

# NEWSLETTER

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

**October, 2011**



## Feed My Sheep

This month our gifts of food will be shared with Community Network, Inc., formerly known as Bethany House. It is located on John Street and is a shelter that gives assistance to battered women and their families.

Food items should include canned goods, packaged pasta, soups and breakfast cereals. As always peanut butter and jellies are always popular.

## Advent Devotional Booklet Being Planned

Advent this year begins on Sunday, November 27, and if we are to have an Advent devotional booklet, we must begin planning now. Plans will soon be developed for this project and information will be shared with you. I hope you will begin thinking now about participating in this important project.

This truly is a great way to witness to our faith and at the same time be a source of encouragement to others. What a great way to attempt to fulfill our commission to serve the Lord and show his love.

## Adult Sunday School Course

The Adult Sunday School Class meets in Luther Hall and has begun its new season with a study. The class is currently involved in the study of a subject entitled "From There to Here." They are exploring how we have developed our thoughts on women, tattoos, the Sabbath, divorce and other social themes. Everyone is welcome to attend and please bring your favorite Bible.

During October Pastor Neal will be leading the class.

**50-Year Member Recognition**  
Sunday, October 30 at both services!

## Congregational Covenants Dedication Sunday, October 30

Each year the members of the congregation are asked to consider pledging some of their time and talent to the work of the church. We have come to call this process "covenanting" and Covenants have been included in this newsletter.

You are asked to consider the church's need for volunteers and the possibility of your sharing some of your time and talent in the areas listed in the covenant. And as you scan the pamphlet let your mind remember once more the wonder of our Lord's words in Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive."

This year we will recognize your gifts of time, talent and money with a Service of Dedication on Sunday, October 30 at both services. I think an important part of this service is in the **special offering** that will be done on this day to receive your covenants. It surely will help draw attention to our truly "giving" these gifts to our God. *I truly do want to see you there for this important Sunday!*

## Congregational Budget Meeting and Luncheon

**October 30 - 12:15PM**

The congregation is being called to a meeting to take action on the 2011 General and Benevolence Funds budget. Funding requests have been received and a "proposed" budget is in the process of being prepared now by a cross-section of the members of the congregation. The final budget meeting will be preceded by a luncheon provided by the church. As your church leadership attempts to plan for the future, it is important that you be present to help offer your ideas and hopes.

## First Communion Class to Begin

These classes are intended for children in the fifth grade of school or ten years of age and will introduce the students to the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Lutheran Church. There are three classes and a parent is asked to accompany their child to the classes. This is essential in helping us instill in your child the importance of the subject matter.

The classes will be held October 3, 10 and 17 in the Nave of the church during the normal Sunday School time (10-10:45AM). Please let the church office know if your child will be participating in the instruction. This will be helpful in allowing us to order the proper amount of material.

**Daylight Saving Time Ends - November 7**  
Fall back - sleep an extra hour!

# Parish Activities



## Mother and Father of the Year

During our Rally Day activities the congregation took time to recognize our **2011 Mother and Father of the Year** - Daniel and Erica Propst and their daughter Danica. We normally hold our special recognition on Father's Day, however the Propst family was on vacation. They had just finished heading up our Vacation Bible School and needed some rest from the hundred or so participants. We could not come up with a good idea to keep them in town and not give away the secret. So the days of summer came and went until we had this idea to welcome everyone back from vacation including the Propsts.

The Propst family is an important member of our family of faith and it was a delight to surprise them as well as thank them for all they do for the church and its educational program.

## The Church Picnic

Below are pictures from this year's picnic in the park. There were a couple of things just a little different about this year's edition of our traditional event. There were more families with children and those attending brought their appetites. A 100 pieces of chicken did not last long! Miniature golf was again very popular as were the various rides and playground equipment. Thank You everyone who came and shared your food dishes and desserts! Enjoy the pictures!



**A Covenant**  
between  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
and  
(Name)

(Address)



## Church Covenants

The church needs your help with all the many activities we do. There should be a Covenant in every newsletter. If not or you need more, contact the church office.

**REMEMBER!**

**Please return yours on Sunday, October 30th!**

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101 W. Martin Street  
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Martinsburg, WV  
Permit No. 126



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A monthly publication of  
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Martha Seitler - Office Manager  
John Prytz - Sexton  
Michelle Seidel -Mustard Seed

## 50-Year Member Recognition

Sunday, October 30  
(Both Services)

Three members of the parish will  
be honored:  
Kathy Murphy, Hayward Plotner  
and Susan Wenger

## REMEMBER! Sunday, October 30th Is a Big Day!

A lot of things will be happening on this special day in the life of  
St. John's.

**First**, it is **REFORMATION SUNDAY!** This is the day we re-  
member Martin Luther's work in attempting to reform the church.  
Everyone attending worship is asked *to wear something red* to em-  
phasize the special day in the Christian church.

**Second**, this is the Sunday we will receive **Covenants** from our  
members. "Covenant" is the name we give to commitments made  
by our members to serve the Lord and the church in the coming year.

**Third**, we will recognize our 50-Year members. St. John's has been  
richly blessed over the years by long and faithful membership from  
so many. It is important to take time to celebrate this wonderful  
give.

**Fourth**, we will hold our Annual Stewardship Luncheon and Meet-  
ing following the final worship service. We will take action on the  
2011 budgets as well as enjoy a delicious meal spend some time in  
fellowship.

**Confirmation Classes Will Be Beginning in November**  
Classes are open to students in the 8th and 9th grades of school. They  
meet in Luther Hall on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 4PM.