

NEWSLETTER

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

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

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E-Mail: churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org

Website: www.stjohnsmartinsburg.org

The Rev. Matthew A. Day - Pastor



October 2020

THE CHURCH SHALL STAND!

503 Years ago, a German-monk change the world with the publication called the 95 theses against the sale of indulgences.

We continue on the tradition of the reformation by remembering that the Word of God is stronger than anything the devil can throw at us. Our plan to continue to worship outside through October.



Saturday, October 31st at Noon

Details on Page 9

In this Issue:

- Reformation 2020
- Confirmation Schedule
- Luther and Africa
- Sunday School Survey
- Waking Up White Book Study continues...

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.

TWO WAYS TO WORSHIP

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

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Worship
at 10am
in the
Parking lot

OR

VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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

Access worship by visiting the following:

www.facebook.com/stjohnsmartinsburg/live

For Non-Facebook Users Can Call and Listen

(727) 731-4453

Or Listen through your computer:

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/stjohnsmartinsburg>

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

You do not need facebook to
worship with us. You can
participate using your phone.

Simply Call:

(727) 731-4453

Or participate through your
computer:

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/stjohnsmartinsburg>

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.

OCTOBER 2020 SERMONS

October 4- Taking the Kingdom of God away

October 11- If you cook it, will they come?

October 18- From Doctor to Evangelist

October 25- Here I stand...you stand over there.

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:

SHENANDOAH WOMEN'S CENTER

They recently have changed their name to Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center. For over 40 years, this organization has been a steady resource and voice for people in crisis in the Eastern Panhandle.

EPEC's Mission:

To Eliminate Violence Against all People. EPEC's mission is to protect victims, prevent violence and empower survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking. They accomplish this by providing victims and survivors the resources necessary to effectively cope with the personal, social, emotional and legal ramifications of victimization.

There are many ways to help EPEC effectively do their work. Their website is full of multiple opportunities to volunteer including a list of projects they currently need to be done. On top of monetary donations, they also need supplies to hand out to clients. Consider donating Tampons, Body Wash, Shampoo & Conditioner, Razors, Laundry Detergent.

If you think you are in an abusive relationship, need emergency shelter because of your violent partner or have been sexually assaulted, you can call EPEC 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. **24 HOUR HOTLINE: 304.263.8292** The hotline is completely confidential. You do not have to give your name to the operator if you don't want to.

To Learn more about Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center, visit <https://epecwv.org/>.

