

***BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS***  
***JANUARY 2024***  
***PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS***

Grace and peace to you!

First, thank you all for the Christmas cards and gifts! I am truly blessed by you all. Another "New Year" is upon us! Before we look to the future and what 2024 may look like for us, let's look back at 2023.

As a parish, we began 2023 in conversation with Messiah Lutheran in New Berlin on what it would look like if we were a three-point parish. We held numerous meetings, worshiped together, and held VBS together, but we just couldn't come together on an agreement. Our conversations helped guide us in future planning for the parish.

Like many of you, I spent much of my summer questioning God and wondering why this heartache and tragedy is happening in our community. We came together as a community of faith to hold a candlelight vigil; we prayed for each other, you made meals, and we were there for grieving families and children. You all amazed me during this time! You all are a loving and caring community of faith, and I am truly blessed to be a small part of it.

In July, we brought the youth of the community together for VBS. Camp Mount Luther taught our youth about the Holy Trinity. I give thanks to Ann Beckley for organizing this event, and I also give thanks to all of the volunteers who helped throughout the week.

Some of our beloved parish members entered the church triumphant and now rest with the saints. They will be truly missed, and we give thanks to them for the work that they did for the church. We know they are now resting in peace and are wrapped in the loving arms of Christ!

The "Senior Meal" continues to be a hit among our members. We thank Greg and Teresa Shuck and their crew for a great meal. Record numbers were hit at Hopes

Haven, and we give thanks to Kim Blyer and his crew for helping those in need in our communities.

The Season of Advent and Christmas were the highlight of my year! There are so many I want to thank, and I hope I don't forget anyone. If I do, I apologize it was not intentional! First, I want to thank Buffy Boyer (also Karen and Christian Boyer) and the youth of our parish as they presented "Pass It On Christmas" in our first dinner theatre. I also want to thank the kitchen crew and the Shuck and Zimmerman families! Christmas Eve was a wonderful evening! Thanks to Matt Wagner, Karen Zimmerman, and Natalie Harvey for the beautiful music at our early service. Thanks to Diane Scott for organizing the music for our later services. Thanks to the chancel choir, tone chime choir, Brynn Umholtz, Emily Seebold, Buffy Boyer, Pearl & Celeste Conrad, the brass quartet consisting of Noelle Humphries, Tim Warren, Trace Cassidy, and Aaron Himes, and harpist Erin Rute. Thank you all for making such a great worship experience at our services!

2023 was a tough and challenging year for us, but we could make it through the difficult times through God's grace and our love for each other and our communities.

That's a wrap for 2023! Next month, we will look into the future and 2024!

