

# NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Matthew A. Day - Pastor



ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN  
MARTINSBURG, WV

## September 2020

### WELCOME BACK!

#### **Worship continues to be held outside through September.**

Bring a chair and a mask (if you forget, we have extras of both). Covid19 has not gone away so we are taking all necessary precautions to make worship as safe as possible for you and your family. We want to stress that if you are sick, think you might have been exposed to the virus, or if you are in the vulnerable population for contracting the virus, that you should stay home and worship with us through the phone or online.



*Here, McKenzie Wagoner and Danica Propst move a box of backpacks just filled with all the necessary school supplies for the fall semester. This is just a few of the 400 backpacks we packs all made possible by your generosity!*

#### **In this Issue:**

- Conference Book Study
- Confirmation This Fall
- Our Christian Education Plans during the Pandemic
- Update on the Backpacks
- Pastor Matt's Letter

# TWO WAYS TO WORSHIP

.....  
(If there is inclement weather, we will hold worship  
via online and over-the-phone)

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Starting July 26

OR

## VIRTUAL WORSHIP

**Worship  
at 10am  
in the  
Parking lot**

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**Worship  
at 10am  
VIA  
Facebook Live  
or on over the  
phone**

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**Access worship by visiting the following:**  
[www.facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/live](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/live)

### **For Non-Facebook Users:**

Access worship by going to <https://tinyurl.com/ya9f4sak>  
(You may need to enter the meeting ID and password...  
see below)

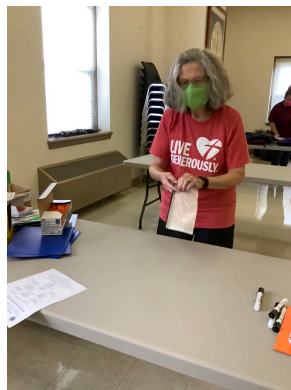
**Or you can call 1-301-715-8592**

When Prompted, enter the Meeting ID and Password:

Meeting ID: 991 8358 5812

Password: 745576

**If you need a toll-free option,  
please contact Pastor Matt.**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**  
**OVER 447 BACKPACKS FILLED**  
**WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES &**  
**\$6130.77 DONATED TO PURCHASE**  
**BACKPACKS AND SUPPLIES**

Nothing is impossible for God. Not even a pandemic can stop our mission of proclaiming hope to our community.



# WELCOME TO WELCA

Just love – just love – just love.....

Just this minute, really just now, I found out about a wonderful opportunity for any woman (young or not so young) to get a taste of THE GATHERING.

Most of you know that I have been fortunate enough to attend the triennial national gathering of WELCA; both have been amazing experiences that I will never forget. From the worship, Bible studies, guest speakers, international musicians, break-out sessions on a wide variety of interests, and the display rooms!!! – WOW!!!

This event should have been held the past July, BUT.....COVID.

**It has been re-scheduled for August 2021.**

**ON SATURDAY, SEPTMEBER 12, FROM 1-3 pm WELCA** is having a virtual preview of The Gathering. The theme is Just Love. Pastor Angela Kabeeb will present a Bible study on the theme. The artist in residence will be there; there will be music and more...

Honestly, I can't wait.

Pre-registration is needed; so, please let me, Priscilla Horner (prhh53@aol.com), or the the church office know that you are interested. Once we get the information and link, we will forward it along to you.

I am looking forward to hearing from many of you!



## St. John's Council Meeting via Zoom at 7pm on August 17, 2020

Member Present on Roll Call: Pastor Matt, Jerry Crites, Anne Moore, Michael Gottlieb, Drew Catrow, Linda Payne, Rick Losh, Mike Noll, Diane Shewbridge, Shane Wagoner, Bess Day (Treasurer)

**Members Absent:** Jane Kelley, Trey Vorhees, Brenda Morrison

President Jerry Crites opened the meeting with prayer followed by a roll call of members present.

Minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting were approved by acclamation as amended.

**Pastor's Report:** Many meetings dealing with the Mustard Seed. A new director was appointed. Ms Brenda Butler officially started on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will continue as the new director begins to make plans for enhancing the program going forward. Everything is ready-to-go for outdoor worship at St. John's. Augsburg is no longer extending free license for music. There are options for licensing but all are at a cost. Pastor recommended not to purchase licensing at this time as there are many hymns that are free. Counsel agreed. Sunday school program will possibly be via zoom this fall on some Sunday afternoons.

