Long

Dear St. John's,

I want to thank the ladies for the Christmas remembrance-such a nice treat.

Also a special thank you for the many birthday cards I received. They filled my table and I was overwhelmed with happiness! It was a birthday I'll never forget!

*Sincerely, Wilda Morrow

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Berkeley County Meals on Wheels, I would like to thank you for your 2018 donation of \$200.00. Your financial support helps us continue in our mission and to assist those in need in our community.

Meals on Wheels continues to serve as an invaluable resource to residents in our community. Volunteers deliver both food and fellowship to over 140 recipients daily. Many of them would not be able to remain in their homes were it not for our service. Your donation and the ongoing generous support of kind people like you are what make it possible for us to expand and enrich the services we provide to our homebound neighbors in Berkeley County.

Thank you for helping us make 2018 such an amazing year for our recipients!

Sincerely, MaryAnn Crawley, Corresponding Secretary

WELCOME TO WELCA

Upcoming Activities

Jan 16 – Needlecraft Night – 6:30 in Luther Hall

Jan 20 – WELCA meets after service in Luther Hall

Jan 27 - Book Club meets for covered dish lunch at Linda Riley's

Feb 17 – WELCA meets after service

Feb 20 – Needlecraft Night – 6:30 in Luther Hall

Thankoffering Service was held in December. We collected a total of 93.53. This offering is sent to WELCA church-wide to help with ministries supported at a national and international level as well as administrative costs.

Distribution of Soup/Sandwich/Craft Sales:

\$500 – contribution to individual in dire need

\$500 - Berkeley County Backpack Program

\$500 – Loaves and Fishes

\$500 - C-CAP

\$500 - Coats for students at Burke Street ES

Are you perfect? Imperfect? Perfectly imperfect? – What do you expect of yourself? WELCA will be exploring this topic during the next few months. This Bible study is provided by WELCA-churchwide. Please attend a WELCA meeting – just bring yourself and a Bible. (If you forget your Bible, we have plenty) No advance preparation or homework. Just you, your Bible, and your input are needed!! HOPE to see YOU there! WELCA meets the 3rd Sunday of each month in Luther Hall.

Don't forget to come to Needlecraft Night – bring a project OR just come for fellowship! We gather the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Luther Hall.

NEW Opportunities for service beginning in February:

1. Lily's (Hospital) Bags – victims of sexual assault, when taken to hospital, have their clothing taken as evidence. Therefore, they need clothes to get home. Beverly McDonald in connection with Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center (formerly Shenandoah Women's Center) will be collecting these bags. Each ziplock bag should include: sports bra, panties, pull-on pants, and Tshirt or sweatshirt in one size. All sizes from XS– XXXL are needed. Each Sunday in February, St. John's will collect items or money toward this project. Ask Priscilla for more details.
2. KNIT OR CROCHET – Are you someone who prefers to keep their hands busy while listening? Trouble concentrating during Scripture readings or sermon? Communion seems long? If any of these describe you, WELCA has a project for you! In the main narthex prior to service, there will be a large basket containing knitting needles, crochet hooks, and yarn/wool as well as a simple pattern. Please take yarn, needles or crochet hook, and pattern to work on scarves for the homeless during the service. Return it to basket when service is over. As scarves are completed, they will be given out at Friends Feeding Friends.

Dear St. John's Congregation,

The Staff of Burke Street Elementary would like to thank you for the kindness that was shown to our students and their family during this Christmas season. Your congregation continues to brighten the holiday year after year, and it is truly a blessing. The generosity that you all show affects their daily lives and creates less struggle at this stressful time of year. We are lucky to have you as part of our school community and I look forward to working with you throughout the coming year. I wish you all a wonderful 2019.

Sincerely,

Ms. Teresa Weller, School Counselor

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



MILESTONES IN FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 1 Heather Edwards
- 2 Drew Cole
David Hartley
- 4 Jessica Hancock
Jessica Stroech Brooks
- 6 Pat Murphy
- 10 Lauren Riley Jackson
Edward L. Shewbridge
- 12 Jonathan Edwards
- 16 Ruth Mille
- 19 Tiffany Noll Leighton
- 20 Kristen Kirkpatrick
Oliver (Pete) Long
- 21 Frances Coffinberger
Deanna Clarke Rapp
- 22 Heather Brewbaker
Donald Castleman, Jr.
- 23 Eric Burnell
- 25 Trina Bartlett
- 26 Justin Ruble
Wayne Whitmore
- 27 Catherine Whitmore



**We would love to include you
and your family's special dates:**
Just give us a call: **304-263-9291**
Drop us an e-mail:
churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org
or put them in the offering plate.

