

October 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|----|----|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Acolyte and Crucifers</p> <p>Oct 6 - Mac Robinson/John Esswein Oct 13 - Austin Propst/Elisabeth Gottlieb Oct 20 - Braydon Hill/Payton Hill Oct 27 - Mac Robinson/Dylan Walker</p> | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| | | | | 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 6pm Table Talk at the Daily Grind | 6-8pm Mustard Seed Fall Festival | | |
| | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | | <p>9am Coffee and Conversation & Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>12:30 Pet Blessing</p> <p>1-5pm Confirmation</p> | <p>Sunday on Monday Dinner at 5:45 Class at 6:15 Evening Prayer at 7:30</p> | Pastor Matt at WV-WMD Synod Con-Ed event in Logan, WV | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | |
| <p>9am Coffee and Conversation & Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am Worship Work Day follows worship</p> | <p>5:45pm Youth Night</p> <p>7pm Council Meeting</p> | <p>10:30am Shutin and Visitation Workshop for Current and New Eucharistic Ministers</p> | <p>5:30-7:30pm Habitat for Humanity in Luther Hall</p> <p>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30 WELCA Needle Craft Night in the Lounge</p> | | | <p style="text-align: center;">Apple Harvest Festival in Martinsburg</p> | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | |
| <p>9am Coffee and Conversation & Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am Worship with Holy Communion</p> | <p>Sunday on Monday Dinner at 5:45pm Class at 6:15 Evening Prayer at 7:30</p> | | | <p>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">11am Friends Feeding Friends</p> | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | <p style="text-align: center;">Worship Assistants</p> <p>Oct 6 - Andrew Banks Oct 13 - Alison Poland Oct 20 - Blaine Wilson Oct 27 - Bess Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ushers</p> <p>Oct 6 - Ray Bentz/Andrew Banks Oct 13 - Arnold Bock/Bill Torbert Oct 20 - Doug Widmeyer/Blaine Wilson Oct 27 - Ben and Jean De Alexandro</p> | | | |
| <p>9am Coffee and Conversation & Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10am Reformation Sunday Liturgy with Holy Communion</p> <p>11:30 German Potluck</p> <p>12:30 Trunk-or-Treat</p> | <p>5:45pm Youth Night</p> | <p>Pastor Matt at ULS in Gettysburg for Fall Colloquy</p> <p>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</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: The Rev. Matthew A. Day



OCTOBER 2019

Reformation Sunday

October 27

The theme this year is: **The Church shall Stand.** Our Liturgy will include Bible Presentations for 3rd Graders and up. We also ask that everyone bring their Bibles from Home so that we can bless them as we give thanks to God for the holy words these books contain.



October 27th after Lunch

WORK DAY AND GARDEN PLANTING

October 13th After Worship

Lunch Provided!

Our big goal is to do some more painting in Luther Hall as well as a deep clean of the church. Pick and choose what you would like to do!

Wear your work clothes to worship. We need everyone to stay after and help take care of some much needed projects around the property!

2019 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2019

Meeting called to order by: Rick Losh, President

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

Members Absent: Trey Voorhees, Shane Wagoner

Devotions: led by Pastor Matt

Minutes: July meeting minutes approved as submitted. **(M/S/P: Jerry Crites; Linda Payne)**

Financial Report: Expenses exceeded income in July and could be attributed to “summer attendance” combined with 3 payroll days. Mustard Seed also had 3 paydays in July, showing less income than expense.

Pastor’s Report: The Block Party was a huge success with 245 student backpacks distributed. Plans have already been started in planning next year’s Block Party. Pastor asked for suggestions to improve the newsletter. A Trustees/Finance meeting is needed to prepare the 2020 budget as is a meeting of the nominating committee for Council elections. Council elections will take place on Sunday, November 17th. Also on that Sunday there will be a Congregational meeting to present the 2020 budget. A changing table will be installed on the wall in the Handicap Bathroom in Luther Hall. Signage will indicate that it is a “Family Restroom”.