**Unfinished Business:** Church will reopen outdoors in the parking lot on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. (M/S/P: Linda Payne; Pastor Matt) Roll Call vote was taken with no one voting against the motion. A video will be posted on St. John's website this evening detailing what the outdoor service will look like. Quotes have been requested to update our security systems. Both the electronic system and the keyless entry system are old and parts are no longer available. Hopefully these systems can be updated but if not, new system will be needed. Parking lot lighting project is ongoing. Rick Losh will meet at church this Wednesday morning with contractors to discuss lighting options.

**New Business:** A request has been made by Brenda Butler, the new Mustard Seed director, for written rules regarding the use of Luther Hall. Some specific concerns are the use of scooters, balls, and other play things used in Luther Hall for indoor play. A committee comprised of Pastor Matt, Ms Butler, Drew and a teacher from the Mustard Seed will meet to work on a written policy. Mustard Seed update from Rick. Good communications with staff and parents are underway. Zoom meeting for Mustard Seed staff was held with another Zoom meeting scheduled for parents this coming week. There are 50 students signed up so far for the Mustard Seed this fall. Search for a cook is ongoing. Betty Lou is filling in until a cook can be hired. Filling backpacks for school children is underway. 240 have been packed with more to be packed after church this Sunday. Bag lunches for Friends Feeding Friends during Covid is being distributed outside. About 120 bags are distributed each month. Donations may be solicited to help with the cost. Our member, Pete Long, who recently passed

away has left St. John's a donation to be used for FFF but other donations will be needed going forward.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bess Day, treasurer, is looking for qualifying charges to submit so that we don't have to return some of the PPP funding received for the Mustard Seed to the Feds. Summer enrollment in the Mustard Seed was 30-40% of the usual. The church may lose \$9,000 as the outgoing director did not apply for the government food program. The new director is back-billing Mountain Heart to hopefully recoup lost funding that was not billed since last December. The new director is installing a computer program, Pro Care, that will simplify several processes involving the nurse school operation from student check-in/out, online payment by parents, staff time clock functions, etc. This is a program she has used in the past and is very familiar with and will make bookkeeping and other processes easier for our secretary and treasurer as well as other statistics needed. The Endowment is up again. Of the \$56,000 loss last quarter, \$41,000 has been recovered. Some funds have been needed from the Endowment to purchase things required to get things started under Covid conditions. Trustees need to meet to decide where to move money in a Bank of Charles Town account for which we are paying an annual maintenance fee.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Christian Education:** no report

**Social Ministry:** See notes above on Friends Feeding Friends and Back program

**Evangelism:** committee will meet via Zoom on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> a 2pm

**Worship and Music:** Drew reported that an electronic organ has been donated and will be used in the chapel

**LYFE:** no report

**Property:** no report

**Mutual Ministry:** no report

**Stewardship:** help is needed this Sunday after worship to fill more backpacks

**Mustard Seed:** Rick expressed much thanks to those who have helped greatly with rebuilding the Mustard Seed program: covid readiness, hiring new personnel, \$5,000 grant applied for and awarded, improved communications and more.

Meeting ended at 8:15pm with prayer by Pastor Matt.

Next meeting: Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Shewbridge

## **WANT TO KEEP UP BETTER WITH ACTIVITIES AND WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S? DO THESE THREE SIMPLE THINGS:**



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



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

Sermons posted weekly, information about faith practices, and more



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



Theology and Bible

# TABLE TALK

Food and Drink

JOIN US

1st Thursday of the  
Month

SEPTEMBER 3RD

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/](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/live/)

The comments will be on and we will respond as we see them. Non-Facebook users can use Zoom & go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybvjonjy> or call 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID 958 6794 4027 and then enter the Password 067348

# CONFIRMATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Because of COVID19, we have had to make some changes to the confirmation program in order to provide a safe environment for our confirmands, teachers, and mentors. Even with these changes, we are still striving to provide an opportunity for relationship building, education, and mentorship for all confirmands in order to better prepare them for full membership in the body of Christ. This year there will be two class meetings a month:

1. Everyone in the program (no matter the grade) will gather once a month via zoom for an hour and half for class time. The curriculum that we will be using is Colaborate: Lutheran Confirmation - Lutheran Living. It will focus on some of the bigger, theological ideas of what makes us distinctively Lutheran. Learn more by going to <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286838/Colaborate-Lutheran-Confirmation>
2. Each congregation will gather its confirmands once a month for another zoom call focusing on setting up mentorships, introducing confirmands to different aspects of their congregation's life and ministry, and preparing them to be full members of their congregation.

