



# ***BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS***

## ***JANUARY 2025***

### ***PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS***

Grace and peace to you!

Thank you all for the Christmas cards and gifts! I am truly blessed by you all.

Another "New Year" is upon us! And it's time to make our New Year's resolutions! I always struggle with resolutions because I will make them, and I fail and fail miserably at keeping them. As I was scrolling through Instagram this morning (December 31) I came across an interesting post by someone I follow. As I make my resolutions this year, I will try to follow the plan she shared. With her permission, I will share her post with you, and I hope it will help you make your resolutions. This is from Felicia Johnson, and if you are on Instagram, you can follow her at @faith.grace.truth

#### **Reflect**

Before you set resolutions, take time to reflect:

- What did God teach you this year?
- What prayers did He answer in ways you didn't expect?
  - What blessings did you overlook?

#### **Reset**

Let go of what you can't control and reset your focus on Him:

- Surrender your fears and failures.
  - Release grudges and offenses.
- Trust that God's plans for you are greater than your own (Jeremiah 29:11)

## Refocus

### Make room for what truly matters in 2025:

- Prioritize time with God daily.
- Commit to growing in your faith.
- Surround yourself with people who point you to Christ.

### A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, as I enter this new year, align my heart with Your will. Let me seek You first in all things, trust Your timing, and walk in faith. May I honor You in every season. In Jesus' name. Amen.

And, If I were to add anything to the plan that Felicia has laid out, it would be to commit yourself to prayer in 2025! We have talked in our Bible studies that it seems that the only time we pray to God is when we are going through tough times. But make sure that you also include prayers of thanksgiving. Give thanks to God for those good times in your life!

This is a reminder that beginning in January, First Lutheran will be worshipping with St. John's UCC on the second Sunday of the month at 10:30 am. Also, if you have any pastoral care needs or would like a visit, please call me at 814-876-0974 or email me at [pastorbuffalovalleyparish@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbuffalovalleyparish@gmail.com)

May you have a happy and blessed New Year!

Peace in Christ,  
**The Rev. Curt Wingert**

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### THE TRINITY SNOWMAN

*When you see a snowman  
Three snowballs round.  
He is reminding you  
That in God, three in one are found.*

*The bottom reminds us of God the father,  
Our strong rock and foundation,  
The Creator of all living things,  
People, tribes, and nations.*

*The middle shows us God the son  
With His arms spread open wide.*

*Who died on the cross for each of us  
Our sins Jesus' blood did hide.*

*The head reminds us of God the Holy Spirit  
Who is our counselor and friend,  
He speaks to our hearts and minds  
Transforming us in the likeness of Him.*

*So when you see a snowman  
In the midst of all the wintertime fun,  
Listen carefully and he will tell you,  
"Remember God Is Three In One"*



## ***PARISH NEWS***

### **Bible Study**

The Parish Bible Study continues to meet on Mondays at 1:30 pm at First Lutheran. They will be studying the book of Ephesians beginning in January. All are welcome.

**Dates: January 6, 13, 20, 27**

### **Parish Bingo Night – January 18, 2025**

**Save the Date!** Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 18, 2025. The Parish will host a Bingo Night at CULC starting at 5:30 pm. Players are asked to bring a “white elephant” gag gift (less than \$10) for prizes. The Parish will provide hot dogs, snacks and drinks. Invite your family and friends to join us! Contact Marianne Motto (570-850-3488) for details.

### **Indoor Yard Sale – Saturday, February 8, 2025**

An indoor yard sale is set for **Saturday, February 8, 2025** at Christ’s United, benefiting our Parish youth ministries. For more information, contact Teresa Shuck (570-966-2053) and Idella Zimmerman (570-966-1340).

 **LOOK What’s Going On!**

## ***CULC NEWS***

### **2025 Council Members**

At the December annual meeting, Dennis Boop was elected to serve a three-year term on council. Joel Blyler, Bev Catherman and Linda Smith were re-elected to serve a second three-year term. Breonna Zimmerman was also elected to serve a term as youth representative.

### **Offering Envelopes**

In 2025, we are continuing to use our “homemade” offering envelopes. If you need some, contact Kim Blyler (570-716-5601).

