

# NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church

101 W. Martin Street

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

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

Pastor: Matthew A. Day



ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN  
MARTINSBURG, WV

## JUNE 2020

THE SEASON AFTER

*Pentecost*

**The Season after Pentecost is when the church explores the teachings and miracles of Jesus.**

Come on this journey with us as we dive deeper into the teachings of our Lord and explore the relevance of these teachings in our lives.

Life in this season after Pentecost will be a bit different this year. We are continuing to look at and weigh the risks of reopening our building to worship. Until then, we will gather as we have been online and over the phone.

# WORSHIP WHILE IN EXILE



Chapel Time with Pastor Matt on Wednesday at 10am on Mustard Seed Facebook Page

**Prayer Every  
Wednesday Night**

**Evening Prayer  
at 7pm**

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You can also join Pastor Matt in the kitchen with his Cooking with Pastor Matt Segments about once or twice a week.

**Sunday Worship at 10am  
MORNING**

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**Access worship by visiting the following:**

[www.facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/live](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/live)

or [www.facebook.com/stthomaswv/](http://www.facebook.com/stthomaswv/)

or call

Toll: (205) 825-9303 (No Access Code Needed)

Toll Free: (844) 854-2222 Access code: 461001#

or <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/pastor345>

**If you are experiencing issues  
dialing into the worship using your cell phone,  
text the phrase,**

**CALL ME to (205) 825-9303.**

**Calling from a landline works best!**

# DAILY PRAYER LED BY THE POTOMAC CONFERENCE CONGREGATIONS

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## Monday Night

Visit Trinity Lutheran Church In  
Arden's Facebook page

**Compline**

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**at 8:15pm**

## Tuesday Morning

Visit Sheperdstown Lutheran  
Parish's Facebook page

**Matins**

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**10am**

## Wednesday Evening

Visit either St. John's or  
St. Thomas Facebook pages

**Vespers**

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**7pm**

## Thursday Night

Visit Trinity Lutheran Church In  
Arden's Facebook page

**Compline**

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**at 8:15pm**

### **Facebook information:**

Trinity Lutheran: [facebook.com/ArdenLutheranWV/](https://facebook.com/ArdenLutheranWV/)  
Sheperdstown Parish:

[facebook.com/shepherdstownlutheranparish/](https://facebook.com/shepherdstownlutheranparish/)

St. Thomas Lutheran : [facebook.com/stthomaswv/](https://facebook.com/stthomaswv/)

St. John's Lutheran: [facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/](https://facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/)



Theology and Bible

# TABLE TALK

Food and Drink

**JOIN US**

1st Thursday of the  
Month

**JUNE 4**

**6pm at your Kitchen Table**

We are going to continue to explore Luther's Small Catechism as we have for the past few months. Luther instructed pastors to teach the Catechism to the entire congregation once a year. Many have called Luther's Catechism a jewel of the church. Come and experience its richness!

To participate In Table Talk visit  
[www.facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/live/](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/live/)  
The comments will be on and we will respond as we see them. If you want to call in and talk  
Dial: (205) 825-9303.



# JUNE 2020 SERMONS

June 7- Did he ever really leave?

June 14- Sent out 6 feet a part

June 21- Can I get a refund

June 28- The Disciple's Reward.

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## A FEW CEMETERY MOWERS NEEDED

The season has started and will go into the Fall for the up-keep of the Old Lutheran - Reformed Cemetery located across from Brown Funeral Home.

We are in great need of “trimmers”, but you will need to bring your own equipment - trimmers, pruners, rakes, etc.

Once we get the winter left-overs cleared away, maintenance is much easier and less often.

We welcome any amount of time and help you can spare.

For more information contact Pat Murphy (304-263-0586).

