

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Acolyte</u> <u>Crucifer</u></p> <p>July 7 Maegyn Kelso Jordyn Kelso July 14 Mac Robinson Sally Jenkins July 21 Austin Propst John Esswein July 28 Sally Jenkins Rebeka Root</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Worship Assistant/Reader</u></p> <p>July 7 Diane Shewbridge July 14 Becky Kline July 21 Pastor Matt July 28 Jean Polhamus</p>					
	1 Thomas, Apostle	2	3 1PM Bible Study	4 OFFICE <i>Independence Day</i>	5 CLOSED	6 9AM VBS Decorating		
7 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	8	9	10 1PM Bible Study	11 9AM CCAP Board Meeting	12 7:30-9:30PM VBS at Flipover Gymnastics (@Rec Center)	13		
BIBLE SCHOOL 5:15PM - 7:30PM (A light meal opens each session)								
14 10AM Worship	15	16	17 1PM Bible Study	18	19	20		
21 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	22	23 6AM Trip to Washington DC	24 1PM Bible Study	25	26	27 11AM - 1PM Friends Feeding Friends		
28 10AM Worship Book Club meets after worship	29 6PM Mustard Seed Board 7PM Church Council	30 4:30-7:30PM Bethel Community Dinner in Luther Hall	31 1PM Bible Study	<p>USHERS: July 7 Doug Widmeyer/Andrew Banks July 14 Arnold Bock/Bill Torbert July 21 Pete Moats/Blaine Wilson July 28 Jean/Ben DeAlexandro</p>				

Worship Assistants/Readers

August 4 Mindi Esswein
August 11 Ed Shewbridge
August 18 Bess Day
August 25 Michael Noll

Ushers

August 4 Rick Losh/Sally Jenkins
August 11 Bev/Pat Murphy
August 18 Pete Moats/Jane Kelley
August 25 Linda Payne/Jerry Olsen

August

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<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; text-align:center;">Acolyte</td> <td style="width:50%; text-align:center;">Crucifer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 4</td> <td>Joseph Hutzler</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 11</td> <td>Rebekah Root</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 18</td> <td>Justin Gottlieb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 25</td> <td>Braydon Hill</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Charlotte Hutzler</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lakyn Edwards</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Elisabeth Gottlieb</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Payton Hill</td> </tr> </table>				Acolyte	Crucifer	August 4	Joseph Hutzler	August 11	Rebekah Root	August 18	Justin Gottlieb	August 25	Braydon Hill		Charlotte Hutzler		Lakyn Edwards		Elisabeth Gottlieb		Payton Hill	1	2	3
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4 10AM ly Communion Feed My Sheep 4PM LYFE Pool Party @ Pastor Karen's	5	6	7 1PM Bible Study	8	9 SWO Convention at Bishop Hodges Retreat Center in Huttonsville, WV	10																		
Pastor at Continuing Ed				Pastor's vacation begins																				
11 10AM Worship with Holy Communion	12	13	14 1PM Bible Study	15	16	17 Noon - 3PM St. John's Back-to- School BLOCK PARTY																		
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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



JULY/AUGUST 2019



Congratulations Confirmands!

On June 9th, we welcomed Matthew Edwards, Rebekah Root, Jordyn Kelso, Danica Propst, Justin Gottlieb, Christian Gottlieb, & Dylan Walker to our congregation through the Rite of Confirmation. In baptism they were made members of the body of Christ and in Confirmation, they affirmed the faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2019 ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2019

Meeting called to order by: Rick Losh, President

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

Members Absent: Trey Voorhees, Blaine Wilson

Guest: Steven Williams, Boy Scout Troop 13

Devotions: led by Pastor Matt

Request to Council: Steven Williams presented the proposal for his Eagle Scout project for Council's consideration. His project proposal is to clean gravestones in the old church cemetery, as well as shore up/reset and clean around the stones as able without danger of damaging them. He left Council with the specific details on the process and products to be used. Rick Losh will have local authorities review the project plans. Council will approve the project once it has been reviewed and amended should there be any adjustments made to the project plans.