### **CULC Money Counters**

We are still in need of additional offering counters after worship services. If interested, contact Barry Spangler (570-966-0406).

### **In Appreciation**

Thank you to all of you who remembered me with a gift this Christmas. Your thoughtfulness means more to me than words can express. ~~Margie

### **Mark Your Calendars for the Following 2025 Meals at CULC:**

March 2 - Pot Pie Quart Sale  
April 27 – Ham Loaf Dinner  
May 25 – Turkey Dinner  
September 28 – Turkey Dinner  
November 2 – Pot Pie Quart Sale



## ***FELC NEWS***

### **Thank You**

Many, many thanks for your generous support of our Kiwanis “Food boxes for the Needy” project. We try to provide food that about 80 local families will enjoy during this holiday/winter season. Our community is a blessing that takes care of each other. Love, kindness and faith in times of need are to be appreciated.

And – an extra huge thanks for all those paper goods donated on the “Advent by Candlelight” night!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year ~ Sally Rothermel, Club Secretary

### **Adult Sunday School Class at First Lutheran**

An adult Sunday school class is being held at FIRST in the multipurpose room from 9 am – 10:15 am, guided by Janet Shoemaker. All are welcome. Contact Janet at 570-966-0494 with questions.

### **Word in Season Devotionals**

The Word in Season devotionals for January – March 2025 are available in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Monthly Coffee Hour – On Break**

The monthly coffee hour is taking a break until further notice.

### **Special Music at First**

Jan 5 choir (rehearse tone chimes after church)

Jan 12 tone chimes play at UCC

Jan 19 Piano/organ duet (choir rehearse after church)

Jan 26 rehearse Tone chimes after church

### **Thanksgiving Offering**

Thank you to all who donated toward our Thanksgiving offering to support Izzy Kissinger, a teacher at Mifflinburg Elementary School, who underwent brain surgery in June to remove a tumor. Contributions will help with her medical expenses as she proceeds with the next steps to slow down the regrowth of the tumor. We collected \$444.00.

### **Annual Reports**

Just a reminder that Committee Chairpersons need to submit 2024 annual reports to the church office by January 23, 2025. The semi-annual meeting will be held in February.

### **Altar Flowers**

The cost of altar flowers is now \$50 for 2 vases, instead of \$40.

### **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 Gift Cards – Updated Information**

Gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100 and make wonderful gifts for any occasion. **As of October 2024, Kim Sawyer is now 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% and Wenger's 10% of purchase to our mission fund!** Many thanks to all who support this mission.

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**CHRIST'S UNITED**

Laurie Adams  
Dave Biddinger  
Paul Brann  
Roger Dunkle  
Darlene Endy  
Vicky Eschbach  
Dorothy Furgison  
Gary Gemberling  
Pearl Gemberling  
Gary & Janet Hackenberg  
Tom Janaes  
Paul & Sherri Klauger  
Roy Laudermilch  
Kay Martin  
Harry Moyer  
Steve & Judy Moyer  
Dave Oberlin  
Louise Ritter  
Larry Sampsell

Chuck Spurr  
Sam & Ethel Schnure  
Kay Shively  
Lee & Kathy Spangler  
Dave & Linda Swartz  
Gary & Marline Walters  
Kerm & Joyce Walter  
Tom Watters  
Donald Weller  
Jessica Wheeler  
Alica Zimmerman

**The Shut-Ins:**

Betty Goss, Helen Pirone,  
Dottie Rathfon

*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**

**Shut Ins**

Millard Boyer  
Mary "Lib" Dunkle  
Lois Elliott  
Doris Moll  
Ethel Musser  
June Ocker  
Barb Reed  
Dotty Seebold  
James Shipton  
Pat Smith  
Nancy Ulrich

**The Troops**

Thaddeus Miller  
Zachary Miller

To *Pray*  
is to let go  
and let God take over.  
-Philippians 4:6-7



## ***JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES***

### **CULC BIRTHDAYS**

1 - Robert Rantz  
14 - Trevor Spencer  
15 - Dennis Boop, Jr.  
16 - Kendrah Beiler  
Paige Hosterman  
Janice Wagner  
17 - Sally Kline  
Lee Spangle  
19 – Hannah Blyler  
22- Jaiden Beiler  
23 – Avery Blyler  
25 - Natalie Harvey  
29 - Rick Endy  
31 - Rebecca Dunkle

