



BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS

AUGUST 2026

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

Grace and peace to you!

August is the ultimate hinge month. It forces us to balance the final, warm days of summer rest with the inevitable momentum of a brand-new ministry year. If you look closely at our culture, August is filled with prep work-buying gear, organizing calendars, and resetting routines.

In the kingdom of God, preparation is never wasted time. It is formatting space for what God wants to do next. Too often, we approach a busy upcoming season with a mindset of scarcity, wondering if we have enough energy, time, or patience to survive the rush. But Isaiah reminds us that God is a God of abundance, specializing in creating pathways where things seem blocked and pouring out streams in dry places.

Don't spend the rest of this month just bracing yourself for a busy fall. Instead, use these remaining weeks to deliberately position yourself to receive from God.

Prioritize your Sunday worship. Protect your quiet mornings with Scripture. Lean into community. Let's prepare our hearts together for the "new things" God is launching this fall. This fall I am going to be leading a Bible study on Luther's Small Catechism and I will have more information about that in the coming weeks.

I continue to lift you up in prayer! If you have any pastoral care needs, please let me know.

Peace in Christ,
The Rev. Curt Wingert

PARISH EVENTS



The Union County West End Fair is approaching! The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish will be running the Bingo Stand again this year, and we are looking for volunteers. Bingo starts at 6 pm, and we are looking for volunteers on the following dates: **August 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help those in need in our communities. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Dianne Shuck (570) 490-4661.



Youth Event for August

KNOEBELS BOUND! Calling all youth! We are heading to Knoebels Amusement Park on Saturday, August 22, and you need to be there!

- ☞ **When:** Saturday, **August 22** (FELC @ 10:45 AM)
- ☞ **Who:** All youth (and yes, you can invite your friends!)
- ☞ **What to bring:** Sunscreen, walking shoes, and money for food/rides! Permission slips are required! Drop a comment below or message Pastor Curt or Andrea Wingert to sign up! Hope to see you there!



Parish Worship Service/Picnic - On September 13, the Parish will have a joint worship service at the Mifflinburg Community Park. The service will start at **10 am**, with a picnic following the service. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share. The Parish will supply the meat, paper goods, and beverages. **Sunday, September 13**, is also our annual day of service, **“God’s Work. Our Hands.”**

Music News

Sing in Our Combined Christmas Cantata! - Members and friends of First Evangelical Lutheran Church and Christ’s United Lutheran Church are invited to lift their voices together for a special Christmas Cantata! We are looking for men and women of all voice parts to join this festive, combined musical celebration.

- No Choir Requirement: You do not need to join regular church choir to participate.
- Seasonal Project: This is a short-term commitment just for the Christmas season.
- Headcount First: We want to see how many singers are interested before ordering music and setting rehearsals.

If you love to sing and want to participate, please contact Andrea Wingert at 717-816-3979 or andreamayeski@yahoo.com.

Buggy Town Workcamp 2027 – Countdown begins NOW!

Workcamp is July 18-24, 2027

Each and every week I feel so much gratitude for those who are joining us on the yearlong volunteer work required for serving homeowners in Union, Snyder and lower Nortumberland counties. I may not be doing constant “shout outs” but we are working behind the scenes to follow a very organized time table for a successful workcamp.

- ✓ Lodging facility secured for up to 400 youth and adults for camp week
- ✓ Site Coordinator volunteers are Kim Sauers and Troy Smith – Thank you, Jesus 😊
- ✓ Application Coordinator volunteer is workcamp veteran Candi Taylor – Thank you ❤️
- ✓ Meeting with Union County Housing Authority Director
- ✓ Interview with WKOK Mark Lawrence – hopefully only the beginning of media coverage in the coming months
- ✓ Mifflinburg Borough Council Meeting to secure the Mifflinburg Park for the traditional Wednesday afternoon appreciation picnic and share what’s happening in our community
- ✓ Meeting with past co-sponsor of the Sunbury area workcamp who will get applications to those who need repairs in her area
- ✓ Amanda & Lori Galer created “sponsor cards” for monetary support at different levels

What can our parish family do in the coming months?

