

First News February 2019

From Our Pastor...

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Market St, Mifflinburg, PA

A NEW DAY AND THE OLD, OLD STORY

We are now entering into the second month of 2019. And as we enter this new future in faith, we are to be continually addressing issues and concerns that have been carried over from previous years: quests for economic stability in the face of increasing poverty, an end to violence amidst the vitriolic rhetoric of hate and division, healing and hope in places of rampant disease and malnutrition, and understanding among peoples bearing a multiplicity of values, ideologies and faith perspectives. We have heretofore entertained techniques and strategies for possible solutions to these concerns from the disciplines of the quantitative sciences, the art of diplomacy and negotiation, and moral and psychological investigations. And yet the world in which we inhabit continues to reveal a plethora of fears, uncertainties, doubts and despairs.

Is it that the more we seem to know the more the realm of the unknown is revealed to us? Can our human knowledge alone (and the strategies and devices derived from such knowledge) be capable of directing our destinies in a path for which we hope? Increasingly, we seem to have the capacity to move faster than the speed of sound; we have the strength to literally move mountains; we can observe and manipulate the building blocks of life (DNA, RNA) of which the naked eye is unable to see; we are able to trans-

form and utilize the elements of nature for an abundance of energy and subsistence. But to this very day, nations and peoples are still at war; deadly disease and malnutrition is widespread; fear and terror are used to incite and provoke; and literal and figurative walls and fences are erected to separate us one from another. The forces of greed and unauthorized and uncontrolled power are continually fueled by deception, untruth and mistrust.

God has given us minds to think, to learn and to act. We are to be ever grateful for the knowledge we bear and ought to utilize. Our capacity for learning and knowledge put into action can and does indeed transform the world as we know it. But our mindful thoughts and actions in and of themselves are not and will not be able to lead us to that place of hope for which we pray and discern. We need the guidance and direction of God's Spirit. We need return to the old, old story- the story "of Jesus and his love", "the message of salvation from God's own holy Word" (Katherine Hankey, "I Love to tell the Story").

We may be entering into a new day, a brief glimpse into the new year. And yet we continue to live in a world short on peace and justice, health and goodwill. Nevertheless, we live in and within God's grace and mercy revealed in and by the presence of Jesus Christ and empowered through and by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, THIS IS TO BE A TIME OF CONFIDENT FAITH

AND GOOD HOPE! The Apostle Paul writes, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). Paul shares that humanity and all creation has been subject to suffering and decay, but has done so as it "waits with eager longing" for redemption and salvation. Because of God's grace and mercy, the promise of a hopeful future far outweighs the problematic issues and concerns of the present. God promises that all creation and humanity will be restored to its original goodness. But because the promise of redemption and salvation remains for the moment, just that, a promise, we have it only in and as hope. And yet we have been given the Holy Spirit as a foretaste of this hope's fulfillment.

Even as we enter into this challenging time, with its attendant issues and concerns, may we enter it with hope, and the assurance that God's grace and mercy are among us in the presence of Jesus Christ and that we shall be led by the Holy Spirit into the way of peace and justice for all. And that we shall use our minds and the knowledge we bear, not in idolatrous ways seeking a destiny of our own choosing, but that we follow Jesus in the way the way of truth and righteousness. It is in HIM that we have life and a future.

Pr. John

Staff Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Girton, Asst. Church Administrator
- Hank Dorman, Sexton

Council Members

- Linda Skinner, Council President
- Gary Girton, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Girton, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Sue Jows, Council
- Carol Klose, Council
- Libby Loss, Council
- Jane Moore, Council
- Sherri Neece, Council
- Jim Schwartz, Council
- Logan Bartlett, Council -Y
- Vacancy

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Inside this issue:

Birthdays	2
In Prayer	2
Thank You	2
Thrivent	2
MACY	3
Mini MACY	3
Volunteers	4
Calendar	4

Parish Newsletter

It has been voted by the Parish Council to go to a single parish newsletter starting in March. The newsletter will be prepared at First with communications between the two congregational staff.