Anniversaries

- 9 Heather and Jonathan Edwards



It's Time to Plan for Vacation Bible School!
February 17th, after church, we will meet in the lounge.
All are welcome to come with ideas!

As you consider whether you have time (or energy) to assist with VBS this summer, consider this:

- * VBS is the most evangelistic event of the year, providing a time to connect with unchurched families in the community.
- * 95% of parents said that participating in VBS was one of their child's most meaningful church experiences, according to a survey by LifeWay Research.
- * The unique nature of VBS gives everyone an opportunity to be involved and impact children on a short term basis for long term results! (And it's FUN!)

Thank you to everyone who made Christmas so special at St. John's.
Here are some photos from the worship at 11pm.
Special thanks to Pat Murphy for taking these photos.



CALLING ALL Lectors, Greeters, and Ushers!

February 3 at 9am

The most common, ordinary jobs are sometimes hold the most holiest and important. Those who read the scriptures to us, greet people as they come to through our doors, and assist them with finding a seat are all vital to our mission in Downtown Martinsburg.

If you serve in one or all of these vital areas or are interested in doing so, please join us on February 3 in the chapel for some refreshments before worship where we will also have a brief refresher course to make sure we all on the same page in this vital work.

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: 5th-Middle School
Nursery (to the age of Kindergarten) High School
1st-4th grade: 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.

February 4- Naomi and Ruth

February 18- Pick your favorite Parables

March 4- Daniel and the Lions Den

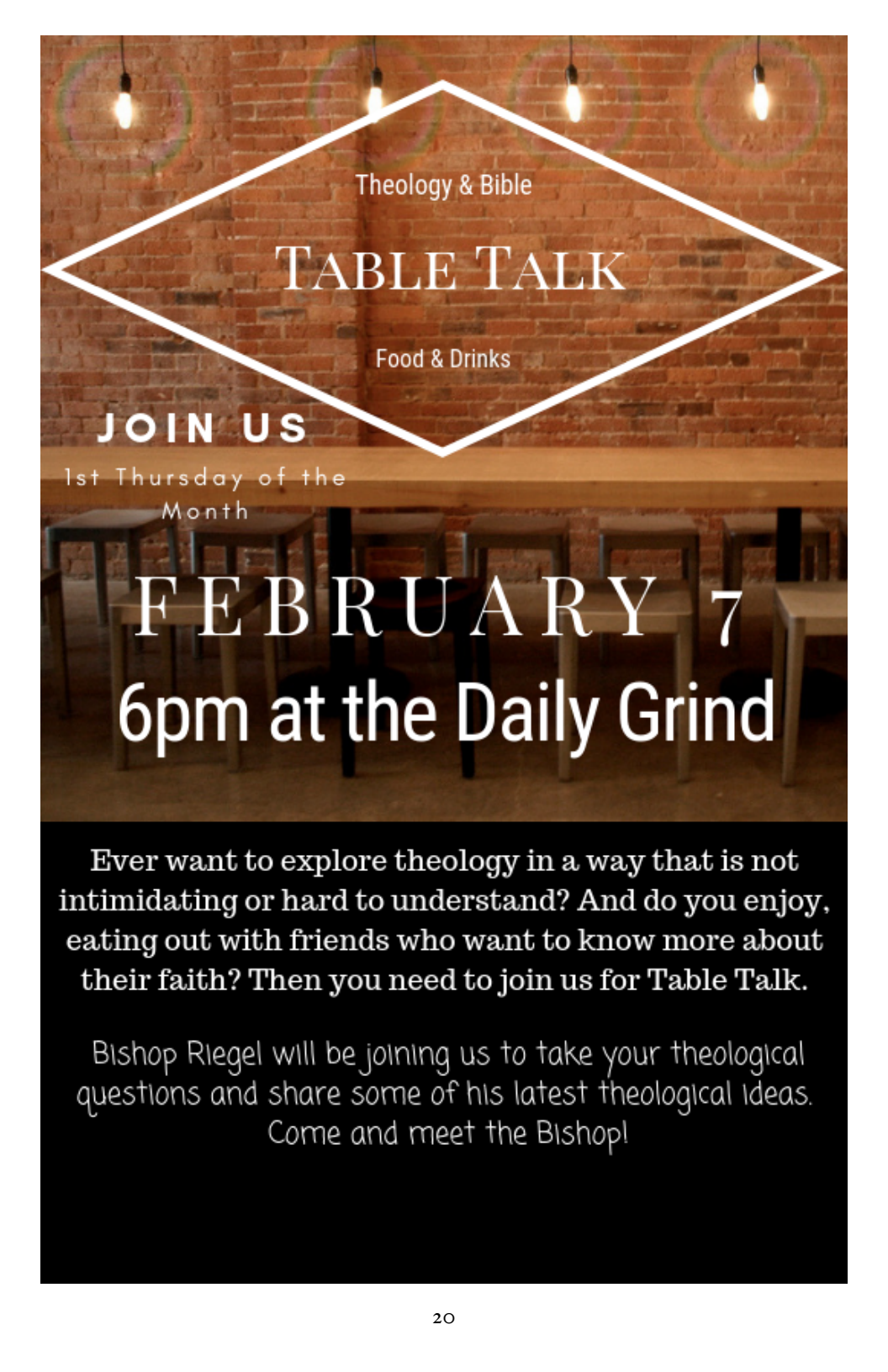
March 18 - Superhero Jesus (Healing the Blindman, Water to Wine, Calm the Storm, Feeding of 5000 people, Walks on water)