- **Spread the word** – let others know what our parish is doing for our neighbors! Applications will be available in both church offices – pick up apps and distribute
- Volunteer as an adult camper – the ratio is 5 youth/1 adult. Surely you would like to sleep on the school floor and eat delicious food morning and evening and lots of snacks – (knee height air mattress is a win – trust me)
- Encourage your child age 11+ to spend the week at camp – Contact youth leader Andrea!

Kim Sawyer



Protect His House Active Shooter Event

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Protect His House Active Shooter Awareness Seminar Level 1 and Level 2. This event is designed to provide essential training and awareness on how to respond effectively to active shooter situations, specifically tailored for churches and places of worship.

Event Details:

- Level 1- Being Held On 8/14/26, 5:30 - 8:30 PM
- Level 2- Being Held On 8/15/26, 9:00AM - 5:00PM (Lunch is Provided)
- Trinity Church of Winfield, 24 PA State Rt 304 Winfield, PA 17889

Why Attend?

This seminar will equip us with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect your community effectively.

Topics Covered:

- A data-based study of active shooter events
- Identifying the trends of these events
- How to properly train and identify your weaknesses
- A better understanding of useable Situational Awareness
- Threat Assessment
- Developing an action plan
- What to expect from a law enforcement response
- Survival Mindset

How to Register:

Click the link below to register for the seminar. Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to secure your spot as soon as possible.

<https://phhtraining.com/event/phh-level-1-active-threat-awareness-seminar-winfield-pennsylvania/>

<https://phhtraining.com/event/phh-level-2-church-team-training-winfield-pennsylvania/>

Spread the Word:

Feel free to share this information with your colleagues, friends, and family members who might benefit from this crucial training.

Contact Us:

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Protect His House at (855) 743-1424 or Trinity Church of Winfield Safety Team Leader, Jake Brosius, at (570) 975-4133 or email jakebrosius90@gmail.com.

We will have several door-prize give aways for each class!

Thank you and Blessings,

Jake Brosius
Trinity Church of Winfield

CULC NEWS

Koinonia Kafe

We are **not** having a Koinonia Kafe this summer. It will resume in September.

Council

The next regular scheduled council meeting for Christ's United will be held on **Tuesday, September 8, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

Upcoming Meals

Mark your calendars for the following 2026 Meals at CULC:

September 26 – Turkey Dinner

November 7 – Pot Pie Quart Sale

FELC NEWS

Free Community Meal at FIRST

First Lutheran will be serving a free community meal on Saturday, **August 1**, from 11:00 –12:30. All are welcome! Please enter the door in the alley behind the church. Meals for the remainder of the quarter will be held on **September 5**.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School is continuing to meet throughout the summer at 9 am. We would love to have you join us.

Renovation/Restoration Progress Report

Extensive restoration and renovation work is progressing in the kitchen and youth room areas of the basement and the nursery as approved by the congregation. To date, funds have been available for payments of contractors' billing from water damage insurance payments and from our Gifts and Endowments Capital Improvements, Undesignated funds, earnings, and WELCA. Contributions in any amount to help offset future payments are welcome and should be directed to "First Evangelical Lutheran Church" and marked "2026 projects".

Food Donations

The Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club provides food boxes each December to needy families within our school district. In an effort to fill these boxes, we are asking church members to help. Each month there is a designated food item you can donate. There is a box in the hallway where you can place your donations. Please be sure your item will not go out of date before February 2027. Thank you for helping to feed those in need. **For the month of August, we will be collecting peanut butter.**



Cookies Needed for Dandelion Run – September 5

Donations of homemade cookies are needed for the annual run, which will be held on September 5. Cookies should be delivered to the church no later than **Friday, September 4 by 2 pm. The door will be unlocked on Friday, September 4 from 9 am - 2 pm.** There is a sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact Shirley Heasley at 570-966-1008.

Word in Season Devotionals

The Word in Season devotionals for July - September 2026 are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Altar Flowers

The cost of altar flowers is now \$50 for 2 vases.

