

NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church

101 W. Martin Street

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

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Pastor: The Rev. Matthew A. Day



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
MARTINSBURG, WV

NOVEMBER 2020



FOR ALL THE SAINTS

On November 1, the church remembers the saints who have died and now rest with Christ. For some, this day is a glorious celebration of God making all things new. For others, it is a day that bring up painful memories. All Saints Day will be especially painful this year for many so we invite your prayers not just November 1st, but each week as we frevently pray for a cure and for our Lord's Presence during this time.

For All the Saints
who thee by faith before the
world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be
forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet
more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in
bright array;
the King of glory passes on
his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

TWO WAYS TO WORSHIP

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

**IN-PERSON
WORSHIP**

**Worship
at 10am
in the
sanctuary**

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.**



Our plan to move inside for worship

The following was approved by council in order to safely reopen the congregation - to being Sunday, November 1st.

- If you are sick, you need to stay home. If you show symptoms when you attend worship, you will be asked to leave.
- Masks are mandatory at all times while in the congregation. If you cannot wear a mask for the entire duration of worship, we ask that you participate in worship either over the phone or through Facebook live.
- Entry to the church will be limited to the W. Martin entrance (by the elevator).
- Please, no physical contact including fist bumps, elbow bumps, hugs, handshakes.
- Congregation singing will still be on hold during this time. Our music program will consist of instrumental music and solos.
- An usher will seat congregational members when they arrive.
- We will rope off every other pew and seat people/family units 6 feet apart. This will required stagger seating. Please help us out and ensure physical distance with your neighbor.
- If the WV DHHR map goes to Red for Berkeley County, we will cancel in-person worship and have only virtual worship until the map changes. We will make a decision for worship by Saturday evening.
- Hand sanitizers stations will be available at the door. Extras masks are available to anyone who forgets their masks. We will continue to record attendance and collect contact information in the event that contract tracing is necessary.
- There will only be one entrance at this time. Please enter through the W. Martin Street door.
- The church nursery will remain closed until further notice.

- Nobody, except leaders and ushers, will be permitted in the church until 9:45am. Ushers will be encouraged to collect names before 9:45am to help with seating people faster.

Funerals

- Beginning November 1, funerals will be permitted in the sanctuary.
- Funeral dinners are still not permitted to be held in held in Luther Hall.
- Everyone entering the building must follow all the rules above for worship.
- We are asking that families limit attendance to the funeral. We do have the capabilities to live stream the funeral service and will be happy to offer this to family members and church members not able to attend.
- In the obituary, we request that it be published that masks and social distancing are required to enter into the church.
- Funerals must be held 24 hours apart from Worship services and other funerals to allow for cleaning and disinfecting.

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>

2020 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2020

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

Members Absent: Jane Kelley, Trey Vorhees

Guests: Heather Watkins, Choir Director

President Jerry Crites opened the meeting with prayer. A vocal roll call of members present was taken.

Minutes of the September 14, 2020 meeting were approved by acclamation. (M/S/P: Linda Payne; Drew Catrow)

Financial Report: Our donations are dropping; expenses are going up due to repairs to the dish sterilizer, ice machine, a freezer, water heater. Utilities continue during the pandemic even though other activities are curtailed. Mustard Seed is limited in enrollment due to covid regulations; Mountain Heart subsidies to families in need do not fill the gap between reduced tuition and regular tuition. Mustard Seed is being assessed for utilities at a higher rate since they are the only ones using the building. The endowment fund is down as \$50,000 was needed to pay bills. Trustees will need to meet to move the monies held at the Bank of Charles Town. We are paying high maintenance fees on that account at present.

Pastor's Report: Outdoor services continue to go well. A survey regarding Christian Education has gone out electronically and will be sent out again. Input is greatly appreciated in order to plan going forward. Pastor has been very busy tending to Elaine Bennett's estate settlement establishing the Estate Account, paying bills, planning for household furnishings to be cleared out and then turning the house over to the reverse mortgage company. Local charities will be contacted to see if they can use any of the very few furnishings and they would be responsible for transporting the