Please have all information you would like in the newsletter submitted to the church office on or before the 15th of each month.

Our church will continue to email the Parish newsletters, or place in church mailboxes. Thank you!

Happy Birthday

Jeffrey Hackenburg 02/01
 Owen Libhart 02/03
 Nathan McBryan 02/03
 Kim Wagner 02/04
 Jamie Bartlett 02/05
 James Beckley 02/07
 Carol Mensch 02/07
 Cher Garton 02/10
 Ashley Uehling 02/10
 Addison Hess 02/11
 Mary Lib Dunkle 02/12
 Joely Watson 02/12
 Edward Libhart 02/14
 Patricia Stees 02/15
 Steve Kreisher 02/16
 Scott Smith 02/18
 Linn Mensch 02/19
 Kim Sauers 02/21
 Dotly Seebold 02/21
 Caroline Herman 02/22
 Madison Reed 02/23
 Lisa Woodring 02/25
 Cory Harvey 02/26
 Gary Bottiger 02/27
 Cynthia Harvey 02/27
 Deborah Johnson 02/27
 Collin Krout 02/27

Shut-Ins:
 Ethel Musser 02/04
 305 E. Tressler Blvd
 Apt 407
 Lewisburg, PA 17837

Wayne Shively 02/23
 2380 Green Ridge Road
 Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Please keep in prayer:

John Snook
 Ethel Musser
 Dr. Musser
 Jan Beckley
 Jerry Mickel
 Helen Troup
 In Our Military:
 Thaddeus Miller
 Zachary Miller
 Brandon Curry

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

Spring Open House: Sunday, April 28, 2019, 2-4 PM
 Come see what it's like to be a camper, tour the facilities,
 ask questions and participate in fun "Camp" activities.

2019 Summer Camp Brochures and applications
 are available in the church office.

Heartfelt Thanks

Greetings to all at First Lutheran,
 We have been blessed by multiple contacts from friends and members. Thank you for your notes, visits, calls and snacks. We are eternally grateful for your interest. Our hope is to be able to return and worship with you, but until that time, thank you for your thoughtfulness. Our prayers are with you.

Sincerely, Bill and Ethel Musser

This year's Christkindl Market could not be so successful without people such as you. It has grown in quality and size, and volunteer help and contributions are an integral part of this Mifflinburg German tradition. Thank you so much for your help. We sincerely appreciate your interest in this community event and wish you much happiness and success in the coming year.

Christkindl Market of
 Mifflinburg, Inc.

To all the people that put the time and work into having a meal for the people of our town it's nice to know there are people like you to do this and I would like to thank you very much. And hope you have a very Merry Christmas, and a great New Year. God bless all of you, Nancy Richard

Thank you to all who came and supported our first Soup and Sandwich Sunday for 2019! Despite the snow, it was great! We hope to see you at the next one on, February 10th!
 MACY
 (Mifflinburg Area Christian Youth)

A huge thank you to everyone who prepared and/or donated college care packages. Many messages of appreciation and thanks have been received from these young adults.
 Kim

Dear First Lutheran Church,
 The Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club wants to thank you for the contribution of food you made to our annual Kiwanis Club Food Box Project. You helped the needy families in Mifflinburg Area School District as part of our Food Box Program. We gave much needed food and products to 87 families, almost 300 people in all. We also gave small presents to the family's children under 12 years old.

"Gifting" to others is one of the joys of life! We thank you so much for sharing in the Christmas spirit along with our Kiwanis Club for these needy families. Thank you again!
 We hope you had a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!
 Nicole Bailey
 Secretary for Kiwanis Club of Mifflinburg

Don Bowman Food Box
 Chairperson

Parish Bowling Event

THE PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE has scheduled a family bowling event at the Selinsgrove Best Bowl along Route 522 on Sunday, February 24, 2019, starting at 4:00 p.m. Pizza and soda will be served. The cost per person is \$5.00. Sign-up sheets will be available at each church. Please sign up so we have an idea on how many are coming. Questions? Contact Barb Randecker or Barry Spangler.

