

St. John's

# NEWSLETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church  
101 W. Martin Street  
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**Pastor: James D. Riley, Jr.**

**March, 2011**



## **"Raise the Roof" Report**

To date \$10,823 has been contributed to the roof repair project. This has been a wonderful response we hope soon to have the 15,000 bill paid off.

Thanks to everyone who have so generously supported this effort!

## **Feed My Sheep Gifts**

This month our gifts of food will be shared with the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission, which provides food and shelter for mostly homeless men in our community. Gifts of food should include the usual staples, pasta, soup, peanut butter, jelly and other canned and dry foods.

The Rescue Mission is located at the railroad tracks on King Street and has been a community resource for many years.

## **Relay for Life Chair**

We are searching for a member of our church to head our team *Lively Lutheran*. You will be asked to attend organizational meetings and develop the church's team for the event. You will also be asked to consider ways to develop funding and encourage the congregation to support our team.

If you are interested please contact Linda Riley or the church office!

## **Daylight Savings Time Begins**

On Sunday, March 13 move your clocks ahead one hour. Daylight Savings Time will end on the first Sunday in November 6th.

## **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).

## **Spring Begins March 20th!**

## **Lent Begins - March 9 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 March 9 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. One half will go to Relay for Life and one half will be shared with the Rescue Mission.

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 March 9 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 March 8 - 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** still is in effect. Bring all your aluminum cans to Luther Hall and help support this community program to assist special needs persons. THANK YOU!

# From the Parish Record

## The Reception of New Members

### Melinda Rene Thatcher

Mindi joined the church by Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, January 30, 2011. Her two sons Roger Lee and Hunter James Thatcher were baptised at St. John's on November 28, 2010. The family lives at 917 Royal Crest Drive in Martinsburg.

Mindi currently is a member of our Chancel Choir and regularly attends Sunday School. Just look for Carlton Esswein and you'll probably find Mindi. She is dating one of his sons. She is also doing degree work at Mountain State University.

Please welcome Mindi to St. John's. She is a lovely person and you will enjoy getting to know her.



### Ice Cream Reward Recipients

Last fall our Sunday School classes held a contest to see who could bring in the most food for our local shelters and food pantries. The contest was "hot and heavy" with a lot of activity and enthusiasm. The winning class was promised a reward, which had to consist of something class members would enjoy and ice cream won out.

To the left are the winners showing off their smiles and ice cream creations. In the top picture (l-r): Chance Arensberg, Mrs. Mary Nicole Rigot (teacher), Roger Thatcher, Corey Markovits, Shaylyn O'Neill, Helen Davis and John Esswein. In the picture below (l-r): Ben Byers, Kendall Shepherd, Nicholas Markovits, Katelyn Kline and Michael Arensberg.

Congratulations to all and thanks for the hard work and interest in helping members of our community!

P.S. Thanks Don Smith for the pictures!



### Annual Meeting and "Souper Bowl" Event

On Sunday, February 6th the congregation held its An-

nual Meeting and "Souper Bowl" event. Our youth served the meal and members of the church supplied the food and desserts. The free-will offering was \$475 which was to be distributed to local charities.

Following the food, there was a business meeting to discuss the events of 2010 as 'published in a booklet of reports for the all members present.

It was reported that 119 people were in attendance including one younger member who had a good time at the event, especially the dessert table. Landon Hutzler, grandson of Charlton Esswein is his name and what a great smile.



### New Door Lock

Yes, the new lock on the Martin Street door is finally working as it was advertised to do and, of course, there is a new combination. I have been advised not to advertise the combination to protect the security of the building. Give the office a call and Martha or the pastor will spill the beans.

### THANK YOU Choir Host Families

The following people hosted young people from the Concordia College Choir in their homes Thursday night, February 24: the Roberts, Murphys, DeAlexandros, Peggy Anderson, Susan George, Woods, Gambinos, Losh, Ruths, Aikenses, Pat Hartley, and Temples. Thank you for your kindness and interest in the wonderful program of music!

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A monthly publication of  
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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

### Help with Baptismal Stoles Needed

Pat Hartley has been providing hand-sewn stoles for the sacrament for a number of years and she needs help from the congregation. Volunteers would need to know how to provide a rolled hem and how to blanket stitch the edges of the stoles.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Pat Hartley or Linda Riley!

**THANK YOU!**

### REMEMBER - "Raise the Roof" Fund

Every third Sunday we are accepting gifts to helping the church cover the cost of replacing the church roof!

## Daylight Savings Time Begins March 13th!

Set your clocks ahead one hour!  
Lose one hour of sleep

### Worship Tape Coordinator Wanted!

This person will be responsible for duplicating the tapes of worship services for distribution to our shut-in members. Also required will be the maintenance of blank tapes for each week's service. Contact the pastor if interested. THANKS!