***The Rev. Curt Wingert***

~~~~~

**TIPS FOR A BETTER LIFE**

- *Laugh when you can, apologize when you should, and let go of what you can't change.*
- *Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.*
- *You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.*
- *Take a 10-30 minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.*
- *Buy a DVR and tape your late night shows and get more sleep.*
- *However good or bad a situation is, it will change.*
- *Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.*
- *Try to make at least three people smile each day.*
- *Clear clutter from your house, your car, your desk and let new and flowing energy into your life.*
- *Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, OR issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.*
- *Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.*
- *Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a college kid with a maxed out charge card.*
- *Smile and laugh more. It will keep the negative blues away.*
- *Life isn't fair, but it's still good.*
- *Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.*
- *No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.*
- *Frame every so-called disaster with these words: 'In five years, will this matter?'*
- *Remember God heals everything*

# LOOK What's Going On!

## ***CULC NEWS***

### **2024 Council Members**

At the December annual meeting, Gina Buttorff, Lisa Lapp & Greg Shuck were elected to a three-year term on council. Linda Smith was also elected to serve one year to complete a term.

Council installation will take place during worship on **Sunday, January 7.**

As a result of the council meeting on December 19 the following have been elected as the officers for 2024:

President – Greg Shuck  
Vice President – Lee Spangler  
Council secretary – Barry Spangler  
Church Treasurer – Dianne Shuck

Church committee assignments will be decided during its next Council meeting held on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024.** Congregational members not part of Church Council are invited to participate.

### **Offering Envelopes**

In 2024, 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).

### **Benefit Dinner**

A Benefit Dinner for Kathy Spangler will take place on **Saturday, February 17.** More information will be forthcoming from Teresa Shuck.

### **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



## ***FELC NEWS***

### **Offering Envelopes for 2024**

The giving envelopes for 2024 are on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Annual Reports**

Just a reminder that Committee Chairpersons need to submit 2023 annual reports to the church office by January 15, 2024. The semi-annual meeting will be held in February.

### **Free Community Meal at FIRST**

First Lutheran will be serving a free community meal on **Saturday, January 6, from 11:00–12:00**. All are welcome! Please enter the door in the alley behind the church. Meals for the remainder of the quarter will be held on **February 3 and March 2**

### **12 Years of Seafarers Collection**

Thank you for spreading holiday cheer through your support of immigrants and seafarers. While the needs have changed over time, Seafarers International House (SIH) has provided a constant lifeline to over two million people by evolving our services since 1873. In total, 798 Seafarers Bags were collected! **FELC collected 39 seafarer bags**. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Word in Season Devotionals**

The Word in Season devotionals for Jan.-Mar. 2024 are available in the back of the sanctuary and on the table in the hallway.

### **Monthly Coffee Hour**

We are having a monthly coffee hour on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. It is being held in the MPR following the service. We will need 2 or 3 people to volunteer each month by making food items. The set-up and beverages will be provided. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up.

### **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.

### **Progressive Dinner**

If you are interested in being a part of the Progressive Dinner, please sign up by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in January. More information will be forthcoming.

### **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. FIRST will be accepting monetary donations for the distribution.

### **Christian Ed. Info**

We will only have a SPECIAL Young Followers Church on the SECOND Sunday of each month following the Young Followers message. We will be using the Sparks Story Bible that corresponds with the weekly scripture.

These monthly lessons will include Sparks Story Reading, Coloring Page, and a Craft.

- ~ **January 14** Sparks Story [John 1:43-51](#) *The calling of the first disciples*
- ~ **February 11** Sparks Story [Mark 9:2-9](#) *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*
- ~ **March 10** Sparks Story [John 3:14-21](#) *The lifting up of the Son of Man (Lenten/Easter Special Idea, too)*
- ~ **April 14** Sparks Story [Luke 24:36b-48](#) *Eating with the risen Christ*
- ~ **May 12** Sparks Story [Acts 1:15-17, 21-26](#) *Matthias added to the apostles*
- ~ **June, July, August – off**

### **Young Followers Church Volunteer Schedule**

January 14 – Barb Randecker  
February 11 – Nicole Klose  
March 10 – Shirley Heasley  
April 14 – Christian and Buffy Boyer  
May 12 – Kortney McBryan

If you are unable to fulfill your month, please try to make an exchange with another month's volunteer. If that is not possible, contact one of the following substitutes: Sally Rothermel, Liz Loss, Sherri Neece, Mandy Rothermel, Libby Loss. If you are still unable to get a replacement, contact Ann Beckley. Lesson plans will be e-mailed to you two weeks prior to your assigned month.

## Young Followers Activities

If you would like to be added to the group texts, please contact Liz at 570-412-5598.

## Share Your Faith with Our Youth

If you wrote a devotional, what would it sound like? I am looking for some adults to share their faith journey, how they found faith, or where they have seen Jesus in their lives with our Young Followers (grades 6-12). Instead of having these youth read a devotional, I would like for them to hear a "live" devotional. Please reach out if you would be interested. Thank you! Liz: 570-412-5598.

## Notes of Appreciation

--A **HUGE** "Thank you" for the generous donation of paper goods donated by those attending your "Advent by Candlelight" event. The needy families being served by Kiwanis during this holiday season will be very appreciative! Merry Christmas! ~ Sally Rothermel, Kiwanis Secretary

--Dear First Lutheran,  
Thank you for the Christmas gift. I appreciate your kindness. ~ Sue Nentwig

--Dear First Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for the Christmas bonus! It is very nice that you think of me during the Christmas season. I am very grateful for your generosity!

A sincere thanks,  
Diane Scott

~~~~

### NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

*Thank you Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread*

*Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.*

*The year ahead is empty  
Help me fill it with good things*

*Each new day filled with joy  
And the happiness it brings.*

*Please give the leaders of our world  
A courage born of peace  
That they might lead us gently  
And all the fighting cease.*

*Please give to all upon this earth  
A heart that's filled with love  
A gentle happy way to live  
With Your blessings from above.*

*~Charlotte Anselmo*



## ***PARISH NEWS***

### **2024 Council Members**

#### **First Lutheran**

**Jeff Mensch**, Council President  
**Kim Sauers**, Council Vice President  
**Linda Lewis**, Secretary  
**Gloria Mincemoyer**, Treasurer  
**Jamie Bartlett**, Council  
**Christian Boyer**, Council  
**Shirley Heasley**, Council  
**Sue Jows**, Council  
**Jane Moore**, Council  
**Barb Randecker**, Council  
**Don Seebold II**, Council

#### **Christ's United**

**Greg Shuck**, Council President  
**Lee Spangler**, Council Vice President  
**Barry Spangler**, Council Secretary  
**Dianne Shuck**, Treasurer  
**Joel Blyler**, Council  
**Kim Blyler**, Council  
**Gina Buttorff**, Council  
**Bev Catherman**, Council  
**Terry Kline**, Council  
**Lisa Lapp**, Council  
**Teresa Shuck**, Council  
**Linda Smith**, Council  
**Idella Zimmerman**, Council

#### **Bible Study**

The weekly Bible studies will take place on the following Mondays at First Lutheran @ 1:30 p.m. -- January 8, 15, 22, 29.