## **Location:**

On-line through at least the fall semester. Everything depends on the virus and how the outbreaks are addressed.

## **Participating Congregations:**

- St. John's Lutheran Church
- St. Peter's Lutheran Church
- St. James Lutheran Church
- St. Thomas Lutheran Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church

## **Materials needed for Class**

1. A Bible.
2. Luther's Small Catechism
3. A notebook.
4. Your Colaborate: Lutheran Confirmation Student Handbook

## **Expectations for Parents, Students, and church members:**

• **Rule number 1: It's all going to be okay.**

• **Attend class when possible.** Life happens and there will be times when you can't make it to class—just don't make it a habit. If you



miss a class or have to leave more than hour early from class, there will be a written assignment that you must complete before the next class period. They will be available on our website or by sending your pastor an email.

•**The Confirmation Retreat is important, but we just do not know what the future holds. We hope to make this happen.**

•**Sermon Notes:** Need to be done once a month and turned in at each Confirmation class.

•**Bring your books!**

•**Be on time.**

•**Participate in class discussion.**

•**Serve in Worship when possible**

•**Parents, we ask that you be open to talking to your children about what they learn.** Ask questions and encourage them to share their point of view. You are their role models when it comes to faith so don't be shy in sharing your faith with you children.

•**Church members, when you see a confirmand at worship or around town, introduce yourself, talk to them about their faith, make sure they feel welcomed and appreciated. We need good role models!**



# Parent and Student Planning Meeting

SEPTEMBER 13TH AT 1PM

ONLINE AT [SHORTURL.AT/IRBV9](https://shorturl.at/irbv9)

Please have your school schedules and personal schedules as we will plan the dates for the coming year.

# SEPTEMBER 2020 SERMONS

September 6- Wanna Change the World? Try Forgiveness.

September 13- Jesus: "Did I stutter, Peter?"

September 20- Employment Law according to Jesus.

September 27- A story about authority, Tax collectors, and Prostitutes.

**Ushers Needed**  
*Are you willing to serve?*

Covid19 has required the council to implement certain safety precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible while attending worship. One of those safety precautions is utilizing more ushers than normal. By using more ushers, we can ensure that nobody is stuck doing all the work and there will not be much crossover of tasks in the hopes of lower one's person's risk of exposure to the virus.

1. Usher in Charge of the Offering and Masks
2. Usher to help take names of everyone attending worship
3. Usher to hand out Bulletins
4. Usher to help seat people
5. Usher to bring Chairs out to the Parking Lot
6. Usher to clean up chairs and bring them back to Luther Hall
7. Usher to bring a power chord and ethernet cable to the Parking lot
8. Usher in charge of the Sound System



# 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:**

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Founded in 1992, Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Panhandle is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International and is a 501c3 not-for-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry. We build simple, energy efficient and affordable houses for low income families in Berkeley, Morgan and Jefferson Counties. Families who apply for an opportunity to partner with Habitat EP must meet the income guidelines, have a reportable source of income and demonstrate that they are in substandard living conditions.

Habitat homes are built with donated funds and materials, utilizing volunteer labor with professional oversight and sold to a partner family. These homes are affordable because they are serviced by an Habitat EP zero interest mortgage amortized over 20 years. In keeping with the biblical economics of Habitat, there is no profit on each home built. Mortgage payments include insurance and property tax, while the principal is returned to the construction building fund to finance the building of future homes. This truly completes the circle of partnering for each family. Habitat does not have clients or customers; we have partners. Habitat partner families are required to complete 500 hours of "sweat equity" before occupying the house, gaining self-reliance and skills to become successful homeowners. Continued guidance is provided for families such as assistance with budgeting, home maintenance and other issues that may arise.

To Learn more about Habitat for Humanity In the Eastern Panhandle, visit <http://www.habitatsep.org/>.