April 1 - Jesus is Betrayed

April 15 - The Empty Tomb

May 6 - Trivia Night

May 20 -Baptism - Your Baptism and Jesus



Theology & Bible

TABLE TALK

Food & Drinks

JOIN US

1st Thursday of the
Month

FEBRUARY 7
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.

Bishop Riegel will be joining us to take your theological questions and share some of his latest theological ideas. Come and meet the Bishop!

***Saturday,
February 16***



Family Movie Night

We will provide the movie, popcorn
and drinks.

All you need to bring is your family!

Movie starts at 6pm!

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.

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.

3

Ways

Give

to



At Worship



By Mail



Online

Online giving enables those who no longer enjoy carrying a checkbook or likes to write checks to donate safely and securely to our congregation. It is easy to use and you can even set up recurring donations.



**Scan the QR Code
or visit our website at
stjohnsmartinsburg.org
and click Online Giving
And Thank You!**

Ash

Wednesday

12 and 5:30pm

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

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

&

7:30pm

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

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

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

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

**A Lenten Journey
to the Easter Vigil
Morning Prayer
at 12 pm
&
Dinner and
Evening Prayer
at 6:30 pm**

Every Wednesday in Lent
starting March 13 - April 10

CONFIRMATION WITH POTOMAC EAST CONFERENCE

Date		6th and 7th Grade	Teacher	Subject - Year 2	Reinforcement Activity	Teacher
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	Confirmation Retreat - Topic: Sacraments		Pastor Matt
April	7	Judes and Kings	Pastor Diane Caitlin	Paul	<i>“What is the Church?”</i> 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)						

Pastor's Report

November 2018

VISITATION

November Visits: 10

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD

Conference Meeting

WORSHIP

4 Sunday Worship Services

2 Evening Prayer

Pulpit Exchange

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Council Meeting

Trustees Meeting

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

Local Ministerium Meeting

Craft Fair (2 Days)

Caroline Furnace Board Retreat

Family Movie Night

EDUCATION

2 Sunday on Monday

Table Talk

Conference Confirmation

Confirmation Lock-in

MUSTARD SEED

3 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

WEDDINGS

FUNERALS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CHOIR

2 Choir Rehearsals

MILEAGE

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of October was 446 miles.

Pastor's Report

December 2018

VISITATION

December Visits: 36

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD

2 Conference Meeting

Conference Caroling

WORSHIP

4 Sunday Worship Services

2 Evening Prayer

3 Compline

Daily On-line Advent Devotion

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Council Meeting

Decorating at Church

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

City of Martinsburg planning meeting for Faith Based organizations

CCAP Board Meeting

Breakfast with Santa

Mountaineer Challenge Academy Graduation

Family Movie Night

Candle Light Vigil

EDUCATION

2 Sunday on Monday

Conference Confirmation

MUSTARD SEED

3 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

Happy Birthday, Jesus Party

CHOIR

3 Choir Rehearsals

MILEAGE

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of October was 666 miles.



My brothers and sisters
in Christ,

Back in 2016, my wife
and I went to Disney World. In
February, we will be going
again, only this time we will
have Thomas, my brother, and

my parents coming along too. I am not someone who enjoys
amusement parks and was not looking forward to going but I quickly
learned Disney is different. After I got back, I wrote a newsletter
article sharing my experience and what we, as a church, can learn from
Disney. I thought it was appropriate to share that newsletter article
with you all. So enjoy!