Minutes: May meeting minutes approved as corrected. **(M/S/P: Pastor Matt; Mike Noll)**

Financial Report: Bess Day, Treasurer. Offering is down 10% from two years ago. At this time, we are showing a \$38,000 deficit. The Mustard Seed is in the black for the last two years and our original investment continues to be reduced.

Pastor's Report: Very busy month with Conference Meeting, Synod Assembly, Confirmation, 33 visitations, a funeral, Spring Work Day, and many committee meetings. The Constitution Committee needs to schedule a follow up meeting soon to address a few more issues for the revised constitution.

Upcoming Events:

- June 23rd – Pulpit Exchange
- June 30th – Installation of Christy Costello, Director of the Mustard Seed
- July 7-11 – Vacation Bible School
- July 12th – Vacation Bible School Fun Night
- July 23rd – Trip to DC

Old Business:

- Spring Work Day was a great success. Luther Hall got a coat of paint and several locks were updated throughout the upstairs Sunday School/Mustard Seed Classrooms; the memory garden was tended. Plans are to get a second coat of paint on the walls in Luther Hall for durability (there is enough paint on hand for a second coat) and re-do the radiator covers. Darrell suggested that the stage floor be redone to enhance the Luther Hall makeover.

- The Welcome Bags for visitors/prospective new members are ready and a few have been distributed.

New Business:

- Rick, our delegate to the Synod Assembly, gave a report on a few of the issues addressed. The Synod finances are declining and some discussion revolved around possibly cutting back on some of the Benevolence. Pastor Matt addressed the Assembly and pleaded, successfully, not to cut Camp Caroline Furnace. Much was discussed regarding finances, but little was resolved at Assembly and was referred to Synod Council to take on the financial future of the Synod.

- Sophie Palmer, our Interim Choir Director, will be finishing her duties here at St. John's on June 16th. Pastor has several smaller items to give her as a thank you gift. Council proposed to also give her \$100.

(M/S/P: Drew Catrow:Mike Noll)

- Drew has volunteered to coordinate the summer solos or instrumental music for our Sunday church services.

- Nomination Committee of 2 or 3 persons is needed for Church Council and Trustee elections. Five members will be going off Council, and one Trustee term is up. At the July/August meeting Council will discuss possible procedures to stagger future terms so that fewer members finish their terms in any given year.

- Setting 8 will be used for the summer Liturgy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education: Shane reported that Sunday on Monday finished this season strong. The committee will meet to set up the Bible stories to resume Sunday on Monday again in September. The Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 8th, at the pavilion at Poor House Farm Park. Vacation Bible School is all set with plans, teachers, menus and activities ... just need the kids! Cash donations would be appreciated. VBS is scheduled for July 7-12 and is advertised on the church website, Facebook, Blast, and emails to individuals who

participated last year.

Social Ministry: Jerry reported the following: Friends Feeding Friends will be on Saturday, June 22nd. A Back-to-School block party is planned by Betty Lou. This will be a huge event. Playing cards are still needed for the Christmas prison ministry project.

Evangelism: Welcome goodie bags are ready for distributing to visitors to our church service.

Worship and Music: Drew is well underway with the project to organize the churches holdings of music. He is entering the data in a database that provides many ways to search for music, i.e., season, vocal parts, composer, etc. Drew has already had 4 vendors sign up for the Christmas Craft Fair.

LYFE: The group is taking the summer off for regular meetings but have several special activities planned for the summer. A hike, trip to DC, and pool party are slated. Austin has been given the title of “Peer Minister” as LYFE’s youth director. Andrew Banks and Pastor Valentine are supporting Austin in his enthusiastic, and much appreciated, inspiration to get this group together.

Property/Tech: Would like to see the stage and Luther Hall projects finished up this summer as mentioned earlier.

Mutual Ministry: no report, but a meeting will be scheduled before the July/August meeting.