Theology and Bible

TABLE TALK

Food and Drink

JOIN US

1st Thursday of the
Month

OCTOBER 1

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/

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

Feed My Sheep

First Sunday of the month

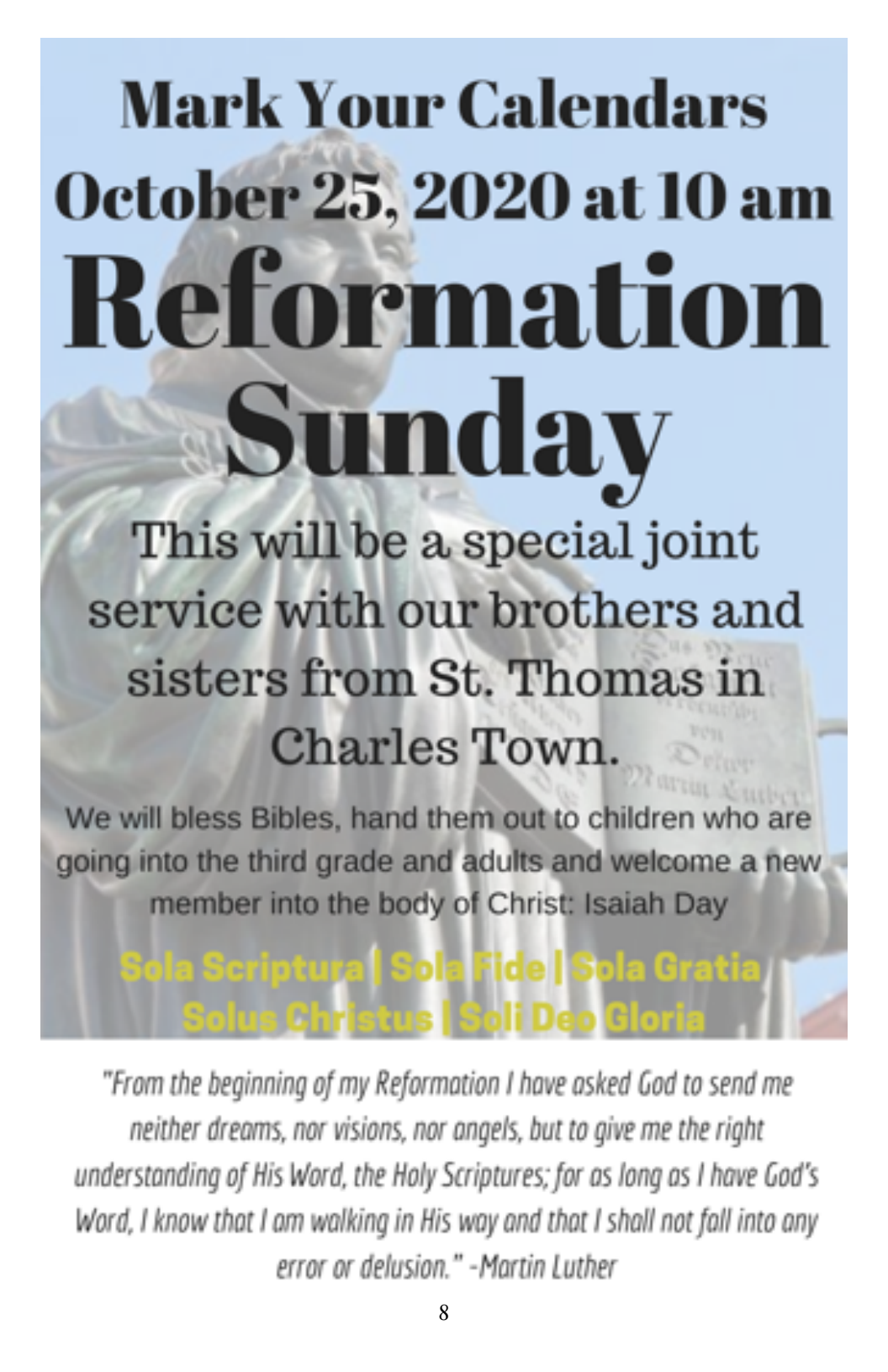


Bring in your non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of the month and place them in the bin below. The food donated will be dispersed throughout our community through our own food pantry here at church as well as through CCAP, Berkeley County Backpack Program, Shenandoah Women Shelter, The Rescue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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 1st at 10am

Every year, the church sets aside a day for us to remember and celebrate the lives of the saints who now rest from their labors. For the past few years, we have invited everyone to add names of those individuals who have died to our poster board. We then use this board as a part of our All Saints Liturgy. You can find this poster board at the usher's table. Because not all of us are gathering for in-person worship, you can notify the church office of a name for the board and we will add it. We will also remember those who died over the past year. Your presence offers mutual support to fellow members who lost loved ones this past year. All Saints Sunday can be an emotional time and having the full family of God present goes a long way in the grief process.



Mark Your Calendars
October 25, 2020 at 10 am
Reformation
Sunday

This will be a special joint service with our brothers and sisters from St. Thomas in Charles Town.

We will bless Bibles, hand them out to children who are going into the third grade and adults and welcome a new member into the body of Christ: Isaiah Day

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST AT NOON
LUNCH PROVIDED!

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND MASKING
REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE

Please donate candy by Sunday, October 25th. We are going to prepackage the candy this Sunday after worship to be used at Trunk or Treat.

**St. John's Council Meeting via Zoom at 7pm
on September 14, 2020**

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

Members Absent: Jane Kelley, Anne Moore, Trey Vorhees

Guests: Heather Watkins, Choir Director

President Jerry Crites opened the meeting and Pastor Matt had the meditation. A vocal roll call of members present was taken.

Minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting were approved by acclamation. (M/S/P: Drew Catrow; Linda Payne)

Pastor's Report: Confirmation classes will meet virtually twice a month for 90 minutes. One of these will be the large group and once will be each congregational group separately. St. John has four confirmands. The curriculum for the large group will be "Collaborate: Lutheran Confirmation - Lutheran Living". Each congregational session will focus on what it means to be a member of a church (i.e. St. John's). Each confirmand will have a mentor from the church. Pastor continues on the settlement of Elaine Bennett's estate. The backpack program was a huge success with kudos to Betty Lou for pulling the project together. The Evangelism committee met in August. They are looking into moving to a less expensive platform for our website and will meet again in September to look at ways to connect with our member and our community at large. Pastor is planning a few days in October to concentrate on reading and study. He will be leading a synod wide virtual Con-Ed course the week of September 21st. Pastor would appreciate the congregation observing Fridays as his day off each week except in emergencies. Bishop Riegel has information regarding congregational meetings, emails and creating budgets for 2021 that council will looking at.

Heather Watkins, choir director, presented some ideas for music during the pandemic. Choir practice and singing in services with specially designed masks for singing, social distancing, etc.; starting a handbell choir or chimes choir were also suggested as food for thought. St. John's would have to purchase handbells or chimes unless we could borrow them from a church that wasn't using them. She also would like to recruit volunteers for vocal or instrumental solos. Another idea would be to provide music, etc., on an AV screen so paper music wouldn't be needed during the service. Council thanked Heather for her research and ideas and these will be explored.

Unfinished Business: Discussion on continuing church services safely both indoor and outdoors. Outdoors is working until the weather turns too cold, probably in October. Parking lot services could continue with broadcasting in low frequency transmitter to our cars in/around the parking lot. Moving indoors presents many hurdles. Dr. Fauci recommends that to return indoor worship under the safest conditions requires three things: run the heat, have windows open and humidify the air. We will ask M.S. Johnson (our HVAC contractor) to evaluate our system and request that the National Guard evaluate both the church and Luther Hall for feasibility of indoor worship. Luther Hall has the advantage of a more modern ventilation system and windows that open. While the cost of ‘foggers’ to treat indoor spaces is coming down, the solutions are still quite expensive and have purportedly caused damage to organ pipes, leather and maybe other items used in and around the church. Rick Losh met with Potomac Edison representative to evaluate placing a light in the parking lot for safety and security lighting. There is a power pole there, and if the tree that has grown around the pole could be removed, a light can be installed. If not, a new pole would be needed to be installed. Rick took care of the tree, thank you! Now we can proceed with having the light installed. Michael Noll gave a progress report on the security and networking issues. He received 2 bids for the security system. (1) A complete replacement for \$1,200.00 from one vendor, Security Electronics. (2) RCS looked at the system and indicated that it did not require replacement at this time and they would test and inspect the system and connect the panel to a new monitoring service with labor costs at \$85.00 per hour plus the costs of any parts. Monitoring would be \$30.00 per month using Cellular Communication. An additional bid was suggested and will be requested from a friend of Jerry Olsen who has a security company. Michael and Jerry will make contact and ask for a bid. Regarding the Wired and Wireless Network that supports the church and the Mustard Seed.

- The current wireless system is not stable and able to meet the needs of the Mustard Seed and the Church. With the addition of the new Air Conditioners Units in Luther Hall the Thermostats are controlled via the wireless network. With the addition of the equipment and the teachers’ requirement for internet connectivity the present system is unable to handle the load.

- Charles Avery is a parent of a student in the Mustard Seed and has volunteered to work with Michael to upgrade the system.
- As part of the report Michael requested that a budget be set to not exceed \$2,500.00. Charles has agreed to make a donation toward the equipment
- The modem and equipment in the office will be moved to the basement and installed in a rack with a patch panel. This will make for a clean installation and improve in troubleshooting problems.
- Church Upgrade - A wireless node and equipment to support it will be installed in the church to support video streaming the service and administration functions.
- Cameras – 4 cameras will be purchased for Luther Hall to cover the play yard, doors and halls.
- Installation will be by Charles and Michael on an upcoming Saturday

A motion to approve up to \$2,500 to be used for the work outlined above. (M/S/P: Drew Catrow; Rick Losh) All voted in favor via vocal roll call vote.