In February, my wife and I had the chance to take a week off
and travel down to Disney World. Diane has wanted to go for some
time so we saved our pennies for a while and decided to go. I was not
to thrilled with the idea of going to Disney World but it grew on me
and by the end of the week, I was already thinking about our next trip.

I was incredibly impressed with the entire experience. From
the time we got off our plane, every one of our needs was met with a
smiling face, willing to do whatever they could to make our stay
magical. As we was watching the fireworks one evening, I jotted down
some notes about our Disney experience that I think we as parish and
individual congregations.

There was a serious concentration on excellence.

Nothing Disney does is every simple or ordinary. From the movies, to
the rides, to the robotic animation everything was excellent.
Remember, I am not a big fan of amusement parks, but Disney World
strives to be more than just an amusement park - they strive to be a
destination that people want to come back to over and over. How can
we become a place where people, disciples want to come back to over
and over again not out obligation but because they enjoy our
congregation?

The Music and food was amazing.

I ate some of the best food of my life at Disney World. We never
went hungry and there was always more than enough to eat. I think
we as congregations do pretty good at making food. I am always

amazed at how elaborate our Lent Soup Suppers are especially when we compare them to other churches. We take food seriously (maybe as serious as Disney) and that is a good thing. The music at Disney was also top notch. I loved going to the fireworks shows not so much for the explosions (though I do enjoy explosions) but to listen to the high caliber of music. Those firework shows were a pain because of all the people trying to exit the park at the same time, but the music made it worth staying. How can we strive to make our hospitality and music experience the best that it can be?

They make every person's experience magical and special.

I am a foodie and really into the educational exhibits , and not so much into rides. Disney made sure there was something for me. My wife loves the roller coasters and they did not disappoint on that either (or so I am told). When we arrived to Orlando, we never touched our bags. In fact, they were brought up to our room the next morning by a Disney staff member. That alone was worth the trip for me, but they continued to go above and beyond to make everything magical.

If a child is crying, it is the job of the cast members to make that child happy, no matter the cost.

On our day in Magic Kingdom, there was a child who had a little bit of a meltdown in a store. His mom took him outside to work it all out and staff member followed. That staff member got down on that child's level and did everything he could to make that little boy happy. Disney has learned something - make the children happy will also the make the parents even more happy and more likely to want to come back in the future. How are we making our children happy and comfortable when they come worship? What can we do to make worship a magical experience?

The parks were very clean.

Staff members walk around all day long picking up litter and making sure everything is as it should be. There was nothing junkie left around and in the places where they were doing construction, they did everything they could to hide it. I like it when somebody or an organization pays that much attention to the details and cleanliness. So often we get use to seeing clutter in our places of worship because it is always there. Maybe we walk by a piece of trash on our church campus. If we were to pay attention to the small details like clutter and trash, imagine all big details we will start to notice.

Every single employee was held to very high expectations. Whether you were a trash collector or a singer in a performance, every employee was held to very high expectations that made them strive to be better in their work each day. In the church, we do not really have employees but leaders and members. We are all in this together. We need to hold ourselves to very high expectations and when one fails, we pick them up and help them to better themselves. The world calls this improvement, the church calls it repentance - a radical reorientation of one's life. How can we better ourselves and become better servants of Christ?

Every day begins with a celebration and every night concludes with fireworks.

Worship is where this happens, or can happen. How do we make the worship a celebration for God coming into our world? And we are a little bit different than Disney; our main character has been crucified and resurrected. That means we cannot just focus on making worship a motivational speech and the pastor cannot just be a motivational speaker. We need to be willing to preach and accept both the bad and the good - the crucifixion and the resurrection. Worship will not always leave you feeling happy, but it should and needs to remind us that when we are in the pit of the most deepest of despair, we follow a man who knows what despair looks like and what happiness looks like as well.

And don't get me wrong, Disney World was not perfect. Everything was a far walk. The first day we were there, I walked 26,000 steps (I normally walk 5,000 steps a day). It was great for my body but my feet hurt for a good week after we got back. I also did not enjoy the inner-park transportation of buses. On our last night, we decided to take an Uber back to our room and save ourselves the hour long bus ride (it only took 10 minutes via the Uber ride). But I can guarantee you, Disney won't stop improving and neither should we become complacent with how things have become. We must strive to be better than ourselves and make our worship experience something people want to come back to, week after week.

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".

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Return Service Requested