



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA



From Our Pastor...

ADVENT WAITING AND WATCHING

Advent is a time of expectant watching and hopeful waiting, a time of eager anticipation and prepared readiness. Jeremiah announces that “the days are surely coming.” And Jesus warns that “there will be signs.” As the church, we ready ourselves for Christmas, remembering the birth of Jesus, all the while anticipating the fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy, “at that time (God) will cause a righteous Branch to spring up, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.” And as we remember the birth of Jesus, we also stand guard and watch for “the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

Advent hope is grounded on the promise of God, anticipated through our worship and reflected upon our attentiveness to God’s word. We know how, when, and for whom to watch because we have heard God’s promise and we remember and attest to the faithfulness of those who witnessed the birth of Jesus and followed in his way. We wait with the assuredness that God shall deliver upon that which God has promised: “the days are surely coming.” We also watch with a particular viewpoint beyond the fears and forebodings written upon the ways of the world: “God will cause a righteous Branch to

spring up.” And we stand guard for the execution of “justice and righteousness in the land.”

Our Advent participation suggests that we are ready and willing to submit ourselves to God’s promise and to live our lives under the cosmic and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our Advent participation shall reveal our trust that God’s promise is manifested and shall be fulfilled in the coming presence of Jesus Christ. And our Advent participation asserts that we shall not be “weighed down with dissipation and the intoxicating worries of this life,” but we shall be alert to God’s reign as it draws near.

Advent asks of us: shall our values and dreams be shaped by the promise of God incarnate in Jesus Christ or by commercial schemes and advertising slogans? Are we looking for a good deal at a bargain price or are we allowing ourselves to be embraced with the promise of life in God’s hands? Do we hope for and expect a future that is merely the summation of even the best of our efforts or should and shall we anticipate and prepare for a time to come that bears the marks of the crucified and risen One who promises to return in the embodiment of grace and mercy for his gathered people that we may experience true peace and joy?

“The days are surely coming!” How shall we “read” the signs? How shall we discern the times? Will we be able to “see” the arriving presence of Jesus bringing to fulfillment God’s promise or will he simply be remembered from a story beautifully told some two thousand years in the past?

Shall we be adventurous bearers of expectant hope in the promise of God as fulfilled in the arriving presence of Jesus Christ or shall we cling to past memories and a benign continuation of what already has been?

How shall God find us this Advent: alert and ready for who and what is to come or sluggish and weary from where we have been? With eager anticipation and unbridled hope, what shall we seek: a festive rehearsal of Christmas as an act of mere remembrance or a joyous song led by a choir of angels that announces the arriving presence of Jesus who changes the present by revealing the gift of salvation and the eternal execution of justice and righteousness for all?

Hope and pray! Wait and watch! Be ready! Advent is here and Jesus is on his way!

~Pastor John

2017

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Girton, Asst. Church Adm.
- Tammie Sheesley, Housekeeper
- Paul Houtz, Sexton
- Harry Boyer, Council President
- Jeff Mensch, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Girton, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Girton, Council
- Liz Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Jane Moore, Council
- Jim Schwartz, Council
- Tanna Stenger, Council
- Logan Mensch, Council



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In 2018, we would like to begin again making home-made Baptismal Napkins. We will GLADLY teach beginners. Please contact Gwen Hull, (570)524-0289 or put a note in her mailbox.

Community Meals

The Community Meal Committee is looking for a few good folks to help serve meals on the first Saturday of each month. We begin preparing the meal at 9:00 and are usually done by 1:30. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 50 and 60 people each month. This is a great way to help reach out to our community. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please Contact Libby Loss @966-1606 or Sue Jows @ 966-3644 if you can help.

Meal serving time: 11AM-12:30PM.



The Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club is asking for your assistance in the collection of canned and boxed food (especially cereal) for needy families in the Mifflinburg Area School District this Christmas season. The Kiwanis Club along with other volunteers will be distributing the food to needy families on the 18th of December. Your food contributions may be placed in identified boxes in the hallway on the first three Sundays in December. As in the past, your donations will be greatly appreciated.