Upcoming Events:

-September 15 – Parent/Confirmand Planning Meeting

-September 16 – First Sunday on Monday at 5:45pm (1st & 3rd Mondays) and first youth LYFE night.

-September 21 – Family Movie Night a 6:00pm - *The Secret Life of Pets 2* will be shown

-September 29 – Sunday Worship theme is *Michael and all Angels*

-October 6 – Blessing of Animals at 12:30pm

-October 13 – Work Day after Worship

-October 19 – Apple Harvest Festival **(All Day)**

-October 27 – Reformation Sunday with Blessing of Bibles at 10am

-October 27 – German Potluck following worship

-October 27 – Trunk or Treat after the German Potluck

-November 8 & 9 – Christmas Craft Sale

Luther Hall Request: Sue Wall has requested, on behalf of her daughter, the use of Luther Hall all day on Saturday, November 30th, for a 4-H Santa Shop. (M/S/P: **Drew Catrow; Jerry Crites**)

Old Business: Fencing proposal for the playground area: Council members presented the comments received from members of the congregation. After consideration and discussion, the following motion was put forth. The proposed plan was accepted with the following adjustment: 5' fencing (4' solid, 1' lattice) all around the perimeter instead of 6'. The revised layout must have the approval of the Property Committee after consultation of the committee with Christy Costello, Mustard Seed Director. (M/S/P: **Mike Noll; Drew Catrow**) A \$2000 donation has been received to apply to the fence project.

New Business: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education: no report

Social Ministry: Movie night at 6:00pm will be September 21st. The Secret Life of Pets 2 will be shown.

Friends Feeding Friends will be on September 28th. Men's, women's and children's socks and underwear are much needed items as we head into colder weather. A German Potluck will follow Sunday worship on October 27th. Betty Lou Boynton will organize a Family Night at the Movies to see *Frozen II* when it comes out in theaters. Watch for a date to be announced.

Evangelism: Pastor has visited and welcomed two families who have visited St. Johns and given them the new Visitor Bags.

Worship and Music: the new improved sound system has been fully installed. We welcome our choir director, Heather, back from her 1-year leave.

LYFE: no report

Property/Tech: work will be started again to update the lighting project. A camera installed over the main entrance to Luther Hall for safety will be made known. It can record both sight and sound.

Mutual Ministry: no report but a meeting will be scheduled for October.

Stewardship: Covenant surveys are available in both printed and online formats. Please complete one and submit it. The Red Cross Blood Drive originally scheduled for December has been rescheduled by Red Cross and will now be taking place on January 11th in Luther Hall. Committee

members will soon be working in the flower garden outside Luther Hall. A date will be announced.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Shewbridge

Thank You Notes

Dear Pastor and congregation,

On behalf of Rosemont Elementary School, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of school supplies. We greatly appreciate your kindness and willingness to help our school fulfil the needs of our teachers and their students.

Kind Regards,
Erica Propst
Principal

St John's Congregation,

Thank you so much for hosting the Back to School event on Saturday, August 17, 2019. This community gathering was such a blessing to so many of our students and their families. Your willingness to help and give back is what makes this a great community to live and work in.

Sincerely,
Teresa Willer
School Counselor at Burke St. Elem

To the People of St. John's and Lion's Club,

Thank you for your generosity and your willingness to volunteer at the Back to School Block Party. We accomplished something that unexpected and such a blessing to so many in our community. Your donations of time and of resources made this event possible.

In Christ,
Social Ministry Committee

5 Reasons People Are Drifting From Church

By: Dan Reiland

There's a big difference between missing a Sunday and disconnecting from your church.

Vacations, travel for work, and kids have travel ball. That's part of life. But when part of life, turns into a different life, it may be time to re-think your new trend and the possible results.

A long-time friend and volunteer leader in his church had not attended in months. I asked him if something had upset him.

He said, *"No, I love my church. We just got busy, started missing here and there, and then, well you know, it was just easier not to go. Oh, and we watch online sometimes."*

We talked for a long time. It was a great conversation.