Empty Coffee Cans Needed

We are in need of empty #1 coffee cans for altar flowers. You may place them on the pew in the office hallway.

Weis/Wenger's/Davy's Fresh Market Gift Cards

Gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100 and make wonderful gifts for any occasion. Kim Sawyer is selling the cards. The cards will be available on Sundays, before or after church; at her home; in the church office when the secretary is in; and Kim will also deliver; contact her at 570-713-4577. Make checks payable to "First Lutheran Church" and use them as cash or the recipient can do the same. YOU receive the card's full value, and Weis gives 5%, Wenger's 10%, and Davy's 5% of purchase to our mission fund! Many thanks to all who support this mission.





Faith Followers Youth Group Success!

Our very first youth lock-in was an absolute success! We had an incredible night filled with food, fellowship, faith, and fun.

Here is a quick look at what made the night so special:

- **Summer 2027 Prep:** Kim Sawyer joined us to speak about our upcoming Summer 2027 work camp, getting everyone excited to serve.
- **Epic Food:** We fueled up with a massive taco bar, late-night hot dogs, and a delicious breakfast to wrap up the morning.
- **Late-Night Fun:** The energy stayed high with indoor sports and a perfect outside bonfire complete with gooey s'mores.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Andrea led a devotion challenge centered on "Being a Light to Others" in our daily lives.

Thank you to all the students who came out! Look for upcoming announcements regarding our next big event.





CHRIST'S UNITED

Tom Catherman
Donnie Chappel
Nicole Dunkle
Rick & Darlene Endy
Melanie Eng
Amy Evers
Dorothy Furgison
Gary Gemberling
Pearl Gemberling
Linda Gingrich
Gary & Janet Hackenberg
Keith Hackenberg
Laurie Harvey
Eugene Hassinger
Paul & Sherri Klauger
Nancy Klinepeter
David Laudermilch
Roy Laudermilch
Kyleigh Leiser

Tonia Longer
Cathy Meiser
Scott Meiser
Tim Meiser
Brian Nogle
Dave Oberlin
Larry Sampsell
Lucas Sandford
Leona Showalter
Lee & Kathy Spangler
Chuck Spurr
Don Swartzlander
Rhelda Valentine
Kerm Wagner
Marlene Walters
Tom Watters
Donald Weller
Alica Zimmerman

The Shut-Ins: Betty Goss, Helen Pirone, Dottie Rathfon, Sam Schnure.

The families of: Jim Mitchell, Steve Wenner, Roger Dunkle

In an effort to keep the prayer list current, Christ's United will clear their current list on a quarterly basis. A new list will begin in January, April, July, and October. If you want to continue an existing prayer request or have a new prayer concern, please contact Margie.

FIRST LUTHERAN

Ruth Gessner
Rodney Culp
Jeanne Shively
Tonia Swartz
Max Zeller

The family of John Schnure

The Troops:

Thaddeus Miller, Zachary Miller

The Shut-Ins:

Mary "Lib" Dunkle
Doris Moll
June Ocker
Barb Reed
Dotty Seebold
Nancy Ulrich
Max & Trena Zeller



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Carol Shipton (F)
- 2 – Kimm Watson (F)
- 3 – Larry Sampsell (C), Troy Smith (F)
- 5 – Libby Loss (F)
- 6 – Michael Beckley (F)
- 7 – Kim Blyer (C)
- 8 – Jane Moore (F)
- 9 – Erica Boyer (F), Hannah Boyer (F)
- 10 – Grace Alexander (F), Logan Bartlett (F)
- 11 – Landon Auld (C), Sue Jows (F)
- 12 – Erica Hess (F), Eric Hull (F), Mike Shoemaker (F),
Payton Spigelmyer (C), Brandi Zimmerman (C)
- 13 – William Donmoyer (F)
- 14 – Tom Catherman (C), Calista Girton (F), Elizabeth Loss (F)
- 15 – June Wenrich (C)
- 17 – Nancy Ulrich (F), Larry Zerbe (C)
- 20 – Stacey Gemberling (C)
- 21 – Denise Seebold (F)
- 22 – Sue Blyler (C), Jamie Ulrich (F)
- 24 – Timothy Klose (F), Janet Shoemaker (F)
- 25 – Eric Dunkle (C), Janet Hackenberg (C)
- 28 – Calen Loss (F), Kaelex Shuck (C)

ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 – Don & Erma Hower (F) (**76 yrs.**), Larry & Gayle Zerbe (C) (1967)
- 24 – Grant & Lisa Lapp (C) (1991)
- 29 – Drew & Paula Christy (F) (56 yrs.),
Brian & Debbie Dauberman (F) (28 yrs.)
- 31 – Andrew & Jennifer Keister (C) (2013)



VOLUNTEERS

CULC

Date:	Greeters:	Lay Reader:	Communion Asst.:
8/02	Idella Zimmerman/Judy Moyer	Glenn Spangler	Glenn Spangler
8/09	Idella Zimmerman/Judy Moyer	Barry Spangler	Barry Spangler
8/16	Idella Zimmerman/Judy Moyer	Andrea Wingert	Judy Moyer
8/23	Idella Zimmerman/Judy Moyer	Greg Shuck	Greg Shuck
8/30	Idella Zimmerman/Judy Moyer	Lee Spangler	Janice Wagner

Sound System: Dave Bickhart

Altar Guild: Sherri Klauger

Ushers: Greg Shuck/Linda Smith

REMINDER! You are responsible for finding a substitute if you are unable to be here when scheduled. Altar Guild Members, Sound System Operators & Ushers are responsible for any special servis scheduled during the month.

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### FELC

| Date: | Lay Reader:                            | Ushers:                     | Acolytes:      |
|-------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 8/02  | Sally Rothermel                        | Eric/Gwen Hull              | Andrea Wingert |
| 8/09  | Karen Boyer                            | Jeff Hackenburg/Carol Klose | Perri Hull     |
| 8/16  | Andy Long                              | Andy Long/Libby Loss        | Owen Mayeski   |
| 8/23  | Tom Orren                              | Tom Orren/Dewey Reed        | Hannah Boyer   |
| 8/30  | -----Contemporary Service at CULC----- |                             |                |

**Chief Ushers:** Council Members

**Money Counters:** Sue Jows/Jane Moore

**Altar Guild:** Gwen Hull/Andy Long

**Volunteers, Please Note:** If you are scheduled to help with the service and are unable to fulfill your responsibility, please contact the head usher. If you are scheduled to count money and are unable to do so, please find a substitute.

# **BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH**

**The Rev. Curt Wingert, Pastor**

**Pastor Curt's e-mail:** [pastorbuffalovalleyparish@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbuffalovalleyparish@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Members:** Marianne Motto, Barb Randecker, Kim Sauers,  
Greg Shuck, Teresa Shuck, Idella Zimmerman

**CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
13765 Old Turnpike Rd., Millmont, PA 17845  
570-922-1860

**CULC e-mail:** [culc@4bellschurch.com](mailto:culc@4bellschurch.com)  
**CULC Website:** [www.4bellschurch.com](http://www.4bellschurch.com)  
**CULC Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/4bellchurch1>

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

## **STAFF MEMBERS**

**The Members of the Congregation,**

*The Ministers*

**Matthew Wagner,** Organist

**Diane Valentine & Karen**

*Zimmerman, Pianists*

**David Swartz & Barry Spangler,**

*Digital Music Arrangers*

**Loretta Martin,** Custodian

**Margie Dunkle,** Secretary/Asst. Tr.

**Dianne Shuck,** Treasurer,

*Financial Recording Secretary*

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Joel Blyler - Dennis Boop**

**Gina Buttorff - Bev Catherman**

**Duane Lapp - Lisa Lapp**

**Greg Shuck - Teresa Shuck**

**Linda Smith - Breonna Zimmerman**

**Idella Zimmerman**

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
404 Market St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
570-966-0266

**FELC e-mail:**

[felcmifflinburg@gmail.com](mailto:felcmifflinburg@gmail.com)