goods. Pastor will get someone to go to Berkeley Springs to the house to see if there is anything that we would want to keep for the church. Many projects in/around the church were tackled in September. Smoke detector batteries changed, water heater replaced, parking lot lighting installed, cemetery cleaned up of limbs, debris and trash, upgrade of wifi and internet in the church and Luther Hall. Pastor shared the information received from Bishop Riegel regarding the return to indoor worship. Pastor will be taking time for Continuing Education. The Evangelism Committee is going strong. Plans are made for hosting Trunk or Treat along with a hot dog lunch on Saturday, October 31st, in the parking lot. Donations of candies are being requested by Saturday, October 24th, so that treat bags can be assembled with the week between to be covid-free when distributed. Volunteers are requested to assist with greeting participants, evangelism and covid compliant practices during the event. Isaiah Day will be baptized on Sunday, October 25th, (Reformation Sunday) at St. John's. Pastor Matt and Diane will be leading the liturgy, Pastor Jess Felici (Isaiah's godmother) will be preaching, and Pastor Robert Day (Isaiah's Grandfather) will be leading the Baptismal Rite. Wear red to celebrate! Bibles will be blessed and distributed to children and anyone who would like one.

Unfinished Business: Discussion continued church services safely both indoors and outdoors. The church and Luther Hall have been inspected and approved as safe for returning to indoor worship if all covid guidelines are followed; one entrance and exit, masks work at all times by everyone, 6' distancing between family units/individuals, every other pew, no singing, seating and dismissal by ushers to minimize close contact, remain at home if you feel ill, etc. Signs will be posted throughout as needed. Motion to resume indoor worship in the church on November 1, 2020, as long as Berkeley County is not

“RED” on the DHHR map of 8:30pm on Saturday evenings. If the county should be “RED” at that time, the service will be moved back to the parking lot. (M/S/P: Drew Catrow; Brenda Morrison) Verbal Roll call was taken with nine voting *yes* and 1 *abstaining*. Services will continue via live streaming either way. Council reviewed the “Plans to Move Inside” added a portable divider to shield the congregation from soloists or instrumentalists, with possibly having such divider made by persons in the congregation. Drew had the heavy plastic if someone can make a frame. Roger Wall will be contacted to see if he can do this. Since we are planning on returning to inside worship, the topic of funerals was discussed. At pastor’s discretion, small funerals for members only will be considered with the stipulation that all covid protocols would be observed without exception. If a request for a wedding is submitted, Pastor would bring the request to council for consideration/approval.

New Business: Request will be sent out asking for volunteers to serve on council or trustees. Some terms will be up.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: no report

Social Ministry: Friends Feeding Friends to serve vegetable soup, cheese salad sandwiches and cookies distributed outdoors on Saturday, October 24th.

Evangelism: See notes under Pastor’s Report.

Worship and Music: no report

LYFE: no report but they are working on a way to meet via an outdoor activity

Property: Anne Moore had shared information regarding the steeple and roof repair. J.C. Smith gave a proposal for \$171,000 and the contractor working on the Gateway Hotel gave a proposal for \$348, 000. St. John’s doesn’t have the funds for either of these. Mold is growing in Luther Hall

because of the water from the roof not draining properly. The walls will begin to crumble eventually if the problem is not addressed. Doug Widmeyer is going to get another estimate. How do we pay for this? There are stained glass windows in the church that need caulking and Anne is unable to climb ladders so she can't continue working on that project. Is anyone else in the congregation able to do this and would volunteer? There is a window in the sacristy that has rotten wood. Jerry Crites will get with Doug Widmeyer to look into fixing it. Jerry Olsen's friend is looking into a security system for the church. He also suggested that a Security Committee be established to formulate plans on how to handle various security breaches and emergencies. With an upgraded surveillance in place, Pastor suggested signs indicating '24-hour surveillance' be posted. Mike will see to getting signs and posting them. Mike will be replacing 'exit' signs in Luther Hall as per the Fire Marshall. Rick Losh gave shout-outs to Mike Noll and Charles Avery for the wifi, internet and security system upgrades, and Doug Widmeyer for fixing the pilot light, Austin, Darrell and Steph for climbing up to replace the fire detector batteries, and the cemetery cleanup crew.

Mutual Ministry: no report

Stewardship: no report

Mustard Seed: no report

Motion to Adjourn: (M/S/P: Drew Catrow; Rick Losh) Passed by acclamation. Meeting ended at 8:35pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Monday, November 9, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Shewbridge

OFFICIAL ACTS

Death of a Member

Karen Kelley

Born: April 24, 1931 in Weston, WV,

Died: October 6, 2020 in Hagerstown, MD

Bernice K Windholz

Born: November 14, 1919

Died: October 29, 2020

All Saints Sunday

November 1, 2020

All Saints' Day is a universal festival of the Church. This festival day directs our attention to the richness of Christian history and the varied experiences of the grace of God by lifting up the lives of the saints.

