



BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2023

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

Grace and peace to you!

It is hard to believe that another “New Year” is upon us! I wonder how many of you make New Year’s resolutions. I try not to make resolutions because I typically fail and fail miserably at keeping them.

As I think of the New Year, 2023, and making resolutions and being unable to keep those resolutions, I am reminded of the Israelites being freed from slavery in Egypt. The Israelites had just crossed the Red Sea and began complaining that they had no food. But, through all the whining and complaining, God kept God’s promise to provide for the people, protect them, and bring them to the promised land.

God always keeps the promise, God is always the obedient one, God is always the faithful one, and God is always the one who wants to be in a relationship. Maybe that is why we fail at keeping our New Year’s resolutions. Perhaps we are a little like the Israelites coming out of Egypt. How obedient are we to God? How faithful are we to God? How good are we at keeping promises? How good are we at building relationships?

Though we struggle with obedience, faithfulness, promises, and relationships, God still keeps the promise, cares for us, and loves each and every one of us! And that is the beauty of God’s grace, my sisters and brothers! God made the “resolution” and has held the “resolution” for centuries!

Maybe your resolution this year is you want to hear the good news that in Jesus Christ, there is light, and in Christ, there is no darkness. And you want to be filled with the light of Christ.

Have you lost the faith you once had? Maybe your resolution is you want God to be alive in you again. You want a new beginning, and in 2023, you want God to help you to love again.

As we begin this New Year, know that I am praying for you and that you will find the light and life of Jesus Christ! Know that God is with you on your journey, no matter your New Year's resolution. Jesus cares for and loves you more than you will ever know!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Curt Wingert



BIBLE STUDIES

The weekly Bible studies will take place as follows:

Monday

1:30 p.m.

First Lutheran

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Thursday

6:00 p.m.

Christ's United

This study is on hold for now

The Monday Bible study will be a study on the Psalms. The Thursday night Bible study is on hold for now. Stay tuned for more information.

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*"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter.  
One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."  
~Hal Borland*

**LÔÖK** What's Going On!

## ***CULC NEWS***

### **2023 Council Members**

At the December annual meeting, Teresa Shuck & Idella Zimmerman were elected to a three-year term on council. Lee Spangler was also re-elected to serve a second three-year term.

During our **Sunday, January 8**, worship service, we will be installing our congregational council members for 2023: Joel Blyler, Kim Blyler, Sue Blyler, Bev Catherman, Joe Dressler, Jennifer Keister, Terry Kline, Teresa Shuck, Barry Spangler, Lee Spangler and Idella Zimmerman

### **Offering Envelopes**

Once again, we have not received our offering envelopes (as of the date of this printing). As we did last year, I ask that you make any 2023 donations with a check or in an envelope with your name on it, so we can give you credit for your offering gift.

### **CULC Upcoming Meals**

▪ A “Drive Through” **Ham Loaf Dinner** will be held on **Saturday, January 14, 2023**, starting at 3:30 p.m. until sold out. Dinners, which will be in a microwavable container, include Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes and Green Beans. Pre-Ordering will be available. Limited walk-ins will be available. For more information call 570-716-5601 or email [kim@4bellschurch.com](mailto:kim@4bellschurch.com). (See aattached flyer)

▪ On **Saturday, March 4**, we will be holding our “drive through” pot pie sale. Help will be needed on the Friday before and the day of the event. If you want more information, contact Kim Blyler (570-716-5601) or watch for further details in future bulletins and newsletters.

### **Yard Sale Scheduled**

An indoor yard sale will be held on **Saturday, February 4**, benefiting our community and parish youth ministries. Before bringing any donated items for the sale, please contact Idella Zimmerman (570-966-1340).

### **Easter Eggs**

For many years we have been making Easter egg candy during the Lenten season. We are looking for a person willing to take charge of this fundraiser this year. If interested, please contact a council member or Pastor Curt.

### **CULC Money Counters**

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

### **Altar Flowers**

As of January 1, we will be using artificial altar flowers exclusively. A fund has been created to help defray the costs of these flower sets, which have been made by Kathy Spangler and others. If you would like to contribute to this fund, mark the designated gift line on your offering envelope appropriately. If you have questions, talk to a council member.

### **Fellowship Hall Use**

We will be serving a meal to Hubner Seeds on **Thursday, March 9**. More details will be forthcoming. Talk to Kim Blyler (570-716-5601) if you have questions.

Our fellowship hall will be rented out on **Saturday, March 18**, to Lori Hess Lauver for a public auction.

### **Condolences**

We wish to extend our condolences to Joe & Sherry Zimmerman following the death of her mother, Janet Sheesley, 88, on December 12.