# St. John's Council Meeting via Phone Conference at 7pm on May 4, 2020

Member Present on Conference Call Roll Call: Pastor Matt, Jerry Crites, Brenda Morrison, Anne Moore, Michael Gottlieb, Drew Catrow, Shane Wagoner, Linda Payne, Rick Losh, Diane Shewbridge, Bess Day, Michael Noll  
Members Absent: Jane Kelley, Trey Voorhees

**Pastor Matt opened the meeting with devotions.**

**Pastor's report on the Synod Conference call on "how to safely open churches" for worship.**

- Wait until we (Berkeley, Jefferson Counties) are not designated as a "hot spot" in WV
- We are not required to open until we are ready and able to do so
- The 3% rate should not be based on state statistics but rather our panhandle rate, currently higher than the state averaged rate
- Financial considerations realizing that the budget may limit how we proceed
- Insurance policy for our church: insurance is not going to cover anything that occurs if attendance is above 5 persons as dictated by Governor Justice
- Pastor and the Council each have responsibilities and roles and should work hand-in-hand as we plan for reopening our church. Should disagreements that cannot be resolved, Bishop Riegel will work with us to resolve the issue/s in disagreement

## **Recommendations from Pastor Matt:**

1. It would be best to take the state's advice and say 3% for 3 consecutive days before we consider reopening for in-person worship.
2. It is important that we listen to data and not desire.
3. It might be good to have worship in the parking lot via people cars using a low power fm transmitter, PA system or simply a bullhorn. FYI, having people leave their cars ups the risk of social distancing not being followed. There are also weather considerations for doing Parking Lot worship. Also, we have limited space in our parking lot. We might need to have people park on the street and park in a way that requires people backing into the lot and blocking people into spots to maximize space.
4. All decisions should be made in consultation with each other. While we have never had these issues before, in this time, we could clash. Bishop Riegel has made himself available if conflicts arise.
5. We make available three service times and one of those services would be for 65 or older. Only have 25 people in Luther Hall. For overflow, we would livestream the worship to Luther Hall. We will need to appoint a leader usher for Luther Hall to ensure proper social distancing is followed, livestream is started, and the people's needs are met. No overflow in the chapel. No nursery care and we should close the nursery off to use. Further consideration/Recommendation: If multiple worship services are unfeasible,

we might want to consider worship services during the week.

6. Corporate, in-person worship cannot resume until our plan for reopening has been put into full effect.

7. The synod will be holding a conference call around reopening the church for a Max of 2 people from each congregation. I suggest we appoint two people to attend. They will be putting out a video of the call that others can watch later.

### **Discussion via conference call:**

- Live stream of services will continue after we reopen the church on any level.
- Perhaps the train station parking lot could be used on Sunday morning as there is more room for distance spacing of vehicles. A low power fm unit would need to be purchased as a bull horn is not practical as there are residences near the train station. Might also be a conflict of church vs state if complaints of this activity were reported. Bess offered to purchase the low power fm transmitter unit and donate it for whatever use may be identified in the future.
- Once able to return to the church for services, should several services be offered, i.e., one for members age 65 and older, maybe one service during the week, etc. Average attendance prior to Covid19 was 88. When Berkeley County is removed from the hot spot status, our attendance would be 25 per space. Should we request or require reservations to attend service or services, alternate Sundays that congregants would attend, use Luther Hall and or the Chapel as overflow areas? To be determined as a reopening date is closer on the horizon. There are several considerations that make it impossible to open up for services. Which area allows for the safest space to open first? Cushions in the church would have to be removed. Entrance would need to be via the W. Martin St./elevator entrance. Ushers would instruct congregants where to sit and have a 6' measure to ensure distancing and mark which pews should be left empty. (only family units who live together may sit with one another). Linda Payne and Pastor Matt will arrange for training the ushers on the proper procedures. Best seating would be to fill available space from the front of the church to the back, and be dismissed from back to front to limit the possibility of transferring germs as people pass by others as they leave in the aisles. Keep all restrooms closed, open only one, or open both? Requires folks to go into the Chapel.
- Would it be better to open Luther Hall for services first? Hard surfaces are easier to clean, one entrance, via the parking lot which is handicap accessible, one bathroom, in the hallway next to the lounge, would be unisex with wipes and disinfectant spray to be used before/after each use. All other areas off-limits. Ushers still dictate seating.