Holiday Breakfast December 9, 2017

Diakon's Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village and Camp Mount Luther are teaming up to provide a fun morning of food, fellowship, and Christmas crafts and games on Saturday, December 9, 2017. The breakfast will feature an appearance and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, chocolate chip pancakes, craft stations, and cut-out cookies. Space is limited.

Call Gretchen at 570-523-4285 to RSVP. The event will be from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Common Building. For more information and a flyer to help publicize this event to your friends, visit <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SLS-BV-Breakfast-With-Santa-4Q-B-2017-4.pdf>.



This month's Bible studies will take place as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
10:30 am	10:30 am	7:00 pm
Christ's	First	Christ's
<u>United</u>	<u>Lutheran</u>	<u>United</u>
December 4	December 5	December 4**
December 18	December 19	December 18**

**PLEASE NOTE! This month's evening Bible studies will be taking place on Monday evenings.

SYNOD NEWS Active Shooter Response Training December 18, 2017

In light of recent mass shooting events, church leaders have asked to have training in how to respond if an active shooter comes into the building. United Lutheran Seminary will offer this training at the Gettysburg campus December 18th led by the Safety & Security team of Gettysburg College. This event is open to all interested persons who wish to receive such training. Questions can be directed to Chelle Huth, Director of Lifelong Learning, United Lutheran Seminary at chuth@uls.edu. It is a busy time of year, but ULS wanted to offer this in a timely manner. Another training will be scheduled in the new year. The Active Shooter Response Training will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Abiding Presence on the United Lutheran Seminary Gettysburg Campus. Cost is \$10 per person, payable at the door (reservations/registration not necessary).



December Birthdays

Edward Henry	12/02	Michael Sterling	12/16	Sandy McCloud	12/25
Nicholas Hornig	12/02	Donna Culp	12/17	Susan Church	12/26
Clayton Reed	12/04	Gaye Stahl	12/17	Logan Mensch	12/27
Clara Conrad	12/05	Garrett Girton	12/19	Jeffrey Stahl	12/27
Thomas Orren	12/06	Gaven Girton	12/19	James Bailey	12/30
Sebrena Confer	12/08	John Watson Jr.	12/19	Michelle Barkafski	12/30
Adelina Doebler	12/09	Jeffrey Crossland	12/20	Georgie Linke	12/30
James Adams	12/11	Nancy Shively	12/20	Mike Sundberg	12/30
John Schnure	12/15	Dave Weaver	12/23	Carol Schwartz	12/31
Gabriel Stetler	12/15	Jason Fritz	12/24		
Thomas Church	12/16	Peggy Kron	12/25		



Dinner & Devotions followed by major cookie baking @ Methodist Church kitchen for Christkindl Cookie Sales at the church parsonage – chaired by Jen Harter & Vicki Hackenburg.

Forget the holiday baking and stop in at the parsonage during Christkindl! We are putting together delicious assortments of Christmas cookies on trays that can be frozen or given as gifts! Also offering coffee and cookies to enjoy during the market! Jen and Vicki have been taking this project and listening to the wishes of those that stop in. Thanks again for your support!

In November , the youth:

- ☞ Tagged 1500 homes on Sunday, November 5th for the Food Drive
- ☞ Picked up the food at these homes & sorted on Sunday, Sunday, November 12th
- ☞ Hosted a breakfast to thank the congregation on Sunday, November 19th
- ☞ Labeled and sent College boxes for our 24 college/military students
- ☞ Waffle Dinner and Devotions
- ☞ Received monies from the Apple Dumpling Fundraiser \$10,000 being distributed equally between FOUR individuals/group (not three as planned) Each received \$2500!!!! Logan Roush and Karen Kurtz each received \$2500 each and the youth/young adult group received \$5000 for mission work...realizing that serving begins at home they turned around and donated half of that amount to a family in our community with expenses due to a medical condition! Can we hear an AMEN and can you hear a huge loud THANK YOU!