# Ways

to

# Give



**At Worship**



**By Mail**



**Online**

Covid19 has taught us that our mission of preaching the gospel does not stop even while the rest of world stops. Online giving has enabled many to continue to contribute during this time of exile and Isolation.

We thank you for your generosity and continued support. Your gifts given at worship, by mail or online ensure that we can continue In our work of proclaiming the good news. 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!**



# Evangelism Corner

How do you Invite  
people to church  
during a pandemic  
when everyone  
says to social-  
distance?

Share our facebook posts, share our  
emails, share our newsletter, invite  
people to join you for worship online,  
share the sermon, share the phone  
number to listen to our worship over  
the phone., share, share, share!!!!

Evangelism does not have to be complicated.  
All it takes is your willingness to just share  
what we are doing as a congregation with  
someone you know. With so much of our  
ministry in a digital form, it is now easier than  
ever before. The BEST Evangelism tool of any  
congregation is still the PEOPLE.

**We are having conversations about  
evangelism. Join in on the conversation on  
September 20 after worship.**



## **MEET BRENDA L. BUTLER**

### **NEW DIRECTOR OF THE MUSTARD SEED CHILD CARE CENTER.**

She has a B.S. Degree from West Virginia University in Early Childhood Development and Education and an M.Ed from Concordia University.

She comes with over 24 years' experience working with children and families in Early Childhood Education Programs. Most recently Brenda came from the Children's Learning Center at Hagerstown Community College where she was the Lead PreK Teacher since 1998, and also served as the Administrative Assistant to the Director since 2003. The center was closed due to Covid-19 in May 2020.

Brenda has lived in Martinsburg since 1996 with her Husband, Brett, daughters Sydney and Gabrielle, and two fur babies, Dutchess and Apollo.

She is looking forward to working with the families, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church and members of the community. She hopes to be able to work with the community to partner on projects that will benefit both the community and The Mustard Seed.

# 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

**Now that we are back in-person, let make September 6 a day when we remember food insecurity in our community. Bring some non-perishable food items with you to worship. Let's fill up a couple of carts! Food will be donated to CCAP. And Thank you for your generosity.**

# HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS FALL?!?!

Sunday School is going to be very different this year, but let's be honest, Sunday School has been different for a long, long time.

We are looking at a few different options, one being a once or twice gathering online for children (very similar to what we did with VBS this year). Because virtual takes out distance as an obstacle, we could partner with another congregation and do Sunday School together.

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THERE ARE LOTS OF OPTIONS THAT WE  
STILL SORTING OUT...WE JUST NEED A  
LITTLE BIT MORE TIME.

And remember, the best teachers for your children are their parents. Modeling good Christian behavior is one of the best ways you can teach your children about Jesus.

And let us know  
what you are  
thinking too!





## **2020 Family Retreat Details**

Please call Julie at (540) 449-0018 or email [julie@carolinefurnace.org](mailto:julie@carolinefurnace.org) if you have questions or would like more information. We look forward to hosting your family this summer!

Caroline Furnace will be open for Family Retreats beginning on July 9. We are grateful that Virginia continues to view outdoor activity as essential, and that we are able to provide outdoor faith, education, and renewal in a safe way. We can host a maximum of 5 family groups (of 10 or less) on property at once; spaces are first come, first served.

- For family groups of 10 or less; 14 days of Health Pre-Screening required for all participants
- Minimum stay is two nights; maximum four nights (3pm Thursday to 11am Monday)
- The Farmhouse and Sukkah Village are optional no-contact retreat spaces.

### **Farmhouse (\$200-250 per night\*)**

- \*Cost is a flat rate of \$200 per night for 1-6 people, or \$250 for 7-10 people
- Wi-Fi is provided. You can continue to work and study remotely while on retreat.
- You'll have a fully equipped kitchen; only ingredients are needed. Bed linens and towels are provided.

### **Cabin Village (\$200-250 per night, meals included\*)**

- \*Cost is a flat rate of \$200 per night for 1-6 people, or \$250 for 7-10 people, +\$50 for A/C (Cabin 7 & 8)
- Wi-Fi is provided. You can continue to work and study remotely while on retreat.
- Bathroom shower times are scheduled by family. Each group will have a designated rain space and campfire circle. Up to three family groups may stay in the Cabin Village at one time.