New Business: Planning for fall activities will depend on covid numbers and safety. Christmas Eve services might be a 6pm outdoor “barnyard” service with a later service either in Luther Hall or inside the church again, depending on the feasibility after getting the professional evaluation by the National Guard and the status of the virus in our county. Covenants for the upcoming year will be repeated based upon this year’s covenants until further plans are considered. Preparing a budget for 2021 will be challenging but several approaches are being considered. Bess will provide the budget planning document for the 2020 (current) budget to Pastor, Jerry Crites, and Trustees and a meeting will be called later in October to work on next year’s budget recommendations. St. John’s received a letter from CASA (a nonprofit organization) asking if they could use up to 5 spaces in our parking lot Monday thru Friday during the day. They will be renting office space in the Gateway Hotel across the street. After discussion a motion to deny the request was made. (M/S/P: Linda Payne; Drew Catrow) A vocal roll call vote was taken with 8 votes in favor of the motion and 1 vote against the amendment. Parking request by CASA was denied citing the use of the parking lot by Mustard Seed employees and parents, as well as other activities at the church. The copier

in the office is up for contract renewal or replacement. Several options were explored and a decision will be made soon. President Jerry thanked several members of the congregation for their services around and about the church during this pandemic. Acknowledging that many more have contributed much but for which we are very appreciative, the following have gone above and beyond: Doug Widmeyer, Buddy and Gail Newman, Betty Lou Boynton, Mike Noll, Drew Catrow, Kandi Ruth, and Brenda Morrison. Thanks to these folks and many others.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: no report

Social Ministry: no report

Evangelism: committee will meet via zoom again soon.

Worship and Music: no report

LYFE: no report

Property: Anne Moore had shared information regarding the steeple completion project. The contractor renovating the Gateway Hotel submitted a proposal for \$400,000 to rebuild the steeple. While this contractor would get the job done in a timely manner with a very professional, durable steeple completed, the cost is probably not doable with our budget. Contractor will be approached again to see if work could be done in stages over time or if we could contract for a less costly steeple that would still be durable for a long time.

Mutual Ministry: no report

Stewardship: no report

Mustard Seed: no report

Meeting ended at 8:45pm with prayer by Pastor Matt.

Next meeting: Monday, October 12, 2020

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

Sermons posted weekly, information about faith practices, and more



Send an email to announcements@stjohnsmartinsburg.org to sign up for weekly emails and

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

We have created a survey for you to fill out and let us know what you would like from Sunday School. You can find it by clicking on the link on our webpage or find it in your email.

VISIT

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/MNWKAPDUFPMFTP69](https://forms.gle/MNWKAPDUFPMFTP69)

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.

We want to help you
and your family in
whatever ways we can
in learning more about
our Lord

LUTHER AND AFRICA

BY GENE VEITH



The Christian History site, sponsored by *Christianity Today*, has posted a fascinating article about the influence of Ethiopia on Luther and the Reformation.

Wheaton theology professor Jennifer Powell McNutt, in her article **An Unsung Inspiration for the Protestant Reformation: the Ethiopian Church**, recounts how the Reformation—far from being an exercise in individualism—saw itself in the context of the historical church and global Christianity. The Reformers looked to the Orthodox

churches of the East and of Africa as providing a precedent for many of their reforms.

When Rome insisted that there can be no church without a Pope, the Reformers pointed to the Orthodox churches, which have no Pope and whose practices pre-date those of Medieval Catholicism. Those churches do not emphasize Purgatory and do not sell indulgences. They do not worship in Latin. Their clergy could marry. And yet even Rome admitted that the Eastern churches, despite the **Great Schism of 1054** at the very beginning of the Medieval era, were true churches.