In either area, the following would have to be observed

- Consider limiting the service to 30 minutes as the procedures for opening and closing will take some extra time.
- The offering plates will be placed at the back of the church and not passed during the service.
- Posters outlining the procedures for social distancing will be hung throughout. Pastor Matt will take on developing and sourcing.
- 6 foot distancing as people line up to enter the building.
- Face masks would be required to be worn at all times with no exceptions – St. John’s will buy and/or make face masks, 100% cotton, which will be collected and laundered. (Jerry Crites volunteered to do the laundering) Kathy Chapman will be contacted to send email request for mask-makers. Drew Catrow will coordinate with volunteer mask makers. We will need 50 to get started.
- Temperatures taken via infrared thermometer. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or more will be asked to return home along with family members. A roll call vote was taken with one “no” vote and the rest “yes” for taking temperature before people are admitted into the church.
- Ushers would record the names of anyone entering for # attending and for contact tracing if necessary.
- Limit paper transfer wherever possible. Disposable bulletins, limited singing (if only 1 service per week would hymnals be safe to reuse without cleaning?)
- Readings could be done with readers staying at their seat. If a microphone is used it will need to be sanitized before being used by someone else. All greetings, i.e., hand shaking, elbow or fist bumping, or any other physical contact will not be permitted in order to keep the social distancing of 6 feet.
- Communion could be most safely administered as ‘one kind’ (wafer only); exact distribution procedure to be determined later. See further explanation on the distribution of Communion below.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for worship and all are encouraged to bring their own to use during the service.
- A two-month supply of cleaning supplies will need to be on hand before opening – church or Mustard Seed – and backfilled ongoing. Bess has 7 vendors we have dealt with and an additional vendor to place orders with. Germ killing hand sanitizer, wipes, spray, cleaning supplies, etc. Cleaning all used areas after services.
- Everyone would be expected to clean their pew or chair as they prepare to leave the service.
- There will be no nursery until further notice.
- Aaron, sexton, will need to put in extra hours to properly clean after worship and Mustard Seed.

### **Communion Handling and Distribution:**

- The set up and care of the vessels will be handled by the pastor. Altar guild



- will still handle changing and care of paraments and communion linens.
- We will have hand sanitizers and wipes close to the communion distribution area for the pastor to use.
  - Communion wafers will be used.
  - Communion will be distributed under one kind. During distribution, people will hear both words said.
  - The host will be distributed by the pastor. The pastor will be wearing gloves and a mask. Congregants will be asked to hold your hands up so that I can drop the wafer into a congregant's hand. If that is not possible, we can have small cups available so that these persons can just hold the cup out.
  - Congregants will remain in their pews and the pastor will come to them.
  - Theologically speaking, distribution under one kind is valid. The proclamation, "The blood of Christ, shed for you" will still be said. After this pandemic is over, we will return to past communion practices.
  - For those who cannot come to worship because they are in the vulnerable population, Pastor Matt will take communion to their home and distribute the elements to them using the rite typically used for those are informed or shut-in. Distribution will take place on the front porch. Persons wishing to receive communion in this way must sign up with Pastor Matt ahead of time. Essential Services to resume when safely possible, abiding by distancing, crowd size, masks, etc. include :Funerals, weddings, baptisms, Friends Feeding Friends.
  - Pastor will meet with Wagoners to discuss Vacation Bible School.
  - Mustard Seed reopening will not be before June 1<sup>st</sup> and only when all safety precautions are in place. Only those associated with the Mustard Seed will be allowed into Luther Hall during school hours.
  - All group activities, i.e., Sierra Club, showers, birthday parties, etc. are cancelled. Anyone with an event already approved will be notified and no new bookings will be taken.
- Considerations as we move forward:
- No one is permitted to enter Luther Hall without permission and by appointment. This is to prevent contamination and keep a safe work space for Martha, Pastor, Rick, Sharon and Bess, etc. The cloth coverings have been removed from the table in the lounge to facilitate counting the offering. No one should enter the office until Martha has left for the day.
  - A call list would be useful for contacting church members for welfare checks, updates on church activities, etc.
  - No choir rehearsals for now. May reconvene in the Fall depending on the status of the virus in our area.
  - The pipes will need to be flushed due to limited use. HVAC is under a service contract and will be serviced and will fulfill CDC recommendations.

- We need a plan for the next outbreak occurs; what can we do to be prepared should the virus break out again?
- Brenda Morrison has been keeping track of the confirmed Covid-19 cases in Berkeley County, Jefferson County, and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. Because Berkeley and Jefferson Counties are state ‘hot spots’ the state statistics do not reflect the local statistics which are more problematic than the state statistics.
- We will stay out of church until our supplies are stocked, ushers and assistants with services are trained in the procedures we will adopt, and when our local statistics indicate that with all safety precautions in place and 25 people are permitted to gather as per state regulations.
- Brenda Morrison and Jerry Crites, representing St. John’s, will join in the upcoming Synod conference call regarding the virus and reopening of our churches. A video of the conference call will be made available for viewing at a later date.