### **Sukkah Village (\$50 per night\*)**

- \*Cost is a flat rate of \$50 per night for 1-6 people, or \$75 for 7-10 people
- You may choose tent camping or RV camping (no RV hookups -regular 110v power available)
- Camping stoves allowed; a fire circle and firewood is also available
- The pavilion and one side of the bathhouse will be open.

### **Meals (+\$20-35 per meal, per family)**

- For Farmhouse and Sukkah Village groups: add \$20 per breakfast or lunch, \$25 per dinner for up to 6 people; add an additional \$10 per meal for 7-10 people
- Breakfast 8:00am, Lunch 12:30pm, Dinner 5:30pm
- Meals are provided by outdoor take-out or by delivery to your cabin porch/lodging space.
- Bag lunches are available if you are traveling off-site.

### **Staff-led Activities (+\$50 per day / for two activities)**

- You may choose from 1 to 3 days of staff-led activities. Plan for 1 to 1.5 hours per activity.
- At least one adult must participate in each staff-activity and is expected to provide supervision.
- 6+ feet of distancing is required. If this isn't realistic (first aid), our staff will wear a mask/gloves.
- Pick Two (/day): Archery, Canoeing, Creekwalking, CDC/low ropes, Fishing, History Hike, Swimming

*\*If this is cost prohibitive for you but your family would still like to come on retreat, please contact us. We want to do everything we can to support you during this time.*

Learn more by visiting: <https://www.carolinefurnace.org/summer-schedule> and scroll down to the link that says

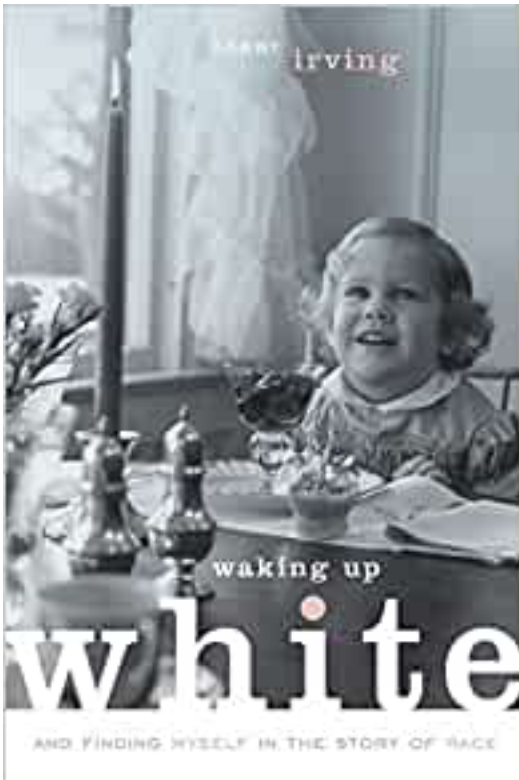
**Learn more about Family Retreats**

## **Conference wide book study**

### **Wednesday nights at 6:30 beginning Sept 9 Via Zoom**

Led by all of the pastors of the conference we will be reading and discussing, "Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving.

"For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In Waking Up White, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us."



**Books will be available at  
The Four Seasons  
Bookstore in  
Shepherdstown for 15% off  
their regular price.**

**For \$18.18 (including tax)  
you will have a copy of the  
book and support a local**

**To Participate in the class  
and discussion, visit  
[shorturl.at/bnoDJ](http://shorturl.at/bnoDJ)**

**Or Call in at  
301-715-8592**

**Meeting ID:  
845 5027 7987  
Passcode: 898996**

# SEPTEMBER Milestones

## Birthdays

- 1 Addison Janney  
Thomas Lord  
Gail Newman
- 2 Ben Byers, II  
Dale Hicks  
Jeanne Rector  
Lauren Oliver
- 3 Scott Rogers  
Faith Ruble
- 4 JoAnna Banks
- 5 Beverly Murphy
- 6 Karen Noll  
Karla Troppman
- 7 Valerie Link  
William Torbert
- 9 Bill Torbert  
Jared Stroeck
- 13 Nicholas Byers  
Cheryl Losh
- 16 Joseph Hutzler, Jr.  
Christina White
- 18 Jeremy Horner
- 19 Phil Eyler  
Kevin Remsberg
- 20 Colton Crites
- 21 Susie George
- 23 Andrew White
- 24 Steve Miller
- 25 David Ettinger  
Bill Ruth
- 26 Betsy Shewbridge  
Charles Taylor
- 28 Nicholas Leitzke
- 29 Autumn Esswein
- 30 Karen Middleton