Luther was especially interested in the Orthodox church of Ethiopia, which he believed was founded by the Ethiopian eunuch of Acts 8, making it one of the most ancient of all church bodies. Luther mentioned Ethiopia 85 times in his writings. Luther was even visited in 1534 by an Ethiopian cleric, Michael the Deacon. Here is the account in **Wikipedia** of that meeting: In 1534, Michael the Deacon travelled to **Wittenberg** and met

with **Martin Luther**, a leader in the **Reformation**.^[2]
^[3] During the meeting, the two compared the **Lutheran Mass** with that used by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and found that they were in agreement with one another.^[1]^[4] Michael the Deacon also affirmed Luther's Articles of the Christian Faith as a "good creed".^[3]^[1] As such, the Lutheran Churches extended **full communion** to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.^[5]^[1]

Prof. McNutt summarizes Luther's interest in Ethiopia: Luther marveled at how the churches of Armenia, Ethiopia, and India had avoided the private masses that developed in the West since Gregory the Great's time. Luther also regarded it significant that, before there was a "pope," there were the bishops of Ethiopia, Syria, Antioch, and Rome. The Orthodox branches were a link back to a purer, more apostolic era.

The church of Ethiopia, especially, was mentioned among early modern Christians. Some scholars have noted that Luther mentions Ethiopia at least 85 times in his written works. (It was a common though mistaken belief to view Ethiopia as the first Christian kingdom. That belief was based on a particular reading of Acts 8.) Luther's esteem only grew after he was visited by Michael the Deacon, an Ethiopian cleric, in 1534. As Daniels explains,

For Luther, the Church of Ethiopia had more fidelity to the Christian tradition. ... Thus, the Church in Europe needed to be reformed in the direction of the Church of Ethiopia. Possibly for Luther the Church of Ethiopia was proof that his reform of the Church in Europe had both a biblical *and* a historical basis.

To Luther, "Ethiopia" symbolized the church, and one of the most valued legacies that the Reformers identified within the Ethiopian church was its insistence on maintaining the Bible in the common language.

The church of Ethiopia had the Bible in its own language, as did other Orthodox churches, and this became an important precedent for the principle of vernacular Bible translations.

Later, in the 1570s, Lutheran theologians, led by Jacob Andreae—one of the key contributors to the **Book of Concord**—began a correspondence with the Patriarch of Constantinople, sending him a Greek translation of the Augsburg Confession in an effort to find common ground.

But there were more differences between Lutheranism and Eastern Orthodoxy than the early Reformers had realized, particularly regarding the authority of Scripture and justification by faith alone. (Visit <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/orthodoxyandheterodoxy/2017/10/03/lutherans-greek-church/of those early theological dialogues>. For the original sources, visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ny4/djw/lutheran-orthodox.html>.)

But it is surely significant that today, the **Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus** [place of Jesus], with 9 million members, is the largest Lutheran church body in the world.

Illustration: Icon of Michael the Deacon by Inès Lee CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=57897435> via Wikimedia Commons

About Gene Veith



I am a retired English professor and college administrator. I have written over 20 books on different facets of Christianity & Culture.

Article taken from <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2020/09/luther-and-africa/>

Work Day at the Cemetery

Volunteers are invited to help winterize the Lutheran/Christ Reformed cemetery for All Saints Day on Saturday, October 10, from 9:00am till 11:00 am. Rain date October 31. You will only need your rakes, gloves, and a heavy duty trash bag. The cemetery is off King Street beside Brown's Funeral Home rear parking lot. Call Pat Murphy 304-263-0586 if you wish to help.

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.**
- **Sermon Notes**

- 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!**

2020 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Date	Topic/Lesson
Large Group - October 11	Justification by Faith
Congregational Group - October	The Cross
Large Group - November 8	Law and Gospel
Congregational Group - November	Saint and Sinner
Large Group - December 6	The Church
Congregational Group - December	Freedom of a Christian
Large Group - January 17	The Neighbor
Congregational Group - January	Grace
Large Group - February 14	The Word
Congregational Group - February	Bondage of the Will
Large Group - March 21	Two Kingdom
Congregational Group - March	Vocation
Large Group - April 18	Worship
Congregational Group - April	The Devil
Large Group - May 2	Doubt
Congregational Group - May	Pastor's Choice!



Ways

Give

to



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
and click Online Giving.
And Thank You!**

Evangelism Corner

We have some new and exciting outreach projects planned for the Fall and Winter!

Even in the middle of a pandemic, the work of the church goes on. We just have to be more creative how we share the good news!