A note regarding property concerns: There is a problem with the roof or spouting over Luther Hall that needs to be investigated to determine the source of some water leaking in. One estimate has been received for completing the work on the steeple (\$171,000) and other estimate/s are pending. Several members were remembered for continuing to work on projects during the time the church has been closed.

The next meeting of council will be June 8<sup>th</sup> unless a need to meet comes up before then. Meeting will be by phone conference unless conditions at that time permit a face-to-face meeting abiding by social distancing guidelines.

With no further business at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Pastor Matt and seconded by Linda Payne. All voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Shewbridge



# Stewardship

*a way of life*

**Each month, we will focus on a different ministry and show different ways that you can support their work. This month we will focus on:  
BERKELEY BACKPACK PROGRAM AND  
KIDS COMMUNITY PACKS**

The BackPack Program was piloted in 1995 after a Arkansas school nurse noticed students coming back from weekends and school vacations with symptoms of hunger. Working with the local food bank, the nurse was able to provide school children with groceries in nondescript backpacks to carry home. As an official program of the National Council of Feeding America, the BackPack program was brought to Berkeley County by a team of local parents in 2010. Through countless volunteer hours and generous donations from our sponsors and people like you, our mission of discreetly providing food to hungry Berkeley County students is becoming a reality. Kidz Power Pacs is currently feeding 1025+ children and estimating more this school year! Many more children are being added as the teachers continue to identify. We currently are serving 42 schools in two counties. Packing's are held monthly at Eagle School Intermediate. We unload the trucks on Friday night starting at 4:30 pm. We always pack on a Saturday so families can serve together. So bring the children!! We start at 9:00 am with fellowship, demonstration/sharing from other outreaches and prayer over the children, families, our counties, our country and any prayer request. Packing starts at 10:00 am. Please keep updated on packing dates on our home page! If you have a non profit and would like to set up and share about your ministry during packing please contact us. Accepting sponsors for the new school year. All it takes is \$20 a month to feed a child. Thank you in advance for your help!!!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND MAKING  
SURE THESE ORGANIZATIONS CAN MAKE SURE  
NO CHILD EVER GOES HUNGRY**

# What are Summer Camps doing this summer?

As of right now, they are waiting to see what the CDC says in order to hold camp safely. Camp Luther will not be holding summer camp this summer. While it is sad (especially for the Seniors who are missing out on another activity). Caroline Furnace is working out ways to do summer camp both online and inperson.

## **How is Caroline Furnace being affected by COVID-19?**

We'll get through this together! Thank you for any support you are able to provide during this time.

To put it simply, donor support is what will get us through this outbreak and the related shutdowns. Typical revenue from rentals for the second quarter is at zero, fall and winter deposits will help but cannot sustain us on their own, and all Summer Camp revenue is being held in an account separate from our operating budget in case of refunds. We are operating on a reduced budget and have adjusted all variable expenses.

## **How can I best support Caroline Furnace during this time?**

Join our 20 For 20 campaign by giving \$20 monthly in 2020 and beyond. A solid foundation of regular giving allows us to shift our focus from basic operations to a focus of growth and better reflecting Christ's presence in and through Caroline Furnace.

## **Are they still booking group retreats?**

YES, they are still booking rental groups for the Summer and Fall! We recognize that our communities will be especially in need of time together on retreat as soon as it is safe to do so. Contact Julie at [julie@carolinefurnace.org](mailto:julie@carolinefurnace.org) or (540) 449-0012 to book your retreat.

## **Are they allowing day use?**

YES, they are! An important part of outdoor ministry is getting to spend time outdoors in God's creation. Individuals and families are welcome to come spend time outdoors at our main property between 9 and 5 each day.

## Before you come to Caroline Furnace:

Please check in and out at the office - a check-in sheet is provided outside the office door.

Just like you do in the National Forest, plan to "pack it in, pack it out." Bring your own food/snacks and a reusable water bottle. Everything you bring to Caroline Furnace needs to return home, including trash.

No swimming or boating. You may fish from the bank if you'd like.

Leave pets at home. Service animals are welcome.

A composting toilet is available by the swimming area at the lake.