### **CULC ANNIVERSARIES**

30 – Doug & Stacey Gemberling  
(2013)

*Congratulations*

### **FELC BIRTHDAYS**

2 – Sherri Neece  
4 – Brooke Jordan  
5 – Andy Long  
7 – Brett Harvey Melissa  
Lynch  
10 – Tracy Baylor  
15 - Carol Graham, Shirley  
Heasley, Amy Orren  
19 – Gwen Hull, Kathryn  
Alexander  
25 – Aaron Hackenberg  
26 - Paige Bartlett, Daniel Baylor,  
Derek Long, Taylor  
Montesinos  
27 – Shelly Orren  
28 – Ethan Hendricks  
30 – Sara Donmoyer, Cole  
Montesinos  
31 – Mark Alexander, Marla Hicks

### **FELC ANNIVERSARIES**

12 – DuFrane & Barb Reed (35 yrs.)  
15 – Nathan & Kortney McBryan  
(14 yrs.)  
20 – John & Linda Schnure (57yrs.)  
22 – Scott & Sue Smith (48 yrs.)  
29 – Mike & Janet Shoemaker  
(53 yrs.)



## ***VOLUNTEERS***

### **CULC**

| <b>Date:</b> | <b>Greeters:</b>  | <b>Lay Reader:</b> | <b>Communion Assistants:</b> |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1/5          | Kris & Carla Ruhl | Glenn Spangler     | Dianne Shuck                 |
| 1/12         | Linda Smith       | Lisa Lapp          | Janice Wagner                |
| 1/19         | Barry Spangler    | Greg Shuck         | Judy Moyer                   |
| 1/26         | Idella Zimmerman  | Barry Spangler     | Barry Spangler               |

**Sound System:** Dave Bickhart      **Altar Guild:** Katherine & Eugene Hassinger

**Ushers:** The Boop Family

**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 services scheduled during the month.*



### **FELC**

| <b>Date:</b> | <b>Lay Reader:</b>               | <b>Ushers:</b>            | <b>Young Followers:</b> |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/5          | Jane Moore                       | Carol Klose/Nicole Klose  |                         |
| 1/12         | <b>Service at St. John's UCC</b> |                           |                         |
| 1/19         | Barb Randecker                   | Barb Randecker/Kim Wagner |                         |
| 1/26         | Karen Boyer                      | Jeannie Sawyer/Kim Sawyer |                         |

#### ***Acolytes:***

1/5 – Brynn Umholtz      1/12 – **Service at St. John's UCC**  
1/19 – Erica Boyer      1/26 – Jane Moore

**Chief Usher:** Drew Christy

**Money Counters:** Ann Beckley/Jim Schwartz      **Altar Guild:** Mandy & Sally Rothermel

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





## ***SYNOD NEWS***

The synod is interested in creating an email list for those who are advisors or youth who would like to be kept informed of events around the new Synod Youth Initiative. If you are interested in being on this list, please email [news@uss-elca.org](mailto:news@uss-elca.org)

### **Calling all musicians of the USS!**

Is anyone out there interested in forming a group of organists/choir directors/bell choir directors/musicians? One where we can share trials and triumphs, music planning, and other musical ideas? We could assist each other in locating/loaning anthems, organ and bell choir music, choir robes and hymnals, and giving friendly advice and support. If such a group piques your interest in any way, please contact Jeff Harvey at [faithsbrotherjeff@gmail.com](mailto:faithsbrotherjeff@gmail.com)>

### **Hope in a Divided World: A Faithful Response to Christian**

**Nationalism** – March 7-8 at ULS Gettysburg -Registration is OPEN! Join us and Dr. Lori Brandt Hale of [The International Bonhoeffer Society - English Language Section](#) AND Amanda Tyler of BJC - Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and [Christians Against Christian Nationalism](#)! Discover how people of faith can authentically and humbly act at the intersection of civic life and faith, in contrast and response to the forces of Christian Nationalism, using the legacy and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as a guide. We are grateful to partner with United Lutheran Seminary's [Kindling Faith](#) to offer this event. Early Bird Registration ends February 7.