The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. In the Lutheran tradition, All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) celebrates not only the martyrs and saints, but all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the mystical body of Christ. In other traditions, November 2 is set aside to all the people of God who have died and is called All Souls Day. The tenor of All Souls Day is much more reserved as it is a day of mourning for many people.

Below are the names of the members and friends of our congregation who have died since All Saints' Day last year. We remember them in our prayers on this day and we give thanks for their lives. We remember and find strength in their faith and their lives serve as holy example of Christian living.

We remember...

Clarence Michael Rector

Ann Elizabeth Cloud

Donna K. Lamp

Douglas Wayne Lamp

Jean D. Compton

Barbara Beasley

Denise Widmeyer

Barb Lou Beard

John Haarman

Karen Kelley

Oliver Pete Long

Mildred Noll

Elaine Bennett

Betty Mason Callahan

Teddy Roberts

Shirley Ann Boomer

Bernice K. Windholz

How Silently the Wondrous Gift Is Given

By Chad Fothergill



**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
(ELW 279, st. 3)**

Throughout the past several weeks, posts about Advent and Christmas planning have begun to appear on social media forums for worship leaders. Like conversations about Holy Week and Easter during the pandemic's onset, these prompts and discussions ask important questions: What will these seasons look or sound like this year? How will liturgical practices and local customs adapt to essential measures—masking, distancing, abstention from singing, and more—that slow the spread of a deadly respiratory virus, the long-term effects of which still remain unknown?

As a cantor, I've read such conversations with a mixture of interest and exasperation. There is much creativity in our midst, and many are faithfully planning with appropriate responsibility and care.

And yet, some appear reluctant to abstain from practices that, for the sake of our neighbors' wellbeing, need to be shelved for a season. As my spouse, a physician, recently wrote, it is imperative that we distinguish between "wants" and "needs" during these uncertain times. A wise colleague keenly observed that many persist in attempting "to continue producing the same products at the same rate on the same scale, despite their drastically changed contexts and circumstances." Although treasured rituals may provide solace and comfort, perhaps especially at Christmas, attempts to preserve or project "normalcy" are, at this time, fraught with peril—not only physical dangers from the virus, but distractions from the church's mission to serve a world in need. For many communities, such "normalcy" continues to perpetuate poverty, unequal access to health care, and unjust treatment before the law. Wringing our hands over aesthetic choices risks ignoring those deprived of basic choices.

As we have learned these past months, the pandemic compels us to rethink patterns and assumptions, the abundance and amenities that we take for granted. We have heard stories of care and empathy alongside episodes of selfishness and greed. Though tragic, the pandemic invites us to think more carefully and intentionally about Christmas, to peel away crusty accumulations of nostalgia so that we might find deeper meaning in the temporary absence of brassy spectacle or candlelit ritual.

The first Christmas was a small gathering and probably not so quaint, especially when one imagines the realities of birthing an infant in a lowly stable (ELW 269). An angel choir announced the news not to wealthy elites, but to poor shepherds in their fields. The birth of Jesus was politically significant for people awaiting fulfillment of God's promise after centuries of imperial abuse. As two noted scholars have summarized, most of those empires "behaved as empires do, with their attendant oppression, injustice, and violence." According to Matthew's gospel, news of Jesus's birth ultimately sent the despotic Herod into a

murderous fit of rage; his fragile, paranoid ego and naked thirst for power led to widespread death and destruction.

Advent and Christmas invite us, like Mary and Elizabeth, to ponder mystery (ELW 258), to embrace the plain and understated, and expect God to turn the world around (ELW 723). Christmas is not contingent on our lighting candles while beloved carols are hummed or sung by a soloist. Christmas is not contingent on seasonal cantatas or choral music, even small-scale works for a few voices. Perhaps it will suffice to let the angels in Luke's gospel serve as your choir this year? Christmas is not contingent on the sentiment or nostalgia evoked by the sights, sounds, and trappings that seek to package, market, and commercialize it.

We don't always need to reenact Jesus's birth with a pageant, but we often need to refresh our understanding of incarnation, covenant, gift, hospitality, humility, and other keywords of the Christmas story. How does your community attend to those who have no room at the inn? Assist those for whom silent nights are impossible because of unemployment, food insecurity, or domestic violence? Care for neglected children? Comfort those whose nights are too silent during times of grief and loss?