E-Mail Address Needed

Please stop by the office and update your church email address. If you have never supplied the office with your email, please do so. By having your email address, we will be able to send out a message if there is a change in the worship schedule. (Example being the snow storm which cancelled the meal after the Annual Meeting.) This way you will know before you come in for worship.

Thrivent Members:

Choice Dollars need to be directed by the middle of March for 2018. The following are instructions on how to direct your Choice Dollars by phone or online.

Online

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. In the "Direct Choice Dollars" section on the right, select the "Get Started Now" link.
3. Log in and enter your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct on the right side of the screen.
5. Locate the organization you want to direct to: a. To direct to a previous organization: • Click "Direct Now" next to the organization's name, or • Click on the "Activity History" page, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization. b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "Find."
6. Choose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation window to direct Choice Dollars.

By Phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars® program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Please take this opportunity to help our church on a charitable organization of your choice. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Thrivent Representative.

February Youth Group Scoop MACY

Mini MACY

The newly formed "Mini MACY", a youth group for Mifflinburg Area Christian Youth ages 5-12-years, will hold their February gathering at, Christ's United (4-Bells), on February 17th, in the large gym area next to the kitchen starting at 3PM. We will be delivering valentines that we made in January's gathering, to the residents at Rolling Hills Manor, in Millmont, and then we will be returning to the 4-Bells church for ice cream sundaes and games.

Annual Homemade Soups+Sandwich+Sweet Sale
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 @ 11:45 AM on
 January 13th/February 10th/March 10th
 in Multi-Purpose Room



At least 12 different homemade soups available – select 2 and all will be bagged up for you to take home and enjoy during the cold winter days! Thanks so much for supporting our youth as they prepare to serve this summer at another Workcamp in PUERTO RICO and attend Harvey Cedars Bible Camp!

2019 Trip Dates

Reminder of dates for this year's youth trips:
 Group Workcamp to Puerto Rico:
 June 22nd—29th
 Harvey Cedars Bible Conference:
 July 15th—20th

February 17th: Youth Group
 Progressive Dinner/Devos
 starting at 5:00 PM
 Devos by Meg & Ella



Anyone interested in opening their home for a portion of the evening, please contact Kim ASAP. I have ONE parent who offered their home for Progressive Dinner – please let me know if you're willing to host approximately 10 for appetizer or main meal. Desserts and Devos will be for ALL!



February 22-23
 30 Hour Famine in Williamsport- If interested, please contact Kim ASAP.



March 30th
 Winter Jam at Bryce Jordan If interested, please contact Kim ASAP.

Youth were given \$10 in December and challenged to do as much as possible for OTHERS!
Here are a few of the amazing things done with just \$10.

1. We realized there are so many that have no money for Christmas so we selected a family in need...went to Walmart and bought books, toys for Christmas for a 7 year old boy. Went together with another team member. Gave them to the family to be given Christmas Day!
2. Hygiene kits for the homeless...soap, gallon bags, toothbrush, comb, etc.
3. Bought apple sauce, fruit snacks, Chef-boy-ar-dee products, juice pouches, pop tarts and donated them to the Mifflinburg Back Pack project for children who may not have food on the weekend.
4. Supported a local animal shelter for animals in

need and I bought supplies (paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc.) and they need a lot of help that we could all follow up with...

5. Went to Sheetz and purchased gift cards and taped them to the gas pumps so people would be surprised with an anonymous gift and greeting saying "Happy Holiday"
6. Bought toys and wrapped them and handed them out to kids in the community
7. Went together and purchased nail polish, nail files, snacks and then went to Elmcroft and painted the nails of residents and spent time with them and gave them snacks to keep after we left
8. Purchased food for the Backpack program operated for Mifflinburg area school students
9. Purchased two Weis gift cards and walked through Weis and gave them to people and asked them to remember that God is in their lives and wished them a great Christmas
10. Donated the \$10 plus \$10 of my own to an

organization called SLEEP TIGHT where children are homeless or have difficulty sleeping for many reasons

11. Went to Dollar General and got as many toys as possible and donated them to Toys for Tots!
12. Purchased flowers and went to homes of shut ins and/or nursing homes and gave them cards and flowers and the remaining \$2.50 was taped to laundromat for use by someone
13. Donated plush stuffed animals to the hospital pediatric department
14. Purchased index cards and wrote upbeat messages and appreciation notes and handed them out to people throughout the month. Examples: (You are loved) (Thank you for your service)
15. Purchased scarves, hats and gloves for the clothing drive at SUN ATS
16. Purchased coloring books and crayons for kids in the hospital and those who must sit in the waiting room.