#### **Acoustic Praise Worship Service**

The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish invites everyone to an acoustic praise worship service on **Sunday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m.** at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Market Street, Mifflinburg. Come as you are for a time together as we enter a new year! All are welcome!

#### **Progressive Dinner**

We, as Lutherans, love to eat! Let's plan to get together after the holidays to enjoy food and friendships, both old and new! Members from both congregations will be intermingled in hopes to kindle new relationships. Depending on the number of people interested, different groups may be created. You'll meet at one home for the appetizer, travel to another home for the main course, then everyone will gather together at the church for dessert. There are sign-up sheets at both churches. Please sign up by the

end of December if you are interested. Due to the holiday schedules, we plan to start in January. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kim Sawyer or Jennifer Keister.

### **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 570-412-1505. ***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** - Grocery cards can now be purchased from Idella Zimmerman (570-966-1340). Available grocery cards in denominations of \$25 or \$50 will be for Weis Markets, L & L Marketplace, and Wenger's. If you would like to pay by check, it should be made payable to "Christ's United Lutheran Church" and put "Grocery cards" on the memo line.

~~~~~  
**Murphy's Law**

- *A meeting's length will be directly proportional to the boredom the speaker produces.*
- *Any driver in front of you will immediately lose the ability to drive their car.*
- *Machines that have broken down will work perfectly when the repairman arrives.*
- *At the exact moment that your car insurance lapses, the probability of being involved in an accident increases exponentially.*
- *Bills travel through the mail at twice as fast as checks.*
- *Even if you never smoke, eat, or drink in your vehicle there will be mysterious stains on the carpet and/or upholstery at the time of trade in.*
- *If there is no traffic there will be roadwork.*
- *If you don't want it, there is plenty of it; if you really need it, they're all out of it.*
- *If you drop something out of your sewing basket, it will be your box of pins, with the cover off.*
- *If you have a little extra money to blow, something will break, and cost more than that little extra.*
- *If your Check-Book and Bank-Balance Sheet agree... Re-Do-It... You Goofed Up.*
- *If you're stuck in a traffic jam and you move to the fast lane it will become the slowest lane, if you move back, that lane will stand still.*
- *The more you like a product, the more likely it will be discontinued.*
- *When in a hurry, every light is red, when you are in no particular rush, every light is green.*
- *If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.*
- *Your car keys are always in the pocket of the hand that is fullest.*
- *Any child who chatters nonstop at home will adamantly refuse to utter a word when requested to demonstrate for an audience.*
- *If everything seems to be coming your way, you're probably in the wrong lane.*
- *If it works, don't fix it.*
- *If anything simply cannot go wrong, it will anyway.*
- *If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong.*
- *If there is a worse time for something to go wrong, it will happen then.*
- *A flat will occur during the heaviest downpour after dark*
- *At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle arrive late.*





## ***UPCOMING MEALS***

### **Free Community Meal at FIRST**

Upcoming free community meals at First Lutheran will be held on **January 6, February 3, March 2, from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** All are welcome! Please enter the door in the alley behind the church.

### **CULC Upcoming Meals**

A “Drive Through” **Ham Loaf Dinner** will be held on **Saturday, January 13, 2024**, starting at **3:30 p.m.** until sold out. Dinners, which will be in a microwavable container, include Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes, a Vegetable and applesauce. The cost of the meal is \$14.00. 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 attached flyer)

### **Also Mark Your Calendars for the Following Additional 2024 Meals at CULC:**

**February 17 – Benefit Dinner for Kathy Spangler**

**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**

~~~~~

*Happy moments, praise God.*

*Difficult moments, seek God.*

*Quiet moments, worship God.*

*Painful moments, trust God.*

*Every moment, thank God.*

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**CHRIST'S UNITED**

Winifred Aikey  
Paul Brann  
Roger Dunkle  
Darlene Endy  
Rozelle DeDe Ensminger  
Amy Evers  
Annette Feltman  
Gary Gemberling  
Pearl Gemberling  
George (Mick) Guffey  
Gary & Janet Hackenberg  
Roy Laudermilch  
John Morrison  
Harry Moyer  
Dave Oberlin  
Eve Rantz  
Louise Ritter  
Larry Sampsell  
Sam & Ethel Schnure  
Lee & Kathy Spangler  
Tom Watters  
Jesica Wheeler  
Glenn Wiand

**The Shut-Ins:**

Winnie Aikey, Betty Goss,  
Helen Pirone, Dottie Rathfon

**Also**

The family of Florence Boop

*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**

Cathy Hower Brungard  
Amanda Galer  
Logan Roush

**The Shut-Ins**

Mary Lib Dunkle  
Lois Elliott  
Doris Moll  
Ethel Musser  
June Ocker  
Barb Reed  
Dotty Seebold  
James Shipton  
Ken & Pat Smith  
Nancy Ulrich  
Trena Zeller

**The Troops**

Thaddeus Miller  
Zachary Miller

**Also**

The family of Carol Mensch





### **Florence Boop**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of **Florence Boop** who joined the Saints of Heaven December 7, 2023 at the age of 87.