Current Outreach Projects

- Upgrading our Website
- Relationship Building with the Mustard Seed Families
- Trunk or Treat 2.0
- Strategies for Invite our new neighbors at the Shenandoah Hotel
- Increasing our visibility in the community



September News



In September the children have settled into their classrooms and have enjoyed a lot of learning. They have had fun with learning about colors & shapes, and have explored different ways to enhance their fine motor skills to help with eating and drawing/writing. They have also enjoyed looking at everyone's family pictures for the "All about Me" units. They have painted, colored, and explored by using all their senses. Best of all, Pastor Matt started doing Chapel time again with us in person.





**SHARING GOOD NEWS,
GREAT JOY!**

DEAR FRIEND,

Each shoebox you pack helps a local church around the world tell a child about Jesus, God's Greatest Gift. Many of them will grow in their faith and learn how to tell friends and family about Him through our discipleship program called The Greatest Journey.

In a new initiative, we are going island to island in the Pacific to take the Gospel to a half a million children over the next few years, as part of our commitment to *"proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation"* (Mark 16:15, ESV).



In sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we are also sharing God's Word with dozens of unreached people groups and going to hard-to-reach places to make His Name known.

This has resulted in more than 2 million children making decisions for Christ and over 1,000 churches being started in one year! For example, there's now a church in a remote village in Namibia among the Himba unreached people group.

"Before we had never heard of Jesus," said Pastor Kuyelia, leader of the new church. "Now, we have abandoned witch doctors and seek God alone in prayer and worship."

We're thankful for all those who have faithfully prayed for Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse project. You can join us in packing shoeboxes so that more children in the remote corners of the world can hear the Good News of the Gospel. May God bless you.

— **Franklin Graham**
President, Samaritan's Purse



samaritanspurse.org/occ

View solicitation disclosure information for Samaritan's Purse online at samaritanspurse.org/disclosure.



We Need your Support Today,

Because the World Needs Caroline Furnace Tomorrow.

2020 has been a tough year for all of us, and especially for your outdoor ministry. We are experiencing an estimated loss of \$200,000 in revenue from overnight Summer Camp and year-round retreat groups. Although we were blessed with a grant from the CARES Act, it only provided partial support for continued operations. Expenses are ongoing and include salary, insurance, mortgage, utilities, maintenance, and office equipment. You can help us continue through the pandemic so that we may provide unforgettable experiences for the next generation - experiences we have continued to provide even in these difficult times.

Your continued and generous partnership in ministry will ensure we reach next summer, and the next, so campers and counselors may return once again to sing by a campfire, run through the fields, swim in the lake, look up at the stars, and build community together - for decades to come.

A Message from Tom Powell, Executive Director:

The Board of Directors and staff are proactively planning how to lead your outdoor ministry through the long-term effects of this pandemic. To reach 2022, we must raise \$200,000 by March 2021 in order to maintain continuity over the next 12 to 18 months. We ask for your generous support in this fundraising campaign. We are grateful for the additional gifts we have already received in 2020. Many of you - organizations, families, individuals - have already gone above and beyond this year. You have donated summer camp payments, sponsored a counselor, and participated in family retreats. You make this ministry possible and we thank you.

A Message from Allison Ryals, Board President:

We are living through a time of fear and uncertainty that seems to impact everything. It feels as if the very things that bring us joy - shared spaced, social connection, healthy risk-taking - have been swept away. While hope guides us forward, we still have to live with the uncertainty of how long this may last.

Our educators and ministry leaders are working harder than ever to teach our youth and help them grow. As we look ahead in hope to Summer 2021, we know our kids need camp to soothe their souls. Our young adult staff need camp to connect and discern calls to service and ministry. Our ministry leaders, families, and retreat guests need camp as they recover from months of solitude.

For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them. Matthew 18:20


Although we were unable to open for traditional, overnight Summer Camp in 2020, we continue to prepare for WHEN we are able to safely gather for Summer Camp in Fort Valley once again. With your help, Caroline Furnace will continue to serve our communities and provide an outdoor space of faith, education, and renewal for generations to come.

Caroline Furnace is YOUR outdoor ministry. As friends, neighbors, and partners, this is your story, and it is up to you to continue it. Help us reach next summer and keep the legacy and tradition of Caroline Furnace alive for generations to come. We will get through this together. Saving your outdoor ministry starts NOW.

