

First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

From Our Pastor...

A LENTEN INVENTORY FOR DISCIPLES

The liturgical season of Lent began in the early church as an intentional catechetical time of forty days to prepare candidates for baptism at the Easter vigil. That practice continues into the present. But in today's world, many Christians who are already baptized see Lent as an intentional and intensive opportunity to refocus on what it means to live out their Christian faith, to renew their commitment to follow Christ, to confess their sin, to receive the gift of God's forgiveness, and to engage with others throughout the world in the manner demonstrated by Jesus' example and teaching- to see our lives formed as disciples of Christ.

To be a disciple of Jesus entails much more than acquiring knowledge of Jesus and his teaching. Discipleship involves putting into practice what Jesus teaches and demands of those who take up his invitation to follow him. For disciples of Jesus, Lent becomes an opportunity to get better acquainted with Jesus and with ourselves as the result of his presence with and for us. Disciples of Jesus are called to continuously bear witness before the world of what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do in and through Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. To do so bears a constant need to address our allegiances

and alignments. To whom and to what do we devote our loyalty? And so we ask:

Do we do what we do because others are doing it, and we don't want to be left out? Do we do what we do to feel good, to feel good about ourselves, to feel good about our accomplishments? Do we do what we do to promote ourselves, to access power and privilege, to pave a way for success and status? Do we do what we do to achieve a sense of comfort and consolation? Do we do what we do to stave off our fears, to extinguish our doubts, to hide our weaknesses? Do we do what we do to shelter ourselves from vulnerability, to flee from any revelation of our true selves, to veil our imperfections, to mask our blemishes? Do we do what we do to protect ourselves from the hurts that may come about by being fully engaged in our world and relationships, from our own insecurities, from a stubbornness against change? Thus, we may be reminded of W.H. Auden's lines in "The Age of Anxiety": "We would rather be ruined than changed/we would rather die in our dread/ than climb the cross of the moment/ and let our illusions die." Or:

Do we do what we do because we acknowledge what Jesus has done and will continue to do for us, commit ourselves to follow Jesus wherever he leads us, obey whatever he demands and expects of us,

see the peace and salvation that he alone can offer?

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be apostolic (that is, sent-out ones) and faithful, not calling attention to ourselves but to Jesus and the reign of God which he brings near. Disciples of Jesus are called to be hospitable and humble, gracious and merciful, generous and inspiring (by the way of the spirit of Jesus). Knowing the story about Jesus is not enough; we must see as Jesus sees in order to be able to do as Jesus does. The crosses we bear as disciples of Jesus are to be determined by his cross. In the words of Stanley Hauerwas, "Jesus is calling us not to attend to our own goodness or our loves, but rather to follow him."

Disciples of Jesus are called to trust in the abundance of God in the face of the scarcity played throughout the world that is borne of fear and rejection, violence and separation, anger and greed, covetousness and callousness. Even so, disciples of Jesus are to "travel light," having "nothing at their disposal" other than the authority they have been given by Jesus and a promise, a life in God's eternal kingdom. So, let go and let's go.

Pr. John Yost



2017

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Girton, Asst. Church Adm.
- Tom Taylor, Facilities Manager
- 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
- Dave Weaver, Council
- Jane Moore, Council Elect
- Tanna Stenger, Council Elect
- Logan Mensch, Council Elect

Inside this issue:

Council Corner	2
Birthdays	2
Mutual Ministry	2
Youth Events	3
Groups/Committees	3
Thank You	3

NEW STAFF E-MAILS:

Pr. John Yost—
prjohnyost@gmail.com
Diane Scott—
musiciandianescott@gmail.com
Heather Klose—
hklclose@gmail.com
Cher Girton—
clgirton@gmail.com

March Birthdays

Barb Randecker 3rd	Halley Watson 10th	William Musser 14th	Conner Hicks 23rd
Hattie Page 5th	William Miller 11th	Krystal Blue 17th	Kortney McBryan 25th
Janet Reed 6th	Jaydon Girton 12th	Bruce Graham 17th	Brooke Harvey 26th
Carol Hollister 7th	Emily Seebold 12th	Debra Harvey 17th	Jennie Servinsky 26th
Spencer Wagner 7th	Dennis Reed 13th	Maverick Stenger 19th	Cathleen Stenglein 29th
Fredrick Dale 8th	Gail Erdley 14th	Michael Lynch 20th	Russell Sawyer 30th
Thomas Shirk 8th	Earl Michael Jr. 14th	Corey Herb 23rd	

Mutual Ministry



Christ's United Easter Egg Sale

Lent has begun, which means we have started making our Easter eggs again. We will be making them on March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3 and April 10 provided we have enough help.

Providing there is enough help, eggs are mixed and shaped starting at 9:00 a.m. each Monday morning and coating and packaging begins each Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. This is a great fundraiser for the Christ's United and much help will be needed both at 9:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. to make this project successful.

In order for this fundraiser to be successful, EVERY week a minimum of 10 persons are needed in the morning and a minimum of 15 persons are needed in the evening. Sign Up sheets are on the bulletin board at Christ's United. Please sign up so that we know if we have enough help to make eggs that week. The more help we have, the quicker we will get done.