And yes, we need assembly encouragement for these things—to hear powerful Advent prophecies proclaimed in our midst, to sing the Magnificat, to pray. I, too, yearn for the return of physically gathered assemblies that breathe and sing together. And I realize the importance of Christmas liturgies (or any liturgy) for those enduring separation, isolation, or grief. Technology has facilitated powerful preaching and proclamation, praying, and music making during these months—neither are those to be discounted!

But, in this time and place, I think there are more pressing concerns than how to light candles while physically distanced or schedule services like a liturgical version of Ticketmaster. Could funds for battery-operated candles be instead diverted to a local shelter or food bank? Instead of worrying about streaming licenses for the King's College version of that favorite carol, could we devote time to teaching

its stanzas and melody so that families can sing at home, even play just the melody on an instrument? Can you help provide access to hymnals—even if borrowed from the church—to facilitate singing at home?

Like the paschal cycle—Lent, Holy Week, and the fifty days of Eastertide—there are many ways to bring rituals of the incarnation cycle—Advent, Nativity, time after Epiphany—into the home: Advent wreaths and evergreen adornments, Advent calendars with a word or song for each day, trimming and blessing a tree for the twelve days of Christmastide, baking together, and blessing the home on Epiphany with a marking over the main door (20 C+ M+ B+ 21). Many of these and more are described in resources such as *Sundays and Seasons*, as well as in Gertrud Mueller Nelson’s wonderful book *To Dance with God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration*. Many congregations are exploring how to deliver items to their worshiping community for use in the home; such gift boxes serve as tangible reminders that we are still connected as the body of Christ. Consider sending an Advent devotional or family activity cards. The *Taking Faith Home* resource from Milestone Ministries offers additional ways families can connect the Sunday lectionary texts to our life together. If households do not have access to a hymnal, these could be loaned or purchased. Candles or materials for simple craft activities could also be included.

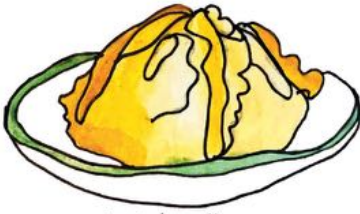
During these months, silent and empty sanctuaries have reminded us that the church is not confined to buildings. Before us is an invitation to do more teaching, to set aside the what and how of liturgical logistics and focus instead on the why of it all. While worship planning requires careful attention to a variety of contexts, may we also direct our thinking toward these larger concerns and to our neighbors, and be open to the blessings, challenges, and lessons that follow.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Taken from <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2926/?fbclid=IwAR2RwiswumZj5xs7SmEno8ye9sG5Xt9NzUdQMw8f9kgHvBQclfYaxixKwJA>

fbclid=IwAR2RwiswumZj5xs7SmEno8ye9sG5Xt9NzUdQMw8f9kgHvBQclfYaxixKwJA

Chad serves as cantor to the Lutheran Summer Music community, is editor of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians journal CrossAccent, and is author of Sing with All the People of God: A Handbook for Church Musicians.



apple dumpling

Apple Dumpling Fundraiser.

Many may know that Ms. Mary, our cook worked with me as the cook at my former center for many years. She has been known for her Apple Dumplings and we are holding a Fundraiser to benefit the center and classroom materials. This has always been a successful fundraiser for the dumplings are a huge hit.

As you know we are a Non- profit center, and since the COVID shut down, the centers budget got turned upside down. We are and continue to be mindful of our spending, but this is another way to help costs in the classroom.

Please return the form below and let us know how many you would like, and what day and time you would like to pick up. Cash or check is acceptable.

Cost of each dumpling is \$3.00 for 1 or 2 for \$5.

Days available Monday 11/9 and 11/10 7:30 AM-9:30 AM pick up time and 3-CL pick up time

Please turn in by 11/2.