**FELC Website:** [felcmifflinburg.org](http://felcmifflinburg.org)

**FELC Facebook:** First Evangelical  
Lutheran Church Mifflinburg Pa

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday –  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## **STAFF MEMBERS**

**Sue Nentwig,** Church Secretary

**Katiann Lloyd,** Financial Secretary

**Gloria Mincemoyer,** Treasurer

**Dylan Maneval,** Sexton

**Kay Trick,** Housekeeping

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Jamie Bartlett - Christian Boyer**

**Drew Christy - Perri Hull**

**Linda Lewis - Jeff Mensch**

**Barb Randecker - Kim Sauers**

**Don Seebold II**



355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
Telephone (570) 922-1587 Fax (570) 922-1118  
E-mail: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)

### **Dandelion Run – September 5**

Camp Mount Luther is hosting a benefit 5K and 10K entry-level trail run race, “The Dandelion Run,” on Saturday, September 5, 2026. The race starts at 9:00 a.m. with “day of” registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$35. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Mifflinburg/DandelionRun5k10kTrailRace>. Register by midnight, August 16, to receive a T-shirt.

Timing is electronic and all miles are marked. There is one water stop on the course. Runners decide on race day if they want to do a 5K or 10K but cannot change once the race starts. Awards for top male and female finisher for each distance, immediately following the race. Finisher awards for all finishers.

The event also features a one-mile fun walk on a dirt road with the same registration fees and amenities. Following the race, there will be a Kids Fun Run! The age groups are 6 and under and 7–10. Special awards will be presented to every participant in the fun run.

The Dandelion Run, begun in 2002, is organized by Joel and Shelley Heasley of Middleburg, assisted by Shirley Heasley of Mifflinburg. The family started the race in memory of Rev. Glenn E. Heasley, Jr., former Assistant to the Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Glenn’s favorite “flower” was the dandelion, because no matter what you do with them, they always rise again!



## **SYNOD NEWS**

**On Sunday, Sept. 13**, congregations of the ELCA will join together for the annual day of service, “**God’s work. Our hands.**” This day continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

# August 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                       | Monday                                                               | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                   | Thursday                                                                                | Friday    | Saturday                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                              |                                                                      |           |                                             |                                                                                         |           | <b>1</b><br>11-12:30<br>Community<br>Meal-FELC    |
| <b>2</b><br><u>CULC</u><br>8:30 Worship<br><br><u>FELC</u><br>9:00 Adult S.S.<br>10:30 Worship<br>6:00 WEF<br>Vesper Service | <b>3</b><br><br>6:00 Kiwanis-<br>FELC<br><br>6:00 WEF Bingo<br>Stand |           | <b>5</b><br><br>10:00 Hope's<br>Haven-CULC  | <b>6</b>                                                                                | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>                                          |
| <b>9</b><br><u>CULC</u><br>8:30 Worship<br><br><u>FELC</u><br>9:00 Adult S.S.<br>10:30 Worship                               | <b>10</b>                                                            | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br><br>6:30 Council-<br>FELC      | <b>13</b>                                                                               | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>                                         |
| <b>16</b><br><u>CULC</u><br>8:30 Worship<br><br><u>FELC</u><br>9:00 Adult S.S.<br>10:30 Worship                              | <b>17</b><br><br>6:00 Kiwanis-<br>FELC                               | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br><br>10:00 Hope's<br>Haven-CULC | <b>20</b><br><br><b>September<br/>           Newsletter<br/>           Articles Due</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br><br>10:45 Youth Trip<br>to Knoebel's |
| <b>23</b><br><u>CULC</u><br>8:30 Worship<br><br><u>FELC</u><br>9:00 Adult S.S.<br>10:30 Worship                              | <b>24</b>                                                            | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b>                                   | <b>27</b>                                                                               | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>                                         |
| <b>30</b><br><u>CULC</u><br>10:00 Joint<br>Contemporary<br>Worship                                                           | <b>31</b>                                                            |           |                                             |                                                                                         |           |                                                   |