### **Notes of Appreciation**

"Thank you to our parish family for the love and support shown to us through cards, telephone calls, visits, food, and help with household projects and chores. This has been a stressful and challenging year in many ways, and your prayers, kindness, and concern have meant a great deal to us especially during Gary's recent hospitalization and ongoing recovery." Thanks! ~Janet and Gary Hackenberg

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*"Someone painted pictures on my
Windowpane last night --
Willow trees with trailing boughs
And flowers, frosty white,
And lovely crystal butterflies;
But when the morning sun
Touched them with its golden beams,
They vanished one by one."
~Helen Bayley Davis, Jack Frost*



FELC NEWS

Online Giving

First Evangelical Lutheran Church is excited to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and provides donation consistency for our congregation.

Manage your giving online

We are pleased to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the internet. To get started simply follow these steps:

1. Visit the website at www.felcmifflinburg.org
2. Click on the give button, then
3. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Vanco Mobile App

You can also manage your online giving by using the Vanco Mobile App. Download the Vanco Mobile App on your smartphone and search for First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mifflinburg, PA and follow the directions.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Curt or the church office (570-966-0266),

We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry!

Free Community Meal at FIRST

First Lutheran will be serving a free community meal on **Saturday, January 7, from 11:00 – 12:30**. All are welcome! Please enter the door in the alley behind the church.

Annual Report

Just a reminder that Committee Chairpersons need to submit 2022 annual reports to the church office in January 2023. The semi-annual meeting will be held on **February 12**.

Offering Envelopes for 2023

The giving envelopes for 2023 are on the table in the hallway.

Altar Flowers

The cost of altar flowers is now \$50.00 for 2 vases instead of \$40.00.

Music Projects Happening at FIRST

- The Chancel Choir will sing during the worship service once a month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30 in the sanctuary. All singers are invited to join!
- Paula Christy and Diane Scott will play piano/organ duets once a month.

Ministerium Backpack Program

First Lutheran will be in charge of the May/June backpack distribution for students in the Mifflinburg School District who may be lacking what they need on days away from school, such as weekends. The churches of the Mifflinburg Ministerium have been providing the backpacks of food since 2015. Items needed are:

Single Serving Cereals
Single Serving Pudding Cups
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 (e.g.: Chef Boy-R-Dee, Mac & Cheese)

No Pop Tarts or Canned Goods, please.

(Cash Donations are also helpful)

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.

Word in Season Devotionals

The Word in Season devotionals for Jan-Mar 2023 are available in the back of the sanctuary and on the table in the hallway.

Directory Update

We are trying to update our church directory and are asking that everyone participate by filling out the form found in this newsletter and returning it to the church office. We would like to have the updated directory ready for January 2023. Even if your address information, etc. has not changed, please complete the form. Thank you!

MACY & Mini MACY

Mini-MACY (grades K-5)

Contact Sherri Neece for questions or to organize a Mini-MACY Event.

MACY (grades 6-12)

If you have any questions or want to be involved, please contact Liz (570-412-5598).

Thank You

- Dear First Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the Weis Gift Card. I appreciate you thinking of me at Christmas time. ~Diane Scott
- A big shout out for another successful outreach for the local schools' hats, scarves, mittens and glove drive! Thank you to all who placed items in the box!
- "Thank you to all the people from the Buffalo Valley Parish that made our Christmas here in Mifflinburg special, we cannot thank you enough"
~~Oleh, Zorianna, Viktoriia, Diana, and Tymur Koshovy



This is a Ukrainian family that FELC helped out with some specific needs and Christmas gifts



Weis/Wenger's Gift Cards Offer

Gift cards make wonderful gifts for college students, birthdays, weddings, ♥ day, holidays, birth of a new baby, a new neighbor....the list is endless....such a useful gift!

First Lutheran - offers cards in denominations of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Simply make checks payable to "First Lutheran Church" and use them as cash or the grateful recipient can do the same. Don Seebold will even deliver! Give him a call at 966-0727 or 412-1505. ***YOU receive the full value of the card and then Weis gives 5% & Wenger's gives 10% of the purchase to the FELC mission fund!***

Christ's United - \$25 & \$50 gift cards for Weis, Wenger's and L&L Marketplace are also available from Christ's United. If you want to purchase cards, talk to Sue Blyler (570-922-4114). If you would like to pay by check, it should be made payable to "Christ's United Lutheran Church" and put "L&L, Weis or Wenger's cards" on the memo line.