He concluded by saying, *"You know, I really don't have a good reason for no longer attending church, I just got lazy. My family (they have three kids), and I will start again next week."* And they did.

As human beings, we follow habits and patterns.

When it comes to church, drift leads to distance and distance leads to disconnection.

The point of weekly worship is *not* attendance; it's *participation* in the body of Christ.

Christianity was never designed to be an independent endeavor. God created us to be in relationship with Him and each other. He made us on purpose with a purpose, and we live that out best together.

If you're not worshipping at your church much these days, I hope this post encourages you to return. There is something special about worship with the body of Christ.

People return to church for a variety of reasons, including a direct prompt from God.

Sometimes they return because of their kids. That's great! Sometimes it's because of personal tragedy, that's always heartbreaking, but I'm still glad they return. It might be a wedding or a funeral. Your church is happy to see you again, but I truly believe your life is more enriched when you regularly participate as part of the body of Christ. If any of the following excuses ring true for you, perhaps this

is a good time to return to church.

5 practical responses to the most common reasons for drift:

1) “The church doesn’t meet my needs.”

It’s possible that a church may not meet all your needs; in fact, it’s likely.

The question of expectations is usually at the core of this issue. What *should* a church, your church, be expected to do, offer, or provide?

What is the role of the church, according to the Bible?

This post would be far too long if I wrote a detailed answer to that question, but I can summarize the primary purpose of the church in two words: **“make disciples.”** (Matthew 28:19-20)

That means the church’s primary function is to help people mature in their faith, to grow spiritually. (And that includes first reaching those who are far from Jesus.)

After that, all “programs” are an option. Since no one church can do everything, it’s a choice the leaders must make.

The most common example of a church not meeting someone’s needs is a complaint that the sermon lacks in some way. It doesn’t “feed” them.

I’m the first to agree that the Sunday message should be well prepared, based on scripture and bathed in prayer. But as a person grows in their spiritual maturity, they become able to dig out biblical truth and wisdom from the Bible on their own. The Sunday sermon becomes a gold mine for anyone to find a nugget of applicable truth and wisdom.

Ultimately, the church is a place where you help meet the needs of others.

2) “I attend online.”

Online church is awesome. Technology helps advance the purpose of the church in significant ways. You might not be feeling well, traveling for work or on vacation. There are many times when online church is a great resource, and some people physically can’t attend.

One advantage I love about online church is sharing a sermon with a friend who is not a Christian.

However, let me offer an analogy. Let’s say a mom and dad’s kids are grown and live in another state. So, they make a regular weekly

Skype call to catch up. That's great. But my guess is that the family would *rather* be together in person. That experience is different. The connection is more personal, and they feel it. The result is memorable.

Let me push the point just a little with this example. No one wants a visit in the hospital, from someone online, you appreciate the visit in person.

There is something about being together in person that the human spirit hungers for at a soul level. Online is great when needed, but was never designed as a substitute for the body of Christ and meeting the needs of others.

3) **“My pastor made a decision I didn't like.”**

I'm a pastor, and *I make decisions I don't like*. Yes, I'm smiling, but sometimes leaders have to make decisions that are not popular. Further, sometimes, we make mistakes; all leaders do. That's not intended to justify poor leadership; it's merely a reality.

Here's a good question for you to ask. Was the decision sinful or subjective? My hunch is that the decision that bugged you was subjective, and not your preference.

Perhaps a better approach is to consider the big picture – with the following questions.

- Does your church teach the Bible?
- Is it loving and friendly to people?
- Are people saying yes to the invitation for eternal life from Jesus?
- Are people's lives being changed?
- Does it make a difference in the community?

I'm sure you could ask more questions, but candidly, if *all that* is happening, it's probably a great church, and the pastor a great pastor!

4) **“I don't need church to be a Christian.”**

It's true. You don't need to go to church to be a Christian. But as I mentioned, Christianity was never designed to be a solo deal. From the garden of Eden to the covenant with Abraham, to your walk with Jesus, it's all about relationship.