Thank you for your continued support

Brenda Butler

Director

Name: _____

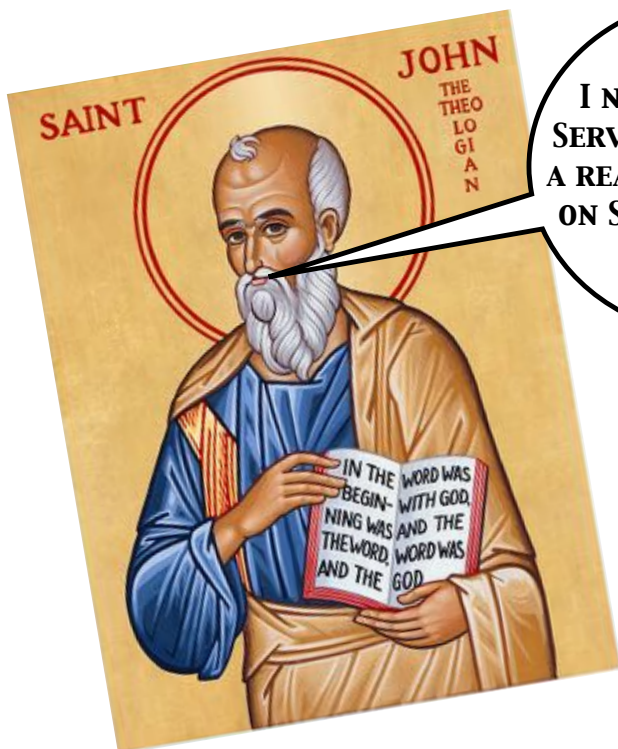
Number of dumplings _____

Total cost _____

Day to pick up: Monday 11/9 _____ Tuesday 11/10 _____

Pick up times

7:30 AM- 9:30 AM _____ or 3-CL _____



**I NEED YOUR HELP!
SERVE ON COUNCIL. BE
A READER. HELP USHER
ON SUNDAY MORNING.**

**Because of Covid19, we have decided not to hand out the covenants because we really do not know what the future holds. Instead, we are taking things a day a time and trying to figuring our how to do ministry as we go forward. However, we still need readers, ushers, and most important—
COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

If you are interested in serving on council, all you need to be is a member in good standing and a willingness to serve. We have to elect 4 council members this year. Consider doing YOUR part and serve as a council member. And thank you!



In lieu of Poinsettias this year, we are asking that you make a donation to the Operating Fund of the St. John's.

There is just simply too much uncertainty around the virus and whether we will be able to gather in-person to spend the funds necessary to purchase poinsettias. Our church finances have taken a major hit this year.

Consider taking what you would normally use to purchase poinsettias and turn that into an additional contribution to St. John's

Church Decorating for Christmas



Sunday, November 29th after worship

Christmas is always a special time at St. John's. This year will be no different, however we have decided to cut back on decorating this year. If you are able to assist and help with decorating this year, please stay after worship on the 29th. If in-person worship is cancelled, gather at 11:30.

Please wear a mask.

NOVEMBER 2020 SERMONS

November 1- Remembering the Dead

November 8- Father of the Bride...A Parable...

November 15- How many talents did you gamble?

November 22- The King Shall Come

November 29 (Advent 1)- Anger

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

Thank you to all our ushers who have made in-person worship go smoother and safer!

Things to keep on your radar...

Congregational Meeting

We will have an annual Congregational meeting sometime in December. We are currently working on the logistics (possibly doing it in the parking lot using an FM transmitter so that people can sit in their cars). The date for this meeting will be announced later in November.

Christmas Worship

We will have Christmas Eve worship. There will be both virtual as well as in-person options for you to choose from. We have been working on the logistics and this is the plan at the moment (of course, it is subject to change):

6pm - Christmas Eve Barn Worship in the parking lot (no reservation needed). Bring a coat, blanket and chair. We are going to attempt to sing silent night outside and maybe have a few farm animals join us.

8pm - Candle Light Worship in the Sanctuary (reservation required). In the event that the WV DHHR map has us as red, this service will be virtual. There will be no congregational singing at this worship. Instead, we will be led in song by individuals.

**Christmas is going to be really weird this year,
but so was the first Christmas...**

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 importance 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.

Thank You to our Volunteers

There has been a lot of behind the scenes work this month. First, we had the cemetery clean up. At the same time, Michael Noll and Mustard Seed Parent, Charles Avey, were working on upgrading all our wifi, improving internet access, and adding security cameras. Also happening, Austin, Steph and Darrell helped replace the smoke detector batteries in the church. No more chirping! There was also the hot water heater that stopped working. Doug Widmyer spent many hours meeting with plumbers to get back some hot water. Things like this happen all the time behind the scenes and we just got lucky and

captured a few photos!
Thank you to all our volunteers who help keep our church functioning every single day! Even if we don't get a photo of you, know you are loved and appreciated.