Free will donations are encouraged. Thank you for any support you are able to provide during this time.

	Entering Grades 1-3	Entering Grades 4-6	Entering Grades 7-9	Entering Grades 9-12	16 & 17 Years Old
<b>June 14 to July 3</b>	<b>Camp at Home:</b> See your camp counselors, spend time with your "cabin group", and join in on fun camp activities - all from home! PJs optional.				June 23 & 25 LIT! Part 1 (online)
<b>WEEK THREE</b> July 5-9	Classic		Classic	Classic	
	Adventure		Adventure		
<b>WEEK FOUR</b> July 12-16	Classic		Classic	Classic	
	Adventure		Adventure		
<b>WEEK FIVE</b> July 19-23	Classic		Classic	Adventure	
	Adventure		Adventure		
<b>WEEK SIX</b> July 26-30	Explorer	Classic			LIT! Part 2 Option
		Adventure			
<b>WEEK SEVEN</b> Aug 2-6	Explorer	Classic			LIT! Part 2 Option
		Adventure			

**July 7-9:** Family Camp Out-Trip on the Shenandoah | **July 14-16:** Family Camp half-week

**NOTE:** Camp weeks have been shortened to Sunday to Thursday. Each camp will co-isolate as a small group of 10 people or less. Adventure Camps may include local day trips off-site.

**Visit <https://www.carolinefurnace.org/> for more information about camping and outdoor opportunities this summer!**

To The Congregation St. John's Lutheran Church

As we struggle daily during this time of crisis, we must come to you now prayerfully requesting your help. We depend on our weekly giving to maintain our ministry in Martinsburg. Since we are not gathering as a congregation, now through the end of April, we are hoping you either mail your giving envelope each week, or scan the QR code on the next page

Even though we are not meeting Sunday mornings, the work of Christ goes on. One such important outreach is to feed the hungry, and we do that with Friends Feeding Friends. This has been an important community outreach for a number of years and with the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be rethinking how we continue this critically important ministry.

We pray that the Covid-19 virus will be contained soon, and we can all get back to our regular worship services.

Yours in Christ,

Your Congregational Council

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

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

Visit Our Website

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

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



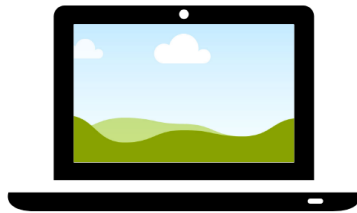
Send an email to [announcements@stjohnsmartinsburg.org](mailto:announcements@stjohnsmartinsburg.org) to sign up for weekly emails and announcements.

**Even though the church  
might not be able to  
gather, our mission to  
preach the gospel and do  
God's work does not stop.**

**Your offering makes this  
work possible.**



**By Mail**



**Online**

Your offering envelopes do not require a stamp. Simply drop it in the mailbox and it will make it back to us. Or consider setting up online giving. If you are not able to give at this time because of no income, we understand. Take care of yourself and your family. If you can give, please do so.



**Scan the QR Code  
or visit our website at  
[stjohnsmartinsburg.org](http://stjohnsmartinsburg.org)  
and click Online Giving  
And Thank You!**



**Theme Verse:**  
I am sure of this, that he who  
started a good work in you will  
carry it on to completion until  
the day of  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
Philippians 1:6 (CSB)

**Motto**  
**Jesus! Our Strong Foundation!**

**VBS is happening July 5-9th via online  
and by mail.**

Visit <http://www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org/> and click on  
the link on the front page to register today!

This year's theme of Concrete & Cranes will include:

High Steel Worship Rally

Bulldozer Crafts

Blueprint Bible Study

Wrecking Ball Rec

Jackhammer Music

Food Truck Snacks

Excavator Missions

Please register by June 6th so that we make sure we  
have enough supplies and have the time to mail out  
all the packages.

Are all your kids grown up? Consider sponsoring a child this  
summer by contributing \$30 to the VBS program. Your donation  
will make sure everyone participating will receive a custom box full  
of materials to use.