## Anniversaries

- 3 Jennifer & Brad Moss
- 4 Karen & Wayne Middleton  
Karen & Michael Noll
- 15 Mary Lou & Allen Williamson
- 27 Amy & David Hartley  
Gail & Buddy Newman
- 27 Marjorie & Michael Murphy



# OFFICIAL ACTS

## Funerals

Mildred Noll

-Born: July 19, 1927

Died: July 17, 2020

Elaine Bennett

-Born: September 8, 1933

Died: August 17, 2020

Betty Mason Glover Calahan

-Born: March 28, 1920

Died: August 22, 2020

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## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION FOR VULNERABLE MEMBERS

We know that not everyone is ready to return to in-person worship especially those who are more vulnerable to the Covid19 virus, but we also recognize the important of receiving the sacraments. In consultation with the CDC guidelines, Pastor Matt can bring you communion and distribute communion on your front porch until you are ready to return to in-person worship. To schedule a time for communion to be brought to your home, contact the church office at 304-267-9291 or email [pastor@stjohnsmartinsburg.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnsmartinsburg.org).



My brothers and sisters,

On August 23, we had our first in-person worship since March. I haven't led a worship service with people in the audience for six months. I was expecting it to be an emotional experience, but all the problems with technology

not working (like usual) kept me distracted. To have people that I could see and could see each other was still very powerful. I know that the community of saints is not bound to a physical location, but to see the gathering of the saints helped me to remember that we are body of Christ.

As the body of Christ, we continue in our work and mission of proclaiming hope to the people of Martinsburg, WV. We continue, as we always have, to preach the gospel, administer the sacraments, teach the faith, care for the souls of the faithful, and proclaim justice. But now I get to see your faces, and even though you have to behind a mask, it is nice to know that the work I have been doing has been seen and heard.

I want to tell you about a few things happening around St. John's and the conference. First, I was appointed Dean of the Potomac Conference. Bishop Riegel asked the pastors of the conference to do a preferential ballot listing who they would like to see as the next Dean. They chose me. I don't know whether to be honored or wonder what I did to offend my colleagues... I am two months into my deanship and so far I have organized the clergy to see what we need from a conference and a Dean. Of course, Covid complicates things but it is really cool to see all the exciting things happening around us and to know that we are all in a part of each other ministries.

Second, we have a new director of the Mustard Seed. Her name is Brenda Butler and is already doing some fabulous work at the Mustard Seed. We are trying to figure out how to install her as the director and publicly acknowledge her work. We'll figure that out soon enough and let you know. Continue to pray for our staff, students, and director at the Mustard Seed. They are working extra hard to keep the kids as safe as possible from the virus. Their jobs were hard before

and Covid has made things 10 times harder. So, prayers are very important! And while we are on the subject of praying, remember also to keep in prayer all Students and teachers as they start another fall semester. There are so many unknowns and so much legitimate fear this year. Let us especially remember students, teachers, administrators, cafeteria workers, janitors, and everyone who helps in the work of educating children and young adults.

Third, I had an Evangelism committee meeting on August 23. It was a great meeting and left me feeling very hopeful in our work of proclaiming the good news. We are going to have another meeting on September 20th to finish up our conversation. Remember, all members of St. Johns are all on this committee. We have work to do when it comes to evangelism. If you want to be a part of this conversation, let me know and I will get you the details of how to connect.

Fourth, the conference is hosting a virtual book study looking at the book "Waking up White" written by Debby Irving. This past summer has brought to light many racial disparities in our country and community. The book study will happen each week starting September 9th at 6:30pm. We hope to offer a safe place to explore racism and seek to find ways remove these disparities. I hope you will join us.

There is a lot happening at St. John's even during a pandemic. I hope you can find ways to safely plug-in and help us in our mission. We are proclaimers of hope and you make doing this work possible.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. My family got back from 10 beautiful days in Ocean City, NJ. While we didn't get to do very much on the board walk or go out to eat in restaurants (we ate a lot of take out!), it was nice and very necessary to disconnect from the world for 10 days. You all be well and stay safe!

In Christ,



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

Return Service Requested