Stewardship: No report

Mustard Seed: The new director was selected after an in-depth interview process. Christy Costello, a long-time employee in our Mustard Seed program, has accepted the position.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer. **(M/S/P: Jerry Crites;Drew Catrow)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Shewbridge

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms



Athena Lee James
Daughter of Kristen and
Joshua James
was baptized on
June 2nd.

Funerals

Rosalee L. Ettinger

Born: November 11, 1922 in Martinsburg WV,

Died: May 15, 2019 at Kearneysville, WV

Interested in becoming a member?

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



Gas up the all-terrain vehicle and head out on a wilderness adventure like no other. Get up close and personal with elephants and egrets, polar bears and penguins, cockatoos and crocodiles, and so much more! This summer kids will focus in on some amazing, real-life encounters with Jesus and discover the most amazing truth of all—Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing we can have life in His name.

Vacation Bible School begins:

Sunday, July 7, 2019-Friday, July 12, 2019

5:15 PM-7:30 PM

(date and time)

St. John's Lutheran Church

(church name)

101 W. Martin St. Martinsburg, WV

(church address)

(304)-263-9291

For more information, call: _____

(name and telephone number)

or email: **Register online at: www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org** _____

Into The **WILD** VBS Menu:

Sunday

Wild Boar (pulled pork), Hippoburgers (hamburgers), Wild Pheasant (grilled chicken), Bird Food (corn on cob), Passion-fruit (grilled pineapple), Tiger Tails (cuties), Watering Hole

Monday:

Elephant Footprints (Pizza), Raptor Claws (Bugles), Jungle Slime (Lime Jello), Swamp Water

Tuesday:

Giraffe Necks (Hot dogs), Dried Beetle Wings (Potato chips), Beaver Grub (Cupcakes), Gatorade

Wednesday:

Wild Turkey Legs (Chicken Fries), Tiger in the Swamp (Mac/cheese), Snake Eyes/Butterflies (Grapes/Strawberries),
Monkey Juice

Thursday:

Tropical Plants with Jungle Meat (Tacos w/ fixins' & Nacho Chips), Monkey Food (Banana Pudding), Jungle Juice

The light dinner begins at 5:15PM - VBS by 6PM



LET THERE BE ACOLYTES! 10 HIDDEN BENEFITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

By Lisa Brown

Acolytes = Leaders

Quick! When you think of leadership in the church, what roles do you think of? Priests and deacons? Church staff? Choir directors? Ministry leaders?

Do you ever think about acolytes?

You should, because these young people, whose often unnoticed presence facilitates almost every service, embody true servant leadership. For a sense of why acolyting is an important and formational ministry, I interviewed members of the acolyte corps at my church. Ranging from 4th grade to college senior, here are ten conclusions they shared about their ministry.

10 Hidden Benefits Of Acolyting

1. Acolyting is essential

Think of services where no acolytes are present. Much of the beauty and the glorious pageantry is missing. Processions without torches and crosses, and a Gospel reading without anyone to hold the book? Not as impactful. Furthermore, services without acolytes means clergy have less support when preparing Communion, and facilitating worship.

2. Acolyting allows young people to be active participants in worship

Everyone I spoke with echoed the same refrain. They felt much more engaged in the worship service by playing an active role rather than sitting in the pews. Even young people who reported that their parents had at first “forced” them to acolyte, expressed a newfound connection to worship and an enthusiasm for being at church.

3. Acolyting is intergenerational

A young person who acolytes is more likely to feel a connection to adults serving in other worship-related ministries: clergy, altar guild members, greeters, ushers, lectors, lay eucharistic ministers, and choir members.

This is truly important! Young people who connect to generations of adults in the congregation – rather than only forming relationships with youth peers – are more likely to feel a deep connection to their

church community. Faith formation is strengthened by these intergenerational relationships.

4. Acolyting is relational

Acolyting helps young people form bonds with their peers, and with older and younger teens at church. Faith is meant to be practiced in community, and when a young person finds community for themselves, they are more likely to grow in faith. Young acolytes spoke proudly of having older teen friends who they knew through acolyting; older teens spoke proudly of acting as role models to the younger teens on their acolyte teams.