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 of 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.wearsparkhouse.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 19	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!

Theology and Bible

TABLE TALK

Food and Drink

JOIN US

1st Thursday of the
Month

NOVEMBER 5

6pm at your Kitchen Table

We finish up our conversation on Luther's Small Catechism this month. 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

NOVEMBER Milestones

Birthdays

- 4 Cheryl Burke
Barbara Maxwell
- 5 Deanna Noll
- 6 Roberta Dana
Gwen Ferenchick
- 7 Joshua Hancock
- 10 John Link
- 11 **Veteran's Day**
- 16 Lewis Harden, II
- 19 Margaret Bock
- 20 Brian Kelley
- 25 Ben Byers, III
- 26 ***Happy Thanksgiving Day***
- 27 Carl Newman
- 29 Jenna Taylor
- 30 Katelyn Kline



Anniversaries

- 2 Megan & Kevin Remsberg
- 4 Rebecca & Kirk Kline
- 5 Deanna & Greg Noll
- 7 Kristi & David Remsberg
- 28 Susan & Martin Bales

We would love to include you and your family in the Milestones each month. Dates can be submitted by:
Phone: 304-263-9291
Mail: 101 W. Martin St. or
E-mail: churchoffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org

*Studying Luther's
Large Catechism
A Workbook for
Christian Discipleship*



Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.

We are beginning a study on Luther's LARGE Catechism on Zoom on Thursday mornings from 9:45-11am, starting next Thursday, October 22.

All Lutherans from the Eastern Panhandle (and beyond) are welcome!

The Zoom link is below. This same link will be used every week. We will begin with the Ten Commandments from the study book (pictured just below). **You will need a copy of *Luther's Large Catechism***: you can find it in your *Book of Concord* or you can purchase paper copies online or an electronic version on Kindle (or other formats). Keep in mind that you may want a more modern translation than the free copies. *If you want to buy the study book that's pictured below, you can get it from various online bookstores for around \$10-13.* Or, you can show up for the conversation with just the Large Catechism.

Before the first session, on October 22nd, please read Martin Luther's preface and the editor's preface of your copy of the Large Catechism. If you have the study book, you may also want to look through chapter 1, entitled "Learning and Teaching God's Word".

If you're unavailable on Thursday mornings and would be interested in this study on an evening or weekend, [please email me at avcomen@msn.com](mailto:avcomen@msn.com) to let me know. I will do a second study at a different time if there is enough interest.

Blessings,
Pastor Christine

Pastor Christine is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Lutheran Confessions study

Time: This is a recurring meeting: Thursdays at 9:45am

Join the Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374653387?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374653387?pwd=QzL4RzlocHM2VkJKNkpEbzRtVEtuUT09)

[pwd=QzL4RzlocHM2VkJKNkpEbzRtVEtuUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374653387?pwd=QzL4RzlocHM2VkJKNkpEbzRtVEtuUT09)

Meeting ID: 863 7465 3387

Passcode: 730121



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



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

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

Yes....the saga continues...

We have reviewed the survey results and are forming a group to move forward with providing Christian Education during this pandemic

If you would like to participate in the group, please contact Priscilla Horner (prhh53@aol.com) or Pastor Matt (pastor@stjohnsmartinsburg.org) to help us move forward.

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.

Thank you
for your patience and
understanding. We are a family!



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
and click Online Giving.
And Thank You!**



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



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:

IMMANUEL'S HOUSE

Immanuel's House is an ecumenical church in action. We strive to bring justice and peace on earth, responding to God's call to love our neighbor and care for Creation. We seek to live and learn by justice and peace, acting with kindness and mercy, and walking humbly with our Lord. We serve individuals and families facing economic, social, and spiritual instability. We are eager to reach out to people of all creeds, nationalities and cultures. Our desire is to proclaim our faith through action. We offer spiritual care and worship opportunities, but our services will be extended without expectation of participation in said programs.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN PARTNERS

Community Lutheran Partners, Inc Community Lutheran Partners was formed in 2002 to facilitate social ministry development in the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod. CLP has developed working relationships with The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Services in America (the largest health and human services organization in the United States), and other SMOs to facilitate social ministry development among churches and groups of churches, including ecumenical, interfaith, and community partnerships. The vision of CLP is to help the WV-WMD Synod become a "servant synod" committed to the development of unique responses to the needs of the vulnerable through education, direct services, and advocacy.