January Plans

- ☞ 8 High School Seniors and/or College Students and Kim will attend the Passion Conference at the Anthem in Washington, DC January 1-3, 2018. The Conference will be held at three SOLD OUT VENUES in Atlanta & DC with over 55,000 Seniors/College students – so very excited to be a part of this event. It includes several prominent speakers, including Louie Giglio, lead pastor of Passion City Church; Levi Lusko, Francis Chan, Beth Moore, John Piper, Christine Caine and Katherine and Jay Wolf. There will also be performances by Chris Tomlin, Christy Nockels, Hillsong UNITED and Crowder.
- ☞ Dinner & Devotions – January 14th @ Sawyer's Home @ 6:00 PM
- ☞ Winter Jam 2018 @ Bryce Jordan – January 19th
- ☞ Soups+Sandwich+Sweets Fundraiser chaired by Tracy Seebold

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped bring the Christmas decorations down from upstairs, decorated the church for Christmas, purchased or donated and filled 24 Care Packages for our 24 College/Military Students. Your time and dedication and support is much appreciated!

PLEASE PRAY for our Seniors & College Students as they attend the PASSION Conference in Washington DC! This is an amazing opportunity for this age group and we are so very fortunate to have them involved!



Christ's United Happenings.....

Decorating for Christmas



Advent Family Day will take place on the First Sunday in Advent, December 3rd. After the Koinonia Kafe following worship, we will decorate our sanctuary and church for the Christmas.

CHRISTMAS PARTY **DECEMBER 8TH**

All kids from our church and Hope's Haven are invited to a Christmas party that will be held on **Friday, December 8, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Contact Bev Catherman for details.

CAROLING



At 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, December 10**, we will meet at the church to go caroling to our shut-ins. We will begin the excursion by going to Lewisburg and then traveling westward. We hope to be able to sing to our members who are in nursing homes, assisted living, or are shut-in. Refreshments will follow the caroling.

Warm bodies and hearts are more important than singing talents. Bring your friends and come share the joys of the season with us and spread some Christmas spirit.

CHRISTKINDL MARKET STAND



We will be having a stand at the Christkindl Market again this year, selling baked potatoes, Schnitz Un Knepp and bon-bons. Sooo...along with the Christkindl Market comes some preparation and of course helping at the market.

- On Monday, **December 11, at 9:00 a.m.** the bon-bons will be mixed and shaped. Very easy to do and a lot of fun.

Then at **5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.** (whichever time suits you), the bon-bons will be dipped and boxed. If you like using stickers and ribbon, this is a perfect job for you.



- On Wednesday, **December 13, at 5:00 p.m.** we will be washing, oiling and wrapping the potatoes.

- The Market opens at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14**, and at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 15**, and **Saturday, December 16**.

Hopefully enough people will sign up that we can do two hour shifts. Please feel free to sign up for more than a one day shift if possible. Watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board beside the office.

Tom and Don have always brought what was needed to be cleaned up back to the church so it is ready for the next day. I'm sure they would not mind if there is anyone else that would like to help with this. Let Tom and Don know.

In advance, Thank You and Merry Christmas!!!

If you want more information, talk to Bev Catherman.



MINISTERIUM BACKPACK PROGRAM



The churches of the Mifflinburg Ministerium are providing backpacks of food for students in the Mifflinburg School District for weekends when they may not have a hot meal.

The Ministerium is asking for help with this program through donations of the following items:

- Single serving pudding cups
- Single serving cereals or pop tarts
- Peanut butter or cheese cracker packs
- Single serving applesauce or fruit cups
- Individual Microwavable Macaroni & Cheese
- Gummies - Dried fruit - Granola or protein bars
- Individual Microwavable Chef Boy R Dee Products
- Microwavable individual pasta meals (i.e. Chef Boy-R-Dee, mac & cheese)

Christ's United is in charge of filling and distributing backpacks for December 2017.

128 from Mifflinburg Area Elementary and Intermediate Schools are receiving backpacks filled with food for the weekend.