5. Acolyting is a family affair

Many young people recalled that they began to acolyte as a way of emulating older siblings. Families are more likely to attend and be connected to a church community when their children serve at the altar.

6. Acolyting allows kids to play with fire

Admit it, everybody likes to ~~play~~ help with fire. But more importantly, when we trust young people with significant and potentially dangerous tasks, we show them that we see them as capable and competent. Inevitably they then live up to our expectations.

7. Acolyting makes a young person the center of attention

This surprised me. Many young people commented on how they enjoyed the feeling of having all eyes on them as they walked down the aisle with the cross. But isn't it supposed to be about God? Yes. So are we raising a generation of egomaniacs? I don't think so. Everyone's deepest desire is to be known, accepted, and loved. We want to have value in the eyes of others. Consider scripture and the many instances where Jesus paused to truly see and engage people who were otherwise invisible in society.

Often our young people feel unseen and unimportant in our faith communities. Acolyting allows them to be seen, to be important, and to make a difference in our communal worship.

8. Acolyting makes young people nervous

When asked what they wished other people knew about being an acolyte, many young people said they wished others knew how seriously they take their role. They try very hard not to make mistakes, and when they do, it weighs heavily on them. Yet in talking about lessons learned as an acolyte, one young person told me the following:

“Whatever I do, even if I’m not sure of what I’m doing, as long as I do it with confidence, it will be ok.” Or as Julian of Norwich wrote, “All shall be well.”

9. Acolyting is formational, and teaches liturgy

In conversations replete with teenage slang, I also heard vocabulary that reflected a deep knowledge of liturgy and church tradition. In fact, one of the many reasons youth enjoyed being acolytes is that they learned more about the shape, structure, and flow of liturgy and worship traditions. Young people even mentioned some of their favorite services: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – services often under-attended, especially by young people.

10. Acolyting is leadership

A component of good church leadership is being able to grow more fully into a ministerial role. The young people I spoke with reflected on their evolving acolyte responsibilities, and how moving from torch to Eucharistic server was “...a big leap.” One young person explained how managing her acolyte team was an opportunity for her to demonstrate maturity and responsibility. Some young people spoke proudly of how acolyting encouraged them to seek out other roles in the church – as vergers, altar guild members, lay eucharistic ministers, and as members of the church’s worship commission.

So Let There Be Acolytes!

Acolyting is an essential ministry, and one that imbues our worship with beauty, solemnity, and pageantry. Acolytes support both clergy and laity, ensuring that the behind-the-scenes tasks and logistics of worship flow smoothly.

Most importantly, our acolytes, whether they are 9 or 19 years old, are leaders in our communities, worthy of appreciation and respect. Next time you see a young person who is an acolyte, make sure to compliment them and thank them for their ministry!

Lisa Brown is the Director of Digital Ministry with Membership Vision. Building on her work in Children’s Ministry and Communications at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, PA, she helps churches connect to people and to God in the digital space. An active member of Forma and Girl Scout leader, Lisa is passionate about enriching the spiritual lives of people. Her book “The Best Do-It-Yourself VBS Workbook Ever” was published in 2017.

SAFEGUARDING God's children

Protect your children. Protect your ministries.



Training Is Free

We are recommending anyone who works with children should take this training. Many states and insurance companies are in the process of making trainings like this mandatory. It is also a good stewardship to ensure that everyone in our congregation can worship and learn safely.

Recommended for all: church leaders

- who have contact with children in the church
- who have a child or grandchild they love
- who care about children

The Next Training Session is scheduled:

At St John, Martinsburg—(split session): **Sundays, August 18 & 25, 1:30 to 4:30pm.** ***In-order to get the full training, you will have to come to both sessions.***

Safeguarding God's Children provides participants with the information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and in the ministries in which they serve. The program is based on the philosophy that if every adult can protect just one child, they will forever change one life. If we can each change one life, together we will make a difference in this generation of children.

Register by contacting Pastor Christine Olson by email:
avcomen@msn.com.

Class Participants are limited to 20 for each session.

MILESTONES IN JULY

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Diane Shewbridge
- 4 Independence Day!