Order forms are available in the office at First Lutheran.

PLEASE NOTE: Orders not in the church kitchen, at Christ's United, by NOON on Sunday, will be filled last (if quantity permits). If you have any questions talk to Bev Catherman, at Christ's United.



Easter Flowers



Tulips, Hyacinth, Daffodils, & Martha Washington Geraniums AVAILABLE THIS YEAR!!

All orders along with payment must be received by Monday, March 27th.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ Daffodils @ \$8/ea Total: \$ _____

_____ Tulips @ \$8/ea Total: \$ _____

(Assortment of yellow, red, pink, purple, white)

_____ Hyacinth One Bloom @ \$3.50 Total: \$ _____

(grower's choice of color)

Three Blooms @ \$8.00 Total: \$ _____

(pink, white, blue)

_____ Martha Washington Geranium @ \$11/ea Total: \$ _____

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Remembered By: _____

Donate to Shut-In

Take Flowers

**If you desire, lilies can be ordered, but will not be placed at the altar, as Pastor John has a serious allergy to them. Lilies are priced at \$8.50. Thank you for your understanding.



Weekly Sponsors Needed!

The 2017 Altar Flower Calendar is posted. There are many available dates. Stop by the chart in the hallway and sign-up for a Sunday. The cost is \$40 per week and you may either take or donate the flowers. Your dedication will be printed in the bulletin for the week sponsored.

Thank You Corner

The Christmas Season and my birthday brought lovely cards and nice messages. Some of the cards had personal messages. I'm very grateful for all of them. How very thoughtful of all of you.

I don't get to services regularly but I think of you often. Sixty years of membership has a lot of memories and friendships. Thanks to all of you.

Blessings to all of you,
Hertha S. Wehr

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 1:00. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 30 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.

March meal will be held Saturday, March 4th.

YOUTH

Dinner/Devo's

Sr. High Youth

Sundays, 6-8PM @ Sawyer's home
March 19th, April 2nd & April 23rd

Jr. High Youth 5-7PM

March 19th @ Jadyr Rothermel's
April 23rd @ Ben Horning's
May 21st @ Sarah Harter's

Soup/Sandwich Sales

Please keep selling tickets for the month of March

If you need tickets, please contact Tracy Seebold @ 570-490-1949.

Future Dates/Events

April 9th -Annual Easter Egg Hunt organized by the Horning Family.
April 30th-MACY Movie Afternoon Leaving the church at noon.



MACY Winter Retreat March 4th & 5th

MACY will celebrate winter with a service project & fellowship at Wesley Forest, Sat., March 4th—Sunday, March 5th

This retreat is for both Jr. & Sr. High Youth groups but only the Sr. High youth will sleep overnight.
Fun time for all!

Rise & shine from your cozy bed at home on Sat. morning, March 4th....get dressed in comfy clothing, eat breakfast and pack a bag lunch and some warm clothing and head to the church parking

lot. Leaving the church parking lot at 9:00AM! Senior High should bring a sleeping bag, pillow & change of clothes. All should bring a filled water bottle and snacks to share throughout the day.

Schedule For The Retreat

10:00AM-Announcements
10:30AM-Service Project
12:00 Noon-Eating your bag lunch
1:00PM-Service Project
4:00PM-Dinner @ Sportsman Club Back to Wesley Forest for a great evening!

- PSU Linebacker Brandon Smith will share his story
 - Games
 - Fun
- Junior High will leave 8:00-9:00PM Sunday morning rise and shine and enjoy breakfast together!



Youth Fundraiser



On the fourth Sunday of March the youth will be holding the last Soup, Sandwich & Sweets Sale of 2017.

Tickets will be sold for \$10 which includes, **TWO** soups, a sandwich and sweet treat.

Do you normally cook or go out for lunch on Sunday? Forget about it on these days! Go home, keep warm and savor lunch and the warm feeling of helping our youth draw closer to Jesus this summer!

With your \$10 donation you can simply

go to the "Lunch to Go Service Station" in the Multi-Purpose Room after the worship service and select your choice of soups. They will be placed in containers with a sandwich and dessert for you to take home.

Tickets are available in the church office or from our youth. Questions?, See/Call Tracy Seebold at 570-490-1949.

Willing to donate a large crockpot of homemade soup? Let Tracy know and we will thank you with a complimentary ticket!

Criminal & Child Abuse Clearances

Our Criminal and Child Abuse Clearances need to be updated in church office. We need to have clearances on file for any one involved with our youth in any capacity. If you need to have clearances completed, please contact the church office and we will provide you with the forms.

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 Sunday Worship Service beginning at 10:30 AM

Sunday School will begin at 9:15AM



Ash Wednesday Service

Christ's United Lutheran @ 7:00 PM

Lenten Suppers

6:00 PM

3/8/17	St. John's United Church Of Christ
3/15/17	Mifflinburg United Methodist
3/22/17	First Evangelical Lutheran
3/29/17	Trinity Lutheran, Cowan
4/5/17	Christ's United Lutheran

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) or pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com