Gifts given this month will be divided between these two organizations. You can use the Thanksgiving offering envelop or donate online and just leave a note in the memo line.

Pastor's Report

September 2020

VISITATION

September Phone Calls: 25

5 Communion Visit

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD

1 Potomac Conference Meeting

2 Potomac East Cluster Meeting

2 Buttonwood Lodge Committee Meetings (Caroline Furnace)

Executive Meeting (Caroline Furnace)

Led Best practices for Live Streaming Workshop

4 Waking Up White Book Study

Racial Justice Dialogue Intro Training

WORSHIP

4 Sunday Worship Services

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Council

Evangelism Committee

Staff Meeting

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

CCAP

EDUCATION

Table Talk

Confirmation Planning Meeting

MUSTARD SEED

4 Chapel Services

1 Mustard Seed Board Meeting

2 Parent and Staff Town Hall Meeting

1 Staff Town Hall Meeting

2 Mentor Session Meetings with Brenda

MILEAGE

Pastor Day's Mileage for the month of September was 151 miles.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

November is the time when we near the end of our liturgical year. November 29 is the first Sunday in Advent and the start of a new liturgical calendar. It is hard to imagine that Christmas will be here in less than 2 months. Liturgically speaking, November is a time when we explore

the return of Christ, death, and our own resurrection. The first Sunday in November (and this year the actual feast day) is starts this theme with All Saints Sunday. A day when we celebrate and remember the dead.

This past year, we lost 17 people connected to our parish to death. Death has been a very close companion for us this year. In our Nation, over 227,000 people have died from Covid19. In the world, the death toll is 1.17 million people. Some of you may know that Elaine Bennett named me the executor of her estate. I knew she did this three years ago, but it didn't really register in my mind. When she came to meet and discuss the proposal, I was gracious and said thank you like a million times, but I never expected her death to happen so soon. It really caught me off guard. And then, I learned a whole new world around estates. On the day Elaine met with me, I would have been very wise to take her and meet with the ELCA's planned giving representative to make sure she had all her paperwork in right order and that I would know where all her important documents were located. I did not do this and I wish I had. This would have saved time and really could have helped Elaine come up with a better plan for her final wishes.

I share my experience with you in the hope that you do a similar thing—talk to your family about your final wishes. You might be young reading this but let me tell you something—death does not care about your age. I have buried people of all ages. You need to have a plan. You need to create a will. You don't even need to meet with a lawyer to help write up the document these days. And then, you need to talk with your family about your final wishes. Yes, it will be awkward. Yes, it not be fun. Yes, you might even cry, but you owe your family, you children, your spouse this vital knowledge.

My wife and I have been working on our wills these past couple of months. Now that we have two boys and are living through a pandemic, we want to make sure that they would be taken care in the event of our untimely death. It has not been a fun process, but I rest peacefully knowing that my wife and our families know exactly what

we wanted and that our boys will be cared for after I/we are gone. I have even chosen readings and hymns for my funeral. My wife certainly does not have to use them, but they are there if she wants them.

I know I am only 35 years old and fairly healthy. Death should not be on my mind, but I have seen too many people think this way only to find that their life is cut too short and none of their plans could be put in place because they never wrote it down or talked to their family. So, I am asking you to have these difficult conversations. Do it at the Thanksgiving table or Christmas dinner table. Put all the documents together and then hand them to your children or your parents,. Make them aware of your final wishes. And equally important, make sure they know where you have all these documents.

Diane and I used an end-of-life binder from Thrivent that we update once a year in January that has all our bank accounts, passwords, usernames, life insurance policies, final wishes, etc. My wife and my family know exactly where these documents are and who they need to call. You can download these documents at <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/files/21995.pdf> and https://www.thrivent.com/claims/files/22067A-Step_By_Step.pdf.

As I look through our necrology from 2020, I mourn the loss of so many of brothers and sisters. These were more than just members, they our friends. The loss of these 17 individuals will be felt for years to come. We might act like death is not real, but it is and it hurts. November 1st is not an easy day for most of us, but that is why our Lord gave us each other. We are a family and families stick together through these hard times. If you lost someone this year and are dreading November 1st, know that your church family will always be here for you. And please, have these difficult conversations so that when the time comes, there will be one less burden on those who already feel overburdened.

In Christ,

Peter Matt Dargatzis



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

Return Service Requested