THE DEADLINE FOR
ARTICLES FOR THE
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
IS **JANUARY 20**

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**NEW YEAR**

*To leave the old with a burst of song;  
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;  
To forget the things that bind you fast  
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;  
To have the strength to let go your hold  
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;  
To dare go forth with a purpose true,  
To the unknown task of the year that's new;  
To help your brother along the road,  
To do his work and lift his load;  
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,  
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year*



 IN OUR   
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**CHRIST'S UNITED**

Winifred Aikey  
Roger Dunkle  
Doug & Pearl Gemberling  
Gary & Janet Hackenberg  
Lee & Kathy Spangler  
Chuck Spurr  
Tom Watters  
Rozelle DeDe Ensminger  
Gary Gemberling  
George (Mick) Guffey  
Scott Hummel  
Roy Laudermilch  
Harry Moyer  
Dave Oberlin  
Cliff Ressler  
Kim Roberts  
Rita Tinnes  
Greg Valentine  
Jessica Wheeler  
Glenn Wiand  
The Rodenbaugh Family

**The Shut-Ins**

Winnie Aikey  
Florence Boop  
Betty Goss  
Barbara Grimooris  
Helen Pirone  
Connie Wagner

**Also**

The families of  
Jean Pfirman & John Snook

**FIRST LUTHERAN**

Cathy Hower Brungard  
Michael Culp  
June Ocker  
Logan Roush  
Keith Sawyer  
Ken Smith

**The Shut-Ins**

Lois Elliott  
Doris Moll  
Ethel Musser  
James Shipton  
Trena Zeller

**The Troops**

Dylan Harvey  
Thaddeus Miller  
Zachary Miller





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

### **CULC BIRTHDAYS**

1 - Robert Rantz  
4 - Constance Wagner  
7 - Florence Boop  
14 - Trevor Spencer  
15 - Dennis Boop, Jr.  
16 - Kendrah Beiler  
    Paige Hosterman  
    Janice Wagner  
17 - Sally Kline  
    Lee Spangler  
22 - Jaiden Beiler  
25 - Natalie Harvey  
29 - Rick Endy  
31 - Rebecca Dunkle

### **FELC BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Judy Muchler  
2 – Sherri Neece  
4 – Deanna Billow, Brooke Jordan  
5 – Andy Long  
8 – Mary Alice Deihl, Melissa Lynch,  
    Brett Harvey  
10 – Tracy Baylor, Matthew Doeblor  
14 - Joe Stenglein, Logan Taylor  
15 - Carol Graham, Shirley Heasley,  
    Amy Orren  
17 - Ellie Kreisher  
19 – Gwen Hull, Kathryn Alexander  
25 – Aaron Hackenberg  
26 - Paige Bartlett, Taylor Montesinos  
27 – Shelly Orren  
30 – Sara Donmoyer, Cole Montesinos  
31 – Mark Alexander

### **CULC ANNIVERSARIES**

30 – Doug & Stacey Gemberling (2013)

### **FELC ANNIVERSARIES**

12 – DuFrane & Barb Reed (33 yrs.)  
15 – Nathan & Kortney McBryan (12 yrs.)  
20 – John & Linda Schnure (55 yrs.)  
22 – Scott & Sue Smith (46 yrs.)  
29 – Mike & Janet Shoemaker (51 yrs.)

# JANUARY



## VOLUNTEERS

### CULC

| Date: | Lay Reader:              | Communion Asst.: | Monthly:<br><u>Sound System:</u> |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1/1   | Worship @ First Lutheran |                  |                                  |
| 1/8   | Lisa Lapp                | Dianne Shuck     | Dianne Shuck                     |
| 1/15  | Greg Shuck               | Judy Moyer       | <u>Altar Guild:</u>              |
| 1/22  | Glenn Spangler           | Glenn Spangler   | Dianne Shuck                     |
| 1/29  | Barry Spangler           | Barry Spangler   | Janice Wagner                    |
|       |                          |                  | <u>Ushers:</u>                   |
|       |                          |                  | Greg Shuck                       |
|       |                          |                  | Linda Smith                      |



### FELC

| Date: | Lay Reader:     | Ushers:                     | Young Followers:     |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/1   | Shirley Heasley | Harry Boyer/Christian Boyer | Parish Service/NO YF |
| 1/8   | Tom Orren       | Jeff Hackenburg/Dave Weaver | Barb Randecker       |
| 1/15  | Sally Rothermel | Don Seebold II/Kim Wagner   | Ann Beckley          |
| 1/22  | Don Seebold II  | Libby Loss/Liz Loss         | Nicole Gessner Klose |
| 1/29  | Norm Conrad     | Craig & Sally Rothermel     | Liz Loss             |

#### **Acolytes:**

|                   |                  |                               |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1/1 Kendall Neece | 1/8 Hannah Boyer | 1/15 Aria Gessner/Colbie Loss |
| 1/22 Ava McBryan  | 1/29 Colbie Loss |                               |

**Chief Usher:** Sue Jows

**Money Counters:** Ed Libhart/Kim Sauers

**Altar Guild:** Mandy & Sally Rothermel

**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.



## ***SYNOD NEWS***

### **11 Years of Seafarers Collection**

In total, 789 Seafarers Bags were loaded up into two vans to be taken to Seafarers International House in New York City. Pastor Marsh Drege and Lucas Mietlowski of the organization will deliver them to seafarers who will not be home with their loved ones for Christmas. Ten synod volunteers helped to pack the bags, collected by synod congregations, into the vans on Monday. This year marked the eleventh anniversary of our first collection and in those years, the synod has donated 7,098 bags.