<https://www.lutheranadvocacy.org/event/bonhoefferlecture/>

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*Of winter's lifeless world each tree  
Now seems a perfect part;  
Yet each one holds summer's secret  
Deep down within its heart.*

*~Charles G. Stater*



## ***CAMP MOUNT LUTHER***

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: (570) 922-1587 E-mail: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)

### **2025 Summer Staff Applications Open**

Camp Mount Luther is hiring young adults who want to have their BEST. SUMMER. EVER. and I think you'd be PERFECT for that job. Apply now for a summer camp staff position at [campmountluther.org/jobs](http://campmountluther.org/jobs)!

It's easy to apply. Read the summer staff [job description](#) and [apply](#) at [www.campmountluther.org/jobs](http://www.campmountluther.org/jobs). After you submit your application, you will be contacted by the director with next steps, including being interviewed. You'll also have to supply some references to vouch for your work ethic.

In return for working at camp, we promise that: We will give you exceptional leadership training; We will offer you compensation for your work; We will make you a part of our exceptional community; We will care for your personal growth, offering you support every step of the way

Are YOU ready to make a difference this summer? Our Staff applications for Summer 2025 are open! [www.campmountluther.org/jobs](http://www.campmountluther.org/jobs)

### **Taste of Camp**

You miss camp. You love being here and every winter you find yourself thinking about coming, even for just a day, to enjoy the trails, the games, and the songs.

Or maybe you've never been to camp. You've heard about it. You've always wanted to see what it's all about, but you're feeling unsure. You just want a little taste, just to see what it's like.

Whichever category you might fall into, we have the event for you!

Taste of Camp is your opportunity to come to Camp Mount Luther and remind yourself or see for the first time what we're all about! Come to camp

and enjoy games, songs, a campfire, s'mores, a hike, a sneak peak into next year's camp program, and worship!

This year's Taste of Camp will be held at Camp Mount Luther's Evergreen Center on Sunday, February 23 from 2-4pm. No RSVP necessary. We hope to see you there!

### **Coming up!**

**January 3-5, 2025:** [Winterfest](#)

**January 15, 2025:** [Summer camp registration](#) opens!!

**January 19, 2025:** Youth group trivia night (3-5pm)

**February 16, 2025:** Youth group bowling (3-5pm)

**February 23, 2025:** [Taste of Camp](#)

**March 2, 2025:** Camp Mount Luther Sunday

**March 28-30, 2025:** RENEW (formerly GROW in the Snow)

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### **MY RESOLUTION**

*I won't look back; God knows the fruitless efforts,  
The wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets.  
I'll leave them all with Him who blots the record,  
And graciously forgives, and then forgets.*

*I won't look forward; God sees all the future,  
The road that, short or long, will lead me home,  
And He will face with me its every trial,  
And bear with me the burdens that may come.*

*But I'll look up—into the face of Jesus,  
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled;  
And there is joy and love, and light for darkness  
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.*

*(Pulpit Helps)*

# **BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH**

**The Rev Curt Wingert, Pastor**

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

**Parish Council Members:** Sue Jows, Jennifer Keister, Terry Kline,  
Kim Sawyer, Jim Schwartz, Barry Spangler

**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*

**Janet Hackenberg, Asst. Treasurer**

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Joel Blyler – Dennis Boop**

**Gina Buttorff - Bev Catherman**

**Lisa Lapp - Greg Shuck**

**Teresa Shuck - Linda Smith**

**Lee Spangler – Idella Zimmerman**

**Breonna 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, Secretary**

**Katiann Lloyd, Financial Secretary**

**Diane Scott, Director of Music**

**Hank Dorman, Sexton**

**Loretta Martin, Housekeeping**

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Jeff Mensch, Council President**