- 5 Jon Fleming
- 6 Harriett Eyler
- 7 Gregory Noll
Linda Propst
- 9 David Gatrell
Ella Murphy
Pat Rigot
- 11 Jeff Spoon
- 13 Amanda Ferenchick
- 14 Anise Frye
- 23 Sherlyn Clarke
- 27 Dennis Coffinberger
- 28 Arlene Leitzke
- 29 Lynn Aikens

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Lisa & Daniel Clarke
- 2 Linda & Jerry Olsen
- 5 Traci & Lewis Harden
Sue & Roger Wall
- 7 Danine & Jerry Crites
- 10 JoAnna & Andrew Banks
- 19 Kate & David Gatrell
- 20 Kandi & Bill Ruth
- 24 Kathy & Jim Chapman

MILESTONES IN AUGUST

Birthdays

- 1 Traci Harden
Rick Losh
- 2 Nathan Cosner
Logan Murphy
Emily Bernazzoli
- 4 Jamie Ferenchick
- 5 Eryn Fleming
- 6 Amy Loomis
- 8 Jessica Herbert
- 10 Joyce Roth
- 11 Walker Hutzler
- 12 Barry Provard
- 13 Barbara Arndt
- 14 Rodney White
- 15 Annette Mann
- 19 Suzanne Boslau
Allison Janney
- 21 Betty Lou Boynton
- 22 Nona Payne
Tyler Vogel
- 28 Danine Rydland
- 29 Matthew Edwards
Ron Kreiensieck
- 30 Lily Jackson
- 31 Daniel Coffinberger
Debbie Wilson

Anniversaries

- 5 Cheryl and Rick Losh
- 10 Robin and Edward Robinson
- 14 Bernice and Ralph Baker
Tonya and Jon Fleming
Arlene and Peter Leitzke
Linda and Jim Riley
- 24 Hope and Steve Crites





Summer's Over!

A Back-to-School Block Party

**Saturday
Aug 17
12-3pm**

Every child will receive a free Backpack with school supplies. There will also be free hair cuts, eye exams, food, and games for all kids.

**We will be setting up on
the 100 block of W. Martin
St. in front of St. John's
Lutheran Church**

Be there!

A Trip to Washington D.C.

TUESDAY, JULY 23RD

To Visit the U.S. Supreme Court and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture.

The museum explores how values like resiliency, optimism, and spirituality are reflected in African American history and culture. Harriet Tubman's shawl, Nat Turner's Bible, Chuck Berry's guitar, the Emancipation Proclamation, a Slave cabin from South Carolina, Spirit of Tuskegee biplane, and much more!

Cost: \$25 a person

- 6:00 am Board MARC Train in Martinsburg, OR
- 6:15 am Board MARC Train in Duffields
- 8:45 am Walk to United States Supreme Court (0.3 mi)
- 9:30 am Attend live courtroom lecture or watch film (30 mins)
- 10:00 am View exhibitions
- 11:00 am Walk to Museum of African Amer. History & Culture (1.5 mi)
- 11:30 am Lunch in Sweet Home Café
- 1:00 pm Enter Museum (we have timed passes)
- 4:00 pm Walk to Washington Union Station (1.7 mi)
- 5:25 pm Board MARC Train P879
- 7:30 pm Arrive Duffields
- 7:50 pm Arrive Martinsburg

All Ages Welcomed!

Please RSVP to St. John's Church Office by July 18

Name(s): _____ Age: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



The Mustard Seed's

Annual Jay Dee's Family Fun Night

July 18th from 5:30-7:30pm

We Hope You Will Join Us!

The Mustard Seed has rented out the water park for our friends and families to join us. It has always been a great event to see the kids playing and families socializing. The cost per person is \$7.00. Children 12 months and younger are Free. This fee includes the water park only (including both slides). Please fill out the form below and return with your payment to The Mustard Seed by July 12th. Thank you for your support!

Family Name: _____

of Adults: _____ X \$7.00= _____

of Children: _____ X \$7.00= _____

Total Due= _____

Check # _____

Socks are the least

donated item at

shelters...

