

St. John's

NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church
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Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401
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Pastor: James D. Riley, Jr.

February, 2010



Giving Statements Have Been Mailed

The 2009 individual giving statements were mailed during the third week of January. If you have not yet received yours, please contact the church office immediately. Thank you!

Feed My Sheep Gifts

This month our gifts of food will be shared with the Bethany House (a Community Networks affiliate) located on John Street in Martinsburg. It is an agency responsible for housing children and women from abusive families.

The usual staples are important - soups, canned goods of all kinds along with peanut butter and jelly. Cleaning supplies and paper products will also be appreciated.

Annual Meeting February 7- 12:30PM

The purpose of the meeting will be to accept the reports of all treasurers, and presidents of committees and organizations in the church. The pastor and congregational president will also submit reports. The floor will also be open to any business brought by parish members.

Before the meeting the members of our youth group FLYTE will be sponsoring a special luncheon of soup as part of the national program entitled "Souper Bowl" Sunday. They will have crockpots of soup as well as desserts.

If you are interested in contributing soup or desserts to this meal, please call the church office as soon as possible.

In Case of Bad Weather

In the event of snow or other inclement weather we will announce church closings using our telephone system and radio station WRNR (AM740).

Lent Begins - February 17

Ash Wednesday Services

Noon in the Chapel and 7:30PM in the Nave

The forty-day season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services on February 17 at the times listed above. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services as will the service of the Imposition of Ashes.

Throughout the forty days of Lent Christians are called to acts of prayer, study and fasting in remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice for us and the promise he brings of salvation.

Each Wednesday in Lent there will be a worship service at Noon in the Chapel and 7PM in the Nave of the church.

Lenten Self-Denial Folders

Included with the Lenten-devotional-booklet mailing will be your family's Lenten folder. You are encouraged to give a small gift (25¢) each day in remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice on the cross for your sins. Part of our Lenten discipline should be a purposeful attempt to limit our lives in some way to enable our Lord's gift of his life on Good Friday to become more meaningful to us.

The monies received from this project will go to benefit a number of community charities. I want to invite each of you to participate in this opportunity to learn more of Lent and our Lord's sacrifice.

Lenten Devotional Booklet

These will be mailed prior to Ash Wednesday, which is on February 17 and I want to encourage every member to dedicate some quiet time each day to read and reflect on the thoughts, prayers and beliefs or our fellow believers. Almost fifty members have opened up their lives to share with you their witness to God and surely it will be a blessing for us to share in these wonderful gifts.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 16 - 4:30-7PM

Tradition tells us that in the ancient church Christians prepared for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten fast by holding a special meal on the eve of Lent. our Shrove Tuesday celebration was born out of that tradition.

We celebrate, we eat, we enjoy the goodness of life in preparation for entering into forty days of fasting in remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice on the cross.

The Grove Center Recycling Project

Please remember to bring only aluminum cans for recycling. Steel cans cannot be used. Thanks to everyone who have been supporting this important work program in our community.

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Return Service Requested

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Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401
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Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30AM -3:00PM

James D. Riley, Jr. - Pastor
Martha Seitler - Office Manager
John Prytz - Sexton
Michelle Seidel -Mustard Seed

**Please Read
Your Lenten
Devotions
Daily!**

February Is **BLANKET FUND** Month!

Each February the Women of the ELCA ask the members of St. John's to remember the world's homeless and destitute through this special appeal. A blanket is such a simple thing and yet to a family without a home it can mean everything. A blanket not only can provide warmth, but it can also provide shelter and sometimes even clothing. It is amazing the ways people use this simple thing to provide some life's most basic necessities. I hope you will share what you can in the enclosed envelope to help those who have so very little! **THANK YOU!**

Haiti Relief

If you want to contribute to the relief effort in Haiti you can do so through the church and the ELCA's Disaster Relief Fund. Make your check out to St. John's and in the Memo section write Haiti. We will forward it to the ELCA in Chicago.

Islam Study Begins

The adult Sunday School class which meets in the main room of Luther Hall has begun a study of Islam. The sessions are open to everyone in the congregation.