# Milestones in June

## Birthdays

1	Mike Janney
3	Matthew Losh
6	Asa Arrington
	Pearl Brown
	Linda Gillet
8	Rebekah Eyler
	Wayne Middleton
9	Sarah Cosner
10	Amy Hartley
	Abigail McBee
13	Pat Hartley
	Sarah Shewbridge
14	Tim Gochenour
17	Spencer Byers
18	Amelia Park
20	Charlotte Hutzler
21	Jennifer (Propst) Arrington
22	Donna Aikens
	Andrew Crites
	Nicholas Crites
	Stephen Crites
	Ray Watkins
26	Bess Day
27	Robin Robinson
29	Arnold Bock
	Jennifer Moss

## Anniversaries

5	Vicky and Bill Torbert
7	Beverly and Patrick Murphy
12	Allison and Kevin Flynn
	Priscilla and Douglas Horner
16	Pastors Matt and Diane Day
26	Jennifer and Steve Arrington

**We would love to include  
all of our church families  
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.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,  
We all thought this would be over by now. Clearly, the none of us could have imagined the impact that Covid-19 would have on our society and our world. The sad fact and reality is that this pandemic is not

going anywhere anytime soon. Economists are worried that another great depression is on the horizon. Businesses are weighing the risks of reopening. Churches are trying to figure out if all the restrictions are worth it in order to gather physically. Many have lost jobs. Graduating Seniors have missed out on the end of year activities and graduation. Many of these same seniors do not know what the fall holds for them. There is a great deal of uncertainty in the world right now.

Yet, we know that our Lord has not abandoned us. In Matthew 28, Jesus tells the disciples, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." Depending on where you are at, it might feel like the end of the age is much closer than ever before. You might be reading this with a great amount of worry in your heart. I can tell you this, I worry too. I worry about my two sons getting sick. I worry about bring home this virus and not realizing it. I am not so much worried about getting sick or dying. I worry about getting my boys sick.

At the same time, I see so much anger in the world right now. I hear so much about people refusing to wear masks. I have also read about some people spitting and coughing on store employees when asked to put on their masks.

My brothers and sisters, the way we deal with fear and anxiety is not by showing anger, but by showing love. Every time I go to the store, I thank my clerk for being there and I say, "Stay healthy." Many of these workers have not had a break in two months. They are tired, stressed, and many are severely underpaid. They deserve our love and respect, not our anger. I implore you to show love to all you meet. Jesus said, turn the other cheek. So, turn the other cheek this day. Show love and please, wear a mask. One thing scientists are learning is that so many who have Covid-19 are asymptomatic (meaning they have no symptoms and are just a carrier). Until a vaccine is developed, wearing a mask is the only way to keep others who are not asymptomatic from developing the virus. The more we can do to stop the spread of this virus, the less ill-effect the virus will have on our future. So I implore you, through the fourth

commandment, to listen to the officials and heed their advice.

I remember after 9/11, our country banded together and were unified for the first time in a long time. This is our time to once again, be unified. We can do this. I know we can. I have seen it. This virus will go away and how will we look at the end of all of this? Let our legacy be defined and rooted in love.

On May 31, we remembered all those seniors who did not have the same opportunity that most of have us had to celebrate such major accomplishments in our education. Diane and I were talking about how devastating this has to be for our seniors and yet, I hear so many stories of them taking it in stride. Nonetheless, this is a painful thing and we should not make light of it. It is why we decided to set time in our worship to remember them and pray for them. So, congratulations on all that you have done. The world needs you right now! I know you won't let us down!!!

Some updates from our congregation:

- Council meets on June 8th to review all the data and make a decision when to reopen and what that will look like. As of right now, I am assuming that no changes will take place but that could change. We will let you know. We will be mailing out worship materials that you can use at home. If you did not receive a copy and wish to receive a packet, let me know.
- Regardless of what happens, online and over the phone worship will continue for those who do not feel safe attending worship.
- VBS is going to happen, but online this year. See page 17 for more information. Please register by June 6th so that we can mail all your VBS gear to your family by July 5th.
- The Mustard Seed has applied for a Crisis License and hopes to be open sometime in June. The board is weighing all the risks and is working on making sure that when the school opens, it will be as safe as possible.
- The council also okay my request to work from home for the foreseeable future. If you wish to call me, you can call (304) 370-3349. I love to chat on the phone and to hear your voice. I have been working my way through the directory. It has been a much slower process because I usually end up having some great conversations.

Continue to pray for an end to this virus. Make this a petition each time you pray. Our duty as Christians is to prayer and may we never forget that all prayers are heard and answered by God.

In Christ,



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

Return Service Requested