Backpacks will be distributed on the following December Fridays: 1, 8, 15 and 22. December 22 we hope to supply a "double" donation since school will be out until after the New Year's. Items should be brought to the church the Sunday before each distribution Friday.



Santa needs help from his "elves" to provide the children who come to Hope's Haven with some gifts at Christmas, so we ask you once again for donations of toys of \$5.00 or under. They can be for either a boy or girl.

Unwrapped donations can be put in Margie's office where they will be collected and stored until they can be given to the children. Thank you all in advance for helping us brighten the day for the kids.

If you want more information, talk to Bev Catherman or Janet Hileman.



The Mifflinburg Elementary & Intermediate Schools are seeking help in providing some children with winter coats. If you would be willing to help with this appeal, coats for either a boy or girl in the elementary or intermediate schools can be brought to the church office. If you have questions about this coat drive, contact Bev Catherman (922-1640) or Pastor John.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE DECEMBER 24

This year's Christmas Eve worship services will take place at the following time and locations:

- 10:00 a.m. – Joint Worship Service at Christ's United**
- 5:00 p.m. – Family Service at First Lutheran**
- 10:30 p.m. – Candlelight Service at Christ's United**

A joint Parish Worship Service will be held on Sunday, **December 31st, at First Lutheran**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.**

DECEMBER 2017

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-Contemporary</p>	4	5 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	6 6PM: Council-@ Carriage Corner 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	7 1PM: WELCA Luncheon @ Carriage Corner 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	8 1 9AM-12PM: Cookie Drop-off for Community Meal	2 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike 11AM-12:30PM: Community
<p>10 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-Traditional</p>	11 4PM-MP Room in use	12 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	13 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	14 Christkindl Market	15 Christkindle Market	16 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner Christkindl Market
<p>17 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-Contemporary</p>	18	19 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	20 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	21 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	22	23 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike
<p>24 10AM: Worship CULC (4-Bells) 5PM: Wor-shipFirst Lu-</p>	25 	26 Church Office Closed	27 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	28	29	30 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Chief Usher: Jane Moore

Acolytes:

3: Chief Usher
10: Emily Seebold
17: Chief Usher
24: Logan & Quinton Bartlett
31: Chief Usher

Announcements: Sally Rothmel

Lay Readers:

3: Norm Conrad
10: Harvey Ijgen
17: Barb Randecker
24: Jeff Mensch
31: Sally Rothmel

Altar/Communion: Sheryl Fetter & Carol Kose

Children's Church:

3: Kim Sawyer
10: Shirley Heasley
17: Samantha Orren
24: None
31: None

Offering Envelopes: Craig & Sally Rothmel

Ushers:

3: Jim & Karen Adams, Mike & Ann Beckley
10: Harvey & Brenda Ijgen, Dewey & Barb Reed
17: Crossland Family
24: Harry Boyer, Jeff Hackenburger
31: Hull Family

November 1, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1901 by Pr. John.

Present: Cher Girton, Gary Girton, Pr. John Yost, Harry Boyer, Jeff Mensch, Deanna Billow, Barb Randecker, Jane Moore and guests Doug & Morgan Richard

Absent: Liz Loss, Tanna Stenger, Jim Schwartz, and Logan Mensch

Pr. John opened with devotions, reviewing the book of Revelations and All Saints Day.

Guests report: written report submitted; their proposal to utilize parsonage for their counselling services

Secretary's Report: October minutes were submitted and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: October reports submitted and approved as read subject to audit.

Pastor's report: Pr. John thanked everyone for their participation in the Reformation service. Not a good turnout for the German hymn sing due to weather. Heading into busy season. He believes we need to look at who we are as a congregation and where we're going in many different ways.

Communication: Harry Boyer reported that he received a letter from Sally Rothermel resigning from Staff Support effective December 31, 2017. Jeff Mensch motioned to accept the resignation, seconded by Barb Randecker; motion passed unanimously. Also received written request from Matt Wagner, VP Christkindl, for use of the church and parsonage during Christkindl.

Executive: None

Gifts & Endowments – None

Worship & Music – Bill Musser had no report.