**FELC collected 29 seafarer bags.** Thank you for your generosity!

More about Christmas-at-Sea: <https://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea> New LAMPA Member.



## ***CAMP MOUNT LUTHER***

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

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

### **Young Adult Fellowship**

**January 25 @ 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

A reminder that Camp Mount Luther's new Young Adult Fellowship meets via Zoom on the last Wednesday of every month. On **January 25, 2023**, we will for check-ins and Bible study. If you consider yourself a young adult, you can join us! Questions or want the link?

Email [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org).

### **Taste of Camp**

**February 5 @ 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Hungry for camp but can't wait until the summer? Always wanted to try camp but not sure you'll like it? Camp Mount Luther has an event for you! On **February 5, 2023, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.**, you can get a Taste of Camp! Enjoy songs, food, games, a campfire program, information on the 2023 program, and more! Those who attend will get Camel Bucks to spend in the camp store this summer. Campers from synod congregations who attend this event will get Camel Bucks for all their congregation's Summer 2023 campers.

This year's summer camp season will begin on June 18 and run until August 8. There are programs for all ages from preschool to senior high, and for adults and families. Camp Mount Luther is a special place where kids and families come together to grow with God and serve with smiles! Camp provides a safe place for people of all ages to relax and unwind in nature, discover God's love, sing around the campfire, learn more about themselves, and make new friends while at the same time being renewed in mind and spirit.

### **Camp Mount Luther Sunday**

**February 19** **all-day**

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated Transfiguration Sunday each year as "Mount Luther Sunday" to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Members of USS congregations are encouraged to celebrate outdoor ministries **on February 19, 2023**. Mount Luther is an extension of our ministry together and we hope all congregations will join in celebrating outdoor ministries by offering financial support, keeping the camp staff in prayer, and by participating in the numerous events and activities this ministry offers. Ideas to celebrate Camp Sunday are here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-Mount-Luther-Sunday-Flyer.pdf>

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*Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments,
embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour."
~John Boswell*

BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH

The Rev Curt Wingert, Pastor

Pastor Curt's e-mail: 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
CULC Website: 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

Janet Hackenberg, Asst. Treasurer

Tammy Boop, Financial Recording
Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joel Blyler

Kim Blyler

Sue Blyler

Bev Catherman

Joe Dressler

Jennifer Keister

Terry Kline

Teresa Shuck

Barry Spangler

Lee Spangler

Idella Zimmerman

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

FELC e-mail:

felcmifflinburg@gmail.com

FELC Website: 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

Linda Lewis, Council VP

Gloria Mincemoyer, Treasurer

Ann Beckley, Council

Shirley Heasley, Council

Sue Jows, Council

Jane Moore, Council

Marianne Motto, Council

Kim Sauers, Council

Kim Sawyer, Council

Jim Schwartz, Council

DRIVE THROUGH Ham Loaf Dinner

Saturday, January 14, 2023
3:30 until Sold Out

Dinners include
Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans and Applesauce



DRIVE THROUGH

Take Out Only

\$13

Pre-Orders accepted
at 4bellschurch.com

Christ's United Lutheran '4 Bells' Church



Located
3 miles West of Mifflinburg
on Rt 45

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Joint Service-FELC	2 OFFICE CLOSED 1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC	3	4 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC 6:30 Council-FELC No Chancel Choir-FELC	5 1:00 WELCA-FELC	6	7 11-12:30 Free Meal-FELC
8 8:30 Worship-CULC 9:30 Koinonia Kafe-CULC 9:30 Sunday School-CULC 10:30 Worship-FELC	9 1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC	10	11 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC 6:30 Chancel Choir-FELC	12	13 TBA Dinner Workday	14 3:30 Ham Loaf Dinner-CULC
15 8:30 Worship-CULC 9:30 Sunday School-CULC 10:30 Worship-FELC	16 1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC Annual Reports Due-FELC	17 7:00 Council-CULC	18 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC 6:30 Chancel Choir-FELC	19	20 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21
22 8:30 Worship-CULC 9:30 Sunday School-CULC 10:30 Worship-FELC	23 1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC	24	25 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC 6:30 Chancel Choir-FELC	26	27	28
29 8:30 Worship-CULC 9:30 Sunday School-CULC 10:30 Worship-FELC	30 1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC	31				