Six Month Campaign Goal: \$200,000

How can you help?

1. Send an above-and-beyond, one-time gift between now and March 2021.
2. Set up online 20 for 20 monthly giving (ACH preferred) to support us in 2020 and beyond.
3. Ask your church leaders about congregational support for Caroline Furnace.



20 for 20: Generosity for the Next Generation

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.

As we reflect on this ministry, consider what \$20 a month will support:

- The smile of a small explorer carrying the biggest hunk of slag
- The excitement of a young camper passing the swim test for the first time
- The anticipation of rising seventh graders moving up to the Sukkah Village
- The dedication of a college student to serve as a camp counselor
- The generosity of a young adult to budget for monthly giving
- Time together as a family while on retreat or at Family Camp
- The commitment of a parent to bring their young children to Summer Camp
- The courage of a middle-aged adult to plan and lead a retreat
- Older alumni reflecting on a lifetime of faith, growth, and adventure

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

The Lord has provided us with wonderful gifts, that we may proclaim the gospel boldly through Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center.

Perhaps our most important gift as we seek to minister to a world in need is YOU. Your prayers and your partnership are essential to this ministry. We respectfully ask for your donations to support the incredible work done here. By providing, participating, and praying for Caroline Furnace, you share Christ's love with a world in need and provide a sacred space for all among God's beautiful creation.

We ask that you keep us in your prayers. We encourage you to participate in our programs and to bring groups here on retreat, to seek faith, education, and renewal here. We have a glorious corner of God's creation to call home, and this place helps all who come here to see and hear God more clearly - and to experience faith made tangible. Whether walking the prayer labyrinth alone, worshipping together around a campfire, or just having quality conversation among the trees, time on retreat can truly transform community.

You are welcome here. We are one as the body of Christ, and we are so very blessed by your abundant generosity.

Peace & Blessings,

Caroline Furnace Staff & Board of Directors

Visit www.carolinefurnace.org/donate to make a donation today!



2020 Family Retreat Details

Please call Julie at (540) 449-0018 or email 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

Or Call in at
301-715-8592

Meeting ID:
845 5027 7987
Passcode: 898996

OCTOBER MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tonya Fleming
- 2 Aaron Gatrell
Lauren Oliver
- 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
- 14 Matthew R. Clarke
- 15 Douglas Widmeyer
- 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 Stroech
- 27 Joyce & Gary Roth

9-15-20

Dear Betty Lou & St. Johns
Lutheran Church Members,

Berkeley Heights Elementary
School would like to thank
you for your kind donation
of many school supplies!!
WOW! So many needed
items - our students, parents
& teachers are very grateful
for your kindness!!

♥
Janey Yucker
School Counselor

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much for
supporting our students!
Angie Pittenger

Thanks!
Teri Wilson SW

Thank you
so much!
♥, Karen Zimmerman
School Counselor

Thank you!
P

Thank you for your kindness!
Chad Pence

St. John's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the staff and students of Eagle School Intermediate, I want to express my extreme gratitude of the generous donation of bookbags and school supplies. So many students will benefit from having what they need so they are ready to learn. Thank you again for your kindness for our students.

Stephanie Schminkey
School Counselor

Dear Congregation of St. John's,

Thank you so much for blessing our students with the tools needed for learning. We are lucky to have you as part of our school community. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as the school year gets underway.

Thanks again
Ms Teresa Weller
School Counselor

PASTOR'S REPORT

September 2020

VISITATION

August Phone Calls: 20

11 In-person Conversations (All were masked and done so socially distant)

2 Communion Visit

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD

1 Potomac Conference Meeting

1 Potomac East Cluster Meeting

WORSHIP

3 Sunday Worship Services

2 Recorded Worship Services

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Council

Evangelism Committee

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

Backpack Packing Event

Drop Backpacks off

EDUCATION

Table Talk

MUSTARD SEED

2 Mustard Seed Board Meeting

Parent and Staff Town Hall Meeting

Staff Town Hall Meeting

2 Mentor Session Meetings with Brenda

FUNERALS

Funeral Planning Meeting for Betty Calahan

Funeral for Betty Calahan

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Called together Clergy Retreat

MILEAGE

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of August was 357 miles.