**Kim Sauers, Council Vice President**

**Linda Lewis, Secretary**

**Gloria Mincemoyer, Treasurer**

**Jamie Bartlett, Council**

**Christian Boyer, Council**

**Shirley Heasley, Council**

**Drew Christy, Council**

**Perri Hull, Council**

**Barb Randecker, Council**

**Don Seebold II, Council**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# New Year's Crossword Puzzle

N Y N E A H X W K T I Y N J B I W L Q J Z K B W  
I R X S A Z Q S L C Z F V W P U D L C V O Y E J  
S M U I I P O D S F T R I O S D Z L H G J H G P  
V O Q D C W J E T A U D R F K B O U E V T Y I Y  
K A F G Q V S R E W L E H O I C R D E U G A N X  
Y C C W U Y B M L M D G V X U H O C R X H C N O  
R C L C E H I A T S A S N G V H B L S A T P I D  
S S L A S T T M L J T S R I F T Q O C N Z G N O  
L S J J N Q Y I V L M Q Y E Z M I S P A E X G Z  
A A K X O J J D S I O P C N L N T F R V V W L A  
O L X H I L J N L J P O O X O E N G A P M A H C  
G G U P T P S I Q A R I N S C J J W I Q C P K Q  
T R N P U D W G H C T D E S W U U S U L J Q Q T  
B U W I L V V H D A N E N I T T E F N O C R G S  
C O O V O B F T R Z O M N J G E T I U U G Y T U  
F H D W S P W B M I R R O R B A L L R L O E Q B  
I R T I E W E E F I R E W O R K S S J A E K N H  
D L N V R L P M F T R E D E T G P A S Q E R L K  
I K U V E B C A D L O X V O R B N I Q J Y Y H U  
R Z O C E G Y D R D F L C C N U C D O Y J T A L  
O B C P U I H W W T K H U X A V R J J G Z F U R  
G P V I W Q U X M G Y X G R Z L J Y L K P Y E F  
D B A B Y N E W Y E A R Y R A D N E L A C Z V B  
Y I V T K T Z E V U I R T Z Q Z P Y N T J E L G

|               |             |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| BABY NEW YEAR | MIRROR BALL | CELEBRATION | RESOLUTIONS |
| FIREWORKS     | CHAMPAGNE   | BEGINNING   | HOURGLASS   |
| COUNTDOWN     | BALLOONS    | CONFETTI    | MIDNIGHT    |
| CALENDAR      | JANUARY     | CHEERS      | GLASS       |
| HAPPY         | GOALS       | FIRST       | PARTY       |
| CLOCK         | TIME        | YEAR        | NEW         |

# January 2025

| Sunday                                                                                                                       | Monday                                                                        | Tuesday                                | Wednesday                            | Thursday                                        | Friday    | Saturday                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February Newsletter Articles Due January 20</b>                                                                           |                                                                               |                                        | <b>1</b>                             | <b>2</b><br><br>1:00 WELCA-FELC                 | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>11-12:00<br>Community<br>Meal-FELC |
| <b>5</b><br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>9:30 Koinonia Kafe-CULC<br>9:00 Adult SS-FELC<br>10:30 Worship-FELC<br>Choir Rehearsal-FELC | <b>6</b><br><br>1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC<br><br><br>6:00 Kiwanis-FELC     | <b>7</b>                               | <b>8</b><br><br>6:30 Council FELC    | <b>9</b>                                        | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b>                                      |
| <b>12</b><br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>9:00 Adult SS-FELC<br><b>10:30 Worship with UCC</b>                                        | <b>13</b><br><br>1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC                                 | <b>14</b>                              | <b>15</b><br>10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC | <b>16</b>                                       | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>5:30 Parish Bingo-CULC            |
| <b>19</b><br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>9:00 Adult SS-FELC<br>10:30 Worship-FELC<br>Choir Rehearsal-FELC                           | <b>20</b><br><br>1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC<br><br>6:30 Parish Council-CULC | <b>21</b><br><br><br>7:00 Council-CULC | <b>22</b>                            | <b>23</b><br><br><b>Annual Reports Due-FELC</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b>                                      |
| <b>26</b><br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>9:00 Adult SS-FELC<br>10:30 Worship-FELC<br>Choir Rehearsal-FELC                           | <b>27</b><br><br>1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC                                 | <b>28</b>                              | <b>29</b>                            | <b>30</b>                                       | <b>31</b> |                                                |