Property – Air conditioning is complete and thermostats are programmed. Ceiling tiles in the hall are being replaced and work is almost complete.

Christian Education –no report

Fellowship & Recreation – Jeff Mensch reminded that the holiday dinner would be held in conjunction with the annual meeting in January.

Service & Outreach – no report

Finance – Jeff Mensch reported that Sholley Agency is working on a new quote for liability insurance. Pr. John revisited the audit discussion. No further action has been taken.

Youth – Kim Sawyer submitted a written report on October's activities.

Staff Support – no report

Parish Council: Jeff Mensch reported they met in October. Parish contribution will not change for 2018; Pr. John's salary will remain the same but will increase his retirement contribution. New Year's Eve service will be combined at 10:00AM at First Lutheran. Lent will begin on Valentine's Day this year and end on April 1st.

Business:

Acolytes: Trena Zeller requested updated acolyte list; volunteers are dwindling. Schedule 2 Sundays per month and let the other two open. Chief Usher will get volunteers for the two open Sundays.

Snow Removal: Received proposal from Schlegal Excavating for snow removal. Same prices as last year. Jeff Mensch made motion to accept contract, seconded by Jane Moore; motion passed unanimously.

Parsonage; Heating & Electric: Discussion was had as to Doug & Morgan Richard's request to use the parsonage for their counselling services. Significant increased heating costs will be incurred and are not built into the 2018 budget. Discussion was had as to how to proceed financially. Jeff Mensch made motion that we enter into an Informal Agreement with them; terms to include: 1. They fund proposed repairs, 2. They make a \$3000 donation to the church in 2018 and 3. They make a \$3500 donation in 2019. Gary Girton seconded the motion; passed unanimously. Harry Boyer will discuss the proposal with them.

Security System: Extremely difficult to work with. Have alarms go off and Select calls and they won't recognize our "pin" or "password". Contact people should be Pr. John, Jim Schwartz, Cher Girton & Heather Klose. We would like to discontinue the security portion and maintain the fire protection. Jeff Mensch made motion to contact Select and determine if this is possible; if so proceed as above, seconded by Gary Girton; motion passed unanimously.

Christkindl: Discussed requests received from Matt Wagner. Jane Moore moved to approve all requests with the exception of Saturday German breakfast, seconded by Gary Girton; motion passed unanimously.

Apple Dumpling Proceeds: Harry Boyer reported that initially the proceeds were to be split as follows: 50% to Youth, 25% to Logan Roush and 25% to Karen Kurtz. Youth now would like to split to youth money with another beneficiary. Youth committee would need to meet and discuss that as it wasn't part of the initial motion. Discussion was also had regarding the 10% tithe from the proceeds that has been historically given to the church. Jeff Mensch made motion to give the church a 10% tithe based on historical actions, seconded by Barb Randecker; motion passed unanimously. Net proceeds after tithe is \$10,548.

Parking Notices: Need to make signs for people who park in the lot on Sundays. Office will take care of that.

December Meeting: Council will meet at Carriage Corner at 6:00PM for the December meeting.

2018 Nominations: Committee has not obtained names as of right now.

Bulletin: Deanna Billow reported she liked the bulletin at Christ's United and the way events are listed chronologically.

Meeting closed with prayer by Harry Boyer and adjourned @ 2120.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Klose,

Recording secretary

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

404 MARKET STREET
MIFFLINBURG, PA 17844
570-966-0266
E-Mail: firstlu@dejazzd.com
Office Hours: MON-THURS, 9:00-2:00

Address Service Requested



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

First Lutheran will continue with one worship service beginning at 10:30 AM.

Sunday School begins at 9:15AM.



Merry Christmas
and a Blessed New Year



The First Evangelical Lutheran website is up and running!!

Please visit FELCMifflinburg.org and see what's happening.

Submit any comments and or announcements you'd like to be posted to the church office.

When you are aware of situations requiring pastoral care, such as births, deaths, hospital admission, serious illness, etc., please notify Pastor John Yost at: 570-837-9232 (cell/text) or e-mail, pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com