My brothers and sisters,
503 years later, the church stands. 503 years ago, a German monk changed the world when he went up against a superpower with the confidence in his heart and mind that he was right. He had the word of God on his side and some pretty important people to protect him. Many came

before Luther and were killed. Luther got lucky. Why the Holy Spirit chose him and not the others is something I would like to ask God one day. 503 years later, we gather as Lutheran-Christians. This year, we gather in a very different way but we still gather. We are still a family and as a family, we stick together.

503 years ago, our family was broken. Division occurred in the church and that hurt. We are still feeling the pain of this division 503 years later. Now, this virus has divided us again. As hard as I try, I still feel disconnected and like I have lost touch with some of you. If you feel that way, I am sorry. I was not trained for this kind of ministry and I have been learning as I go.

One of things I love about St. John's is the dedication to our ministry. Covid has caused us to rethink how we do ministry and even with the struggles, people are stepping up and taking the lead on many things. From redoing the way we do ushers, to packing over 400 backpacks full of school, to the evangelism committee rethinking outreach, I love how so many of you have taken our ministry to the next level. Has it been easy? No. Have I banged my head against the wall? So many times that I think there is an indentation. Even with all the stress and failures, the disconnect and brokenness we have felt the Holy Spirit still moving and breathing within our community. The Holy Spirit is still inspiring us to do ministry in Martinsburg. For years, many have said we needed to be more creative with our ministry. Well, I guess this is the time for creativity.

I mentioned the Evangelism committee work in my last paragraph. We have met twice now and each time we have met, I have left feeling very inspired. We have a number of things in the work. One event is the Trunk or Treat being held on Saturday, October 31st at noon. I am calling this Trunk or Treat 2.0 because the committee wants to take this event to the next level. This year, we want to focus more on our neighbors and reaching out to them. Here is the plan:

- We will have members donate candy for trunk or treat by Sunday October 25. After church on this Sunday, we would put the candy into individual, ziplock bags and then let them sit all week.

- On the day of the event, we will have people come and decorate their cars as usual. Those who are handing out candy will be given a mask and gloves.
- We will post signs asking that all adults wear a mask while at the event and that families keep physical distance. Halloween is pretty cool because most costumes have masks already built in. We will also have additional masks available for children who might need one.
- We also want to take this to the next level and offer things we have not offered before. Right now, our plan is to serve a prepackage lunch of Hotdogs (with ketchup and mustard packets—available upon request), a small bag of chips, and a bottle of water.
- We will need volunteers to this day. If you feel up to helping, let me know in advance. We will need some help in the kitchen, help handing out candy, cars decorated, candy people, and just general welcomers. We want this to be an outreach event and one of our biggest assets as a congregation is YOU! So, let the community know just how awesome you are and meet the people of our neighborhood.

One last thing. Dr. Fauci has said that we should expect to not have things go back to pre-covid normal until December 2021 only if a vaccine is developed (and these novel-corona-viruses are very hard to develop a vaccine against). That statement is hard for many of us to digest and something that has caused our council to start thinking long-term about our future. As many of you know, Diane and I had planned to have Isaiah baptized back in April. We kept saying we would wait to have him baptized until after the vaccine was developed thinking maybe this Spring. However, with Dr. Fauci's statement, we no longer wish to wait, so if all goes according to plan (and we all know that plans change all the time) we plan to baptize Isaiah on October 25th at our Reformation Service. It will be a special day not only because of Isaiah's baptism, but we will share this day with our brothers and sisters of St. Thomas Lutheran. They will join us both in-person and virtually this day to celebrate the Word of God continuing to dwell with us. It is not the baptism we envision for Isaiah, but as Luther says—*Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's word...For without the word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the word of God it is a baptism, that is, a grace-filled water of life and a "bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit..."* When the Word of God is present, ordinary things such as water become means for which salvation is freely given.

So, come October 25th, God will do an amazing thing because the word of God will be present in the craziest of places—our parking lot. I hope you will join us that day both in-person or virtually.

In Christ,



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

Return Service Requested