My experience is that the more independent and isolated a person is in their faith journey, the higher the likelihood they will stall out spiritually. As I stated in another post, “You tend to drift spiritually when you are not connected relationally.” You can read that post here (https://danreiland.com/?page_id=4984).

As I read scripture, the role of the pastor is not to “do” the work of ministry, but to train and equip the congregation to do the ministry God has designed for them to do. (Ephesians 4:11-16) I’ve written a post on that subject, and you can read it here (<https://danreiland.com/role-of-the-pastor/>)

God has a purpose for you that is part of His church. Don’t miss out.

So, let me say it again, a little differently.

You don’t need a church to be a Christian, but maybe the church needs you.

5) “The church is all about money.”

The church does need money to operate, and that won’t change. However, I can tell you that no church I know of charges you to attend. It’s free. That’s a great deal!

You can experience, enjoy, and benefit from all your church offers for no charge at all — not many places like that.

The pastor may talk about money, but it’s an invitation to give, not a mandate. You don’t have to, and you really don’t.

Your pastor is just talking about what the Bible says. If the church has a strong vision, I’m certain they will seek financial resources to fulfill that vision, but that vision is all about reaching more people.

My strong hunch is that your church really isn’t all about money.

Here’s a helpful suggestion for you. Read what the Bible says about giving, and ask God what He wants you to do, and do that.

Make it about you and God. No one else. Tell God what you think about giving to the church, He will listen. Then listen to what He says to you.

Original Article taken from: <https://danreiland.com/5-reasons-people-are-drifting-from-church/>



About the Author: Dan Reiland is the Executive Pastor at 12Stone Church in Lawrenceville, Georgia. He previously partnered with John Maxwell for 20 years, first as Executive Pastor at Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego, then as Vice President of Leadership and Church Development at INJOY.

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

We have been asked by Emmanuel's House to donate playing cards to the Eastern Regional Jail



**We need to collect
450 decks of cards!**

The best place to purchase them is at the Dollar Tree. They sell a two pack for \$1. The next time you are at the Dollar Tree, pick up a pack and bring them to St. John's.

The Social Ministry Committee will make sure they get to Emmanuel's House .

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

Shutin and Visitation Workshop

October 15 at 10:30am

If you are currently someone who visits or are possibly interested in serving as a Eucharistic Minister, please join us on Tuesday, October 15. We will go over expectations, how-to, and assign people to shutins.

This is an important ministry. Currently, we have 19 shutins stretching from Winchester to Mount Airy, MD. Visiting means that we are able to remind our shutins of their connection to St. John's and to God. As a Eucharistic Minister, you will work in partnership with Pastor Day in making sure our shutins are cared for and nurtured in their faith.

2019 Christmas Craft Sale

*Our annual Christmas Craft sale will be
November 8 from 10AM - 6PM
November 9 from 10:00 - 4:00.*

WANT TO KEEP UP BETTER WITH ACTIVITIES AND WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S?

Like us on
facebook



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 year of Sunday on Monday, the Christian Education Committee has made plans to continue Sunday on Monday for another year. What is the premise of S.O.M.? Instead of Sunday morning education, we will have "Sunday School" on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month starting September 16. Hence the name, Sundays on Mondays. S.O.M.'s main focus is to tell the story and equip parents to be able to talk about the story at home. Christian Education works best when the story is brought home and is told not only by the pastor and teachers, but by the parents. Since Christian Education is an expectation of all Christians, S.O.M. is open to Adults as well.

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 offered:

Nursery (to the age of Kindergarten)
1st-5th grade

Middle School and High School (youth group night)
Adult Class

Curriculum

Nursery through 5th 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.