And thank
you!



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

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

WE NEED A FENCE!

CAN YOU HELP US PURCHASE A NEW FENCE?

6X6 FULL PANEL

(26 Needed)

\$80

6X6 HALF PANEL

\$40

4X8 FULL PICKET PANEL

(6 Needed)

\$70

4X8 HALF PICKET PANEL

\$35



CONTACT MISS CHRISTY TO PURCHASE
EVERY DONOR WILL BE NAMED ON OUR
DONATION PLAQUE.

(304) 263-9291

EMAIL: mseed2001@gmail.com



Evangelism Corner

As a way to engage our visitors, we have put together a welcome bag that will be dropped off at the home of all first time visitors.

The Welcome Bags include flyers about our congregation, a chip clip, a pocket-size hand sanitizer, a carabiner, a couple of pens, a bag of hard candy, and a pocket cross.

You still play a major role in showing hospitality to all who come to our place of worship.

The BEST Evangelism tool of any congregation is the people. Be yourself and welcome everyone who joins for worship!



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.

Photos from the Month of June



Confirmands, Mentors, and family members facing the congregation as we officially welcome these young people as full members into our congregation.



Pastor Matt made a long-distant visit to three of our youth attending camp Luther in Cowen, WV



On June 23, Pastor Daniel Warntz was installed as the pastor of Grace in Petersburg. Pastors Matt and Diane were able to be there as well as Pastor Ron.



At the beginning of June, the WV-WMD Synod held their annual assembly. In this picture, Pastor Diane is speaking to a motion she was making on responding the Bishop's Report.

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!**

Synod Assembly 2019

of the

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod

A Corrected, Bleary-Eyed, Preliminary After Action Report with Elections Update

The West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Assembly convened at Grace Lutheran Church, (Bethlehem) Wheeling, WV, on Friday, 31 May 2019, at 1:15 PM. As ordered by the 2018 Synod Assembly, an agenda was proposed to support the assembly's deliberation over the financial position of the synod. To assist in this work, Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support, ELCA, gave a keynote address on mission support across the church and in the WV-WMD Synod. Nine workshops were also held, each examining a different set of issues related to the budget; three workshops addressed evangelism, prayer, and Bible Study, providing an alternative for those with less enthusiasm for numbers. Except for the report of the Elections Committee and a runoff ballot, the Saturday morning was spent in committee of the whole, resulting in a report that recommended

- *cuts to several lines in the proposed 2020 budget,

- *reduction of mission support share with the Churchwide expression of the ELCA,

- *elimination of budgeted withdraw from unrestricted reserves (more than \$43.5K),

- *instruction to Synod Council with respect to building a budget from scratch for Synod Assembly 2020,

- *instruction to Synod Council to explore staffing reduction,

- *and reaffirmation with instructions with respect to the authority of the Synod Council, under the constitution, to refrain from authorizing expenditures should income be insufficient to cover expenses, prioritizing as expenditures the oversight function of the synod and the synod's support of Word & Sacrament, teaching of the faith, and care of souls.

The report of the Committee of the Whole was adopted with amendment for approval of the budget as amended per the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole. More detailed information will be forthcoming once the minutes have been reviewed.

The synod's constitution was amended to change the quorum requirement, pending ratification by the ELCA. Twelve recommendations on amendment of the bylaws were adopted.

As directed by the 2018 Synod Assembly, the assembly program included an extended presentation related to United Lutheran Seminary. This was held as an open hearing of the synod's Ad Hoc Committee on ULS and formatted as a Q&A, with questions posed by the committee and answered by the seminary representatives.

Eight elections were held. The report of those elected can be found at <http://www.wv-wmd.org/SA/elections.html>.

Reference & Counsel reported on four resolutions. Two were adopted: a resolution on expansion of accompaniment in the Middle East and a resolution on Synod Assembly cost control. Two were tabled, neither of which were taken from the table before adjournment sine die. To review these resolutions, visit our on-line Bulletin of Reports (<https://www.manula.com/manuals/west-virginia-western-mar/bulletin-of-reports/sa.2019/en/topic/report-of-reference-and-counsel>).