2018 Congregational Council President's Message by Harry Boyer

2018, the year of our Lord. The years pass so quickly. First, I would like to thank-you for everyone's support I had while being President the past two years. I would like to also thank all the committees for their support. I guess we all know that the church cannot be the church without the participation of all members. We have a congregation who worships together, works together, loves together, and achieves together, all under Gods guidance and direction. This was the second year as operating as the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish. It always makes me feel good when we worship together, do things together, and to see the two congregations joining together. This last year, when we both worshipped at the Elias Church the month of October, was something special. Both congregations stayed

after church for fellowship. I know most people probably will think it was the food, but I feel God had a lot of influence with bringing us together also. I am very confident that 2019 will be another successful year for First Lutheran. I encourage everyone to read the committee reports and see how much work the committees do for the church. We have another very good council for 2019 and I know the church is in good hands. I encourage everyone to keep praying for the church, everyone in need, whoever and where ever the need occurs. Always remember, we are his children and when two or three are gathered together in his name, he will be in the mist of us. God Be With You.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Rescheduled

The Semi-Annual Congregational meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 3rd, immediately following worship.

2018 Donation Statements

The 2018 Donation Statements have been placed in the mailboxes. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

FEBRUARY 2019

First Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's 11AM-12:30PM: Community Meal
3 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC- Scout Sunday	4	5 10:30AM: Bible Study	6 7PM: Council 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir	7 1PM: WELCA-DS 7:30PM Men's Ministry MP Room	8	9 8AM: Men's Breakfast—Carriage Corner
10 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC- Youth Soup/Sandwich Sale—immediately following worship	11	12 10:30AM: Bible Study	13 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir	14 	15	16 8AM: Men's Breakfast—Old Turnpike
17 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC- 3PM: Mini MACY— Christ's United	18	19 10:30AM: Bible Study	20 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir	21 7:30PM Men's Ministry MP Room	22	23 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's
24 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	25	26 10:30AM: Bible Study	27 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir	28		

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS
Chief Usher: Sherri Neece

Acolytes:
3: Scouts
10: Logan Bartlett
17: Head Usher
24: Paige Bartlett

Announcements: Jeff Mensch

Altar/Communion: Jamie Bartlett &
Barb Randecker

Lay Readers:
3: Karen Boyer
10: Norm Conrad
17: Jeff Crossland
24: Shirley Heasley

Children's Church:

3: Shirley Heasley
10: Mandy Rothermel
17: Kim Sawyer
24: Jamie Bartlett

Offering Envelopes: Linn Mensch &
Don Seebold

Ushers:

3: Sue Jows, Carol Klose
Andy Long, Libby Loss
10: Jeff Hackenburg, Jeff Mensch
Earl Michael, Jane Moore
17: Marianne Motto, Tom Orren
Troy Smith, Kim Wagner
24: Craig & Sally Rothermel
Dave Weaver, Max Zeller

Quick Look at What's Happening at the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish...

February 10: Youth Soup & Sandwich Sale: See any youth group member or Kim Sawyer for tickets.

February 17: Mini-MACY: 3PM @ Christ's United; delivering Valentines to Rolling Hills and returning to Christ's United for an ice cream social.

February 24: Parish Bowling Day—4PM @ Selinsgrove Best Bowl. Pizza and soda will be served. The cost per person is \$5.00. Sign-up sheets will be available at each church. Please sign up so we have an idea on how many are coming. Questions? Contact Barb Randecker or Barry Spangler.