October 7th- The Battle of Jericho

October 21st- The Mustard Seed

November 4th- Noah's Ark

November 18th- Bible Trivia

December 2nd- Christmas, St Nicholas and John the Baptist

December 16th- Mary's of the Bible

January 6th- First Communion

January 20th- First Communion

February 3- Baby Moses

February 17- Burning Bush

March 2- The Red Sea


March 16 - David and Goliath

April 6 - Ten Commandments

April 20 - Lord's Prayer

May 4 - Trivia Night

May 18 - The Lord is My Shepherd



IGNITE YOUR FAITH

YOUTH NIGHT

LYFE is for Middle School and High School age kids who wish to come for dinner, Bible Study, and prayer. This will be a space to have safe conversations and to have fun.

**LYFE WILL HAPPEN MOST
MONDAY NIGHTS
FROM 5:45 TO 7:30
IN LUTHER HALL AT
ST. JOHN'S**

**ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL AGE
KIDS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN!**

An opportunity for the youth to grow in spirit through worship, prayer, good food, fun games, and amazing company!

Theology & Bible

TABLE TALK

Food & Drinks

JOIN US

1st Thursday of the
Month

OCT 3RD

6pm at the Daily Grind

Ever want to explore theology in a way that is not intimidating or hard to understand? And do you enjoy, eating out with friends who want to know more about their faith? Then you need to join us for Table Talk.

This Month, we are talking about the importance of diversity. Pastor Diane's sermon from the beginning of September has created some thought-provoking conversation. Let's have those conversations together! Join us!

Pastor Diane will be with us this night.

WELCOME TO WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Apple Harvest is coming quickly – it will be Saturday, October 19. The parade concession stand is 1 of our 2 fundraisers. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be given to help the community.

We sell hot dogs, steamers, nachos, country ham sandwiches, drinks including hot chocolate and coffee, snack items, home-made goods.

We need donations of the following:

-16 oz bottles of water and soft drinks

S-nack sized packages of chips, pretzels, etc

-Homemade goods in individual serving bags – cookies, Rice Krispie treats, candies, munch mix, etc. The homemade foods are usually the best seller in the snack category; so, if you are able, please consider this option.

We will need help, too – you do not need to stay all day – a couple hours is great!

Set-up help includes tent erection; set up tables and chairs; prep food; electrical cords & power strips

Food help – Prep food in kitchen, serve food, keep tables stocked

We also need Large Coolers to help keep drinks cold. If you have a large cooler, we would like to borrow it for the event. You can pick it Sunday in Luther Hall.

Please tell Priscilla if you can help and/or bring a donation.

THANK YOU to you, to congregation, for all the you do to help us.

PET BLESSING

October 6 | 12:30 PM
St John's Parking Lot

It is customary that around October 4th (the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) to bless those furry little creatures who bring us so much joy and blessing in our lives.

Bring your cats, dogs, birds, fish, hamsters, parrots, alligators, snakes etc.

We will gather on grassy-area of our parking lot for some prayer and barking!



*Saturday,
October 12*



We will provide the movie, popcorn
and drinks.

All you need to bring is your family!

Movie starts at 6pm!



Mark Your Calendars
October 27, 2019 at 10 am

Reformation Sunday

German Potluck Follows

Worship in Luther Hall

(Bring your favorite "German" dish to share. If you don't have a favorite German dish, feel free to be creative!)

Sola Scriptura | Sola Fide | Sola Gratia
Solus Christus | Soli Deo Gloria

"From the beginning of my Reformation I have asked God to send me neither dreams, nor visions, nor angels, but to give me the right understanding of His Word, the Holy Scriptures; for as long as I have God's Word, I know that I am walking in His way and that I shall not fall into any error or delusion." -Martin Luther



DECORATE YOUR CAR FOR OUR ANNUAL

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 27 | AFTER LUNCH | CHURCH PARKING LOT

OCTOBER MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tonya Fleming
- 2 Aaron Gatrell
Lauren Oliver
- 4 John Haarman
Nathan Houpt
Jennifer Lewis
- 5 Megan Ruth
- 7 Harrison Banks
- 8 Kathy Chapman
- 9 Jerry Crites
Linda Riley
- 10 Sharon Brumback
- 11 Jonathon Chapman
- 13 Dylan Brewbaker
Sydney Brewbaker
Anthony Gillet
- 14 Matthew R. Clarke
- 15 Douglas Widmeyer
- 16 Marc Eckberg
- 18 Jim Chapman
- 20 Henry C. Eyler
Charlotte Hutzler



ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Margaret & Arnold Bock
- 5 Bess & David Day
- 12 Roxanne & Jeff Spoon
- 18 Frances & Dennis Coffinberger
- 23 Sandy & Ken Stroeck
- 27 Joyce & Gary Roth



Hayride & Bonfire

Trinity Lutheran Church
1643 Pitzer's Chapel Rd
Martinsburg, WV 25403

Friday, October 25 at 6:00pm

Hotdogs and S'mores will be roasted over the fire.

Come to Trinity Lutheran's park for fall fun on this Friday night in October. We'll spend time around a campfire roasting hot dogs and S'mores, which will be provided—chips and drinks too. We'll enjoy a hayride and time together.

Invite friends, neighbors, & family! Kids & Adults!

All are welcome to this fun event.

Bring some unique candy, if you wish, with which to make the S'mores.

Some hits in the past: Peppermint Patties, Reece's Cups, Rolos

Lutheran Learning

The Augsburg Confession and Its Apology

Thursdays, 10:30am to Noon—Oct 17 to Nov 21

Cost: \$12, for the book; 6 sessions

You are invited to join Pastor Christine on this six week study on this Confession of the Lutheran Church (our base document, besides the Bible). Please sign up by emailing or texting Pastor Christine at avcomen@msn.com or 304-995-1491.

21

Place to be announced. Limit: 10 people.

CONFIRMATION WITH POTOMAC EAST CONFERENCE – YEAR 2 (2019-2020)

| Date | 6th and 7th Grade | Teacher | 8th Grade | Reinforcement Activity | Teacher |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| October @ St. John's | Why Church? Presenter: Pastor Karen Panel Discussion led by Pastor Christine | | | | |
| November @ St. John's | God With Us | Pastor Matt and Pastor Karen | Commandments 1-4 | 10 Commandments Movie | Bess and Pastor Diane |
| November | Middle/High School Confirmation Lock In at St. James Uvilla | | | | |
| December @ St. John's | Miracles | Pastor Christine and Pastor Diane | Commandments 5-10 | West Wing Episode - Take this Sabbath Day: Discussion on the Death Penalty | Pastor Matt and Bess |
| January | Confirmation Retreat - Topic: Sacraments | | | | |
| February @ St. Thomas | God's Kingdom | Pastor Diane and Bess | Apostles' Creed | | Pastor Matt and Pastor Christine |
| March @ St. Thomas | Death to life | Pastor Karen and Bess | Lord's Prayer | | Pastor Christine and Pastor Diane |
| April @ St. Thomas | The Church | Pastor Karen | Confession and Forgiveness/Office of the Keys | | Bess and Pastor Christine |
| May | Field Trip to Gettysburg (Friday to Saturday) | | | | |
| Confirmation Sunday - Pentecost (or at your congregation's preference) | | | | | |

SUNDAY SERMONS

October 6 - Small Faith with Super Cosmic Powers

October 13 - It only took one leper.

October 20 - "...What will he find?"

October 27 - The Church Shall Stand

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.

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funerals

Wayne Lester Whitmore

Born: February 26th, 1929 in Martinsburg, WV

Died: September 13th, 2019 in Martinsburg, WV

Weddings

Colin and Devin Banks

Married on September 21st, 2019 outside of
Shepherdstown, WV.

New Members

On Sunday September 22, we welcomed

Jim Sommer

officially into our congregation.

Be sure to say hi to him and welcome him into our
family of God.

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!