Synod Assembly Mass was held at Grace Lutheran Church on Friday evening. The largest assembly mass offering was collected for the synod's Madagascar fund. The bishop preached on the Visitation and visitation, and the hymn of the day, also on the Visitation, was a newly written work by host pastor, The Rev. Timothy Spence.



**We currently need just
3 More Tables
to replace all the old
wooden tables.**

**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.

Feed My Sheep

First Sunday of the month



□ ————— □

When Jesus fed over 5000 people,
his command to the disciples was,
"You give them something to eat."

□ ————— □

Bring in your non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of the month and place them in the bin below. The food donated will be dispersed throughout our community through our own food pantry here at church as well as through CCAP, Berkeley County Backpack Program, Shenandoah Women Shelter, The Rescue Mission, Bethany's House, Immanuel's House, Faith Collation for the Homeless, and The Martinsburg Children's Shelter.

"If you love me, feed my sheep."

John 21:15-19



Pastor's Report

May 2019

VISITATION

May Visits: 33

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD

Caroline Furnace Board Meeting

Conference Meeting

Synod Assembly

WORSHIP

4 Sunday Worship Services

1 Evening Prayer

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Council Meeting

Spring Work Day

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

Tea at St. John's

Caroline Furnace Family Night

EDUCATION

1 Sunday on Monday

Conference Confirmation

Table Talk

VBS Meeting

MUSTARD SEED

3 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

Mustard Seed Board Meeting

Mustard Seed Graduation

FUNERALS

Rosalee Ettinger Visitation and Funeral

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Spring Convocation

CHOIR

3 Choir Rehearsals

MILEAGE

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of May was 417 miles.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,
The garden has been planted and the weeds are growing faster than any of my vegetables, but that is okay. One thing I have been doing with Thomas is checking the garden with him. It is cute watching him walk around and point at the plants. He

has no idea what any of them are yet, but that will change once he figures out the tomato plants give him tomatoes. Thomas loves tomatoes almost as much as I do. Hopefully we will have some extra help this summer picking the tomatoes.

Now that summer has come, church work has slowed down a bit. It has been nice being at home more and resting from a great year of ministry. Looking back, we did a lot as a congregation and that is something we should celebrate. We are in this together and together we will fulfill our mission of being proclaimers of hope.

Coming up this summer is Vacation Bible School. It is scheduled for July 7-11. The theme this year is "In the Wild" and we will learn about God's creation. It will be a wild adventure (yes, the pun was intended)! We always need volunteers so if you can help, talk to Shane and Jess Wagoner. And register by click on the link on our home page. Simply go to stjohnsmartinsburg.org and get signed up! You do not need to sign up to come but it does help us plan for food and crafts!

Bess is also putting together another trip to DC this year. This year, we will be visiting the U.S. Supreme Court and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture. The trip is open to everyone in the church. There is some walking involved, but we do have the metro option available for anyone who might need it. The trip is \$25 dollars a person which includes lunch and transportation. If you can make it this day, please do so and make sure you bring the kids or grandkids with you.

My family is planning on taking our yearly trip to Ocean City, New Jersey this August. Thomas and Diane really love the beach. I like eating at the beach. So, everyone is happy. We are also going to be doing some continuing education in August as well. Last year, we attended a conference for clergy couples. It was a great experience

and this year, we are helping plan the event. So, we will be gone for a couple of weeks in August, but will be back for the Back-To-School Block Party.

Make sure you mark your calendars for this event. Every child that comes will receive a free backpack full of school supplies as well as hair cuts, eye exams, food, and games and more. The Social Ministry committee wants to engage the people of our community, as well as make sure every child is ready to start school. **You can help in this endeavor by donating school supplies, making a donation towards a backpack (\$5 will cover the cost of one bag), and by being present on August 17.**

With that, I will finish my letter by including some pictures of Thomas. Have a blessed summer and may God continue to shed blessings upon you.

In Christ,



St. John's Lutheran Church
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