Pastor's Report

August 2019

VISITATION

August Visits: 30

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD

Potomac East Conference Meeting

WORSHIP

3 Sunday Worship Services

CHURCH COMMITTEES

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

LYFE Pool Part at Pastor Karen's Home

Back to School Block Party

EDUCATION

Safeguarding God's Children Workshop (2)

MUSTARD SEED

2 Chapel Services with Mustard Seed

WEDDINGS

FUNERALS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CHOIR

MILEAGE

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of August was 301 miles.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,
The other night I was at choir and I notice a piece of music that Heather had picked out to show me. The title of the piece is “Built on a Rock.” There is a hymn in our hymnal with the same title, same words, same tune. Heather asked if it was alright to

sing on Reformation Sunday. I was a little surprised because I had just decided to make the theme this day based around the idea that the church will always stand. Heather and I were thinking the same thing. I had wondered if I discussed my idea with her, but I did no such no thing. It was either a coincidence or the Holy Spirit.

This song holds a special place in my heart. The bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod when I was growing up was Jerry Knoche. He was special, dear person to me. He challenged me but also nurtured me. He was the bishop when I was first entranced and endorsed into seminary. Bishop Knoche home was right up the road from my dad’s parish. When I was a kid (and before he was the bishop), he would host many parties at his house for the area clergy and churches. He had a soda machine that did not require money. My brother and I were fascinated by this machine. We would run up and down and get everyone sodas. Bishop Knoche’s health was never good and he ended up retiring shortly after he was elected to a second term because of his health. At liturgy where we celebrate his ministry and work, the closing him was “Built on a Rock.”

It was a fitting hymn to sing in the midst of uncertainty. Nobody was sure who would be the next bishop. Nobody was sure what direction the synod was heading. At that moment, all that was certain was that Bishop Knoche could no longer faithfully execute the office of bishop and people were nervous. Yet, the hymn reminded us because the church was built on a rock, the church would stand.

502 years ago, a German monk changed Christianity with a document famously called the 95 Theses. This document turned the whole church upside down and created a major division in the church. At that moment in time, uncertainty filled the church. Yet, the message was clear—the church would stand.

Even today, as we many question and wonder about the future of Christianity, I find myself feeling more secure in this idea that the church will always stand. Schisms, reformations, corruptions, scandals, and even

wars have not brought down the church—why are we worried? Maybe we are worried about our own congregation closing and losing this family that has been together for the past 244 years. That is a valid worry and something I too ponder, but I find comfort in the fact that none of the congregations St. Paul wrote his famous letters still stand today. Even though these congregation subcomb to death, Christianity and more imporantly the church still stand today. The good news is still changing hearts and minds just as it did 2000 years ago. Last year, we focused our Reformation liturgy around the blessing of the Word of God. This year, I want to direct our attention to the idea that the church will stand. What is our foundation? What is the rock on which our church was built? What is the church? This is going to be our focus as we remember these past 502 years since the Protestant Reformation, pray for Christian unity, and pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to led us.

Like last year, will also be blessing and handing out Bibles to ever child in 3rd grade and up and to anyone who needs one. We are also asking that everyone bring their own Bibles with them this day as well so that we can bless them and give thanks to God for the words of hope that these books contain. If you are younger and would like a children's Bible, we will have them available too! There is no reason anyone who comes to our worship this day shouldn't leave with the word of God in their hands!

After worship, the social ministry committee is organizing a German Potluck. Now, I know some of you are not German so if you don't have a favorite German dish, bring your favorite, delicious dish. We won't turn it away. After lunch, bring your costumes for our Annual Trunk or Treat. Pray that we have some nice weather but if we don't, we will move the Trunk or Treat inside. According to Facebook, we have over 300 people interested in the event. If you can decorate your car, please do so! Meet our neighbors and show our community that we exist and wish to welcome them into our family.

Also happening in October is Work Day and Fall Planting on October 13. These events have been great ways to build community as we take care of such a special, holy place that God has given to us to use. There are a lot of projects that need to be taken care of around our church. We need to be good stewards and maintain the space so that the work of the gospel can be done. Will you help us out? Wear your work clothes to church or bring some to change into. If we all stick around, the list of things to do could be accomplished in one afternoon!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Mark A. Dargatzis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small "27" at the end.

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

Return Service Requested