She was born January 7, 1936, in Union County, a daughter of the late Francis C. and Lodie (Wolfe) Strickler. On January 7, 1955, she married Earl J. "Jim" Boop, who preceded her in death December 25, 2021. They celebrated 66 years of marriage.

Florence was a 1953 graduate of Mifflinburg High School, where she played basketball and played the clarinet in the band.

She was a member of the Christ's United Lutheran Church, Millmont, where she was a member of the women's group, helped with alter guild, church suppers, and the West End Fair booth.

Florence was employed as a banker at the Mifflinburg Bank & Trust until 1955, and in her later years at Lewisburg National Bank, Northern Central, and M&T Bank.

She worked the registration at the West End Fair, was judge of elections for Lewis Township, and was treasurer of the American Red Cross, Lewisburg, where she was presented with the Clara Barton Award.

Florence enjoyed bowling, playing bingo, shopping, and camping at Hidden Valley Campground, Mifflinburg.

Surviving is one son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Tammy Boop of Mifflinburg; three daughters and sons-in-law, Donna and Curtis Duke of Mifflinburg, Diane and Richard Rainar of Landisville, and Sharon and Laird Zimmerman of Mifflinburg; eight grandchildren and their spouses, Jason and Brittany Duke, Sarah and Jon Keister, Karen and Santosh Kuruvilla, Daniel Rainar and Amanda Mueller, Tanya and Quincy Lantz, Clint and Amanda Stahl, Jennifer and Andrew Keister, and DJ and Haleigh Boop; 12 great-grandchildren, Kinzley and Kingston Duke, Dylan Keister, Carter and Ethan Kuruvilla, Charlie Rainar-Mueller, Tamira Lantz, Isaiah Schweitzer, Natalie Stahl, Michael and Molly Keister, and Earl Boop; and one brother, Francis "Butch" Strickler.

The funeral was conducted at Christ's United with Rev. Curt A. Wingert, officiating. Burial was in Mifflinburg Cemetery.

## **Carol Mensch**

The members of First Lutheran would like to extend their sympathies to the family of Carol Mensch. Carol, 87, of Mifflinburg, entered into rest at 1:25 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at Evangelical Community Hospital, Lewisburg.

She was born Feb. 7, 1936, in Sunbury, a daughter of the late John Lewis and Helen Elizabeth (Hendricks) Iddings. On Oct. 15, 1955, she married Linn E. Mensch, who survives.

Carol was a 1954 graduate of Mifflinburg High School and was a member of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, where she was a member of the L.C.W., was formerly the church secretary, and assisted with event meals.

Carol was employed as secretary at District Court, Mifflinburg, for 23 years, until she retired in 1998. She was a member of the Mifflinburg Civic Club.

Surviving in addition to her husband of 68 years, are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Jeffrey L. Mensch, of Mifflinburg, Gregory L. and Carol R. Mensch of Downingtown, and Michael A. and Tracey D. Mensch of Mifflinburg; two grandchildren, Megan Mensch of Philadelphia, and Logan Mensch of Pittsburgh; one brother and sister-in-law, David E. and Sue Iddings of Mifflinburg; one sister, Crystal Lee Moss of Elizabethtown; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Roupp Funeral Home, Mifflinburg, with the Rev. John Yost officiating. Burial was in the Mifflinburg Cemetery

~~~~~

### **THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



**"If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering."**

*from The Joyful Noiseletter*  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



## ***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)

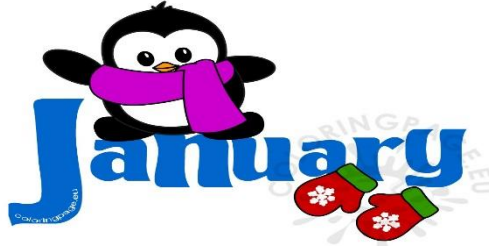
*Congratulations*

### **FELC BIRTHDAYS**

2 - Sherri Neece  
4 - Brooke Jordan  
5 - Andy Long  
8 - 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  
30 - Sara Donmoyer, Cole  
    Montesinos  
31 - Mark Alexander, Marla Hicks

### **FELC ANNIVERSARIES**

12 - DuFrane & Barb Reed (34 yrs.)  
15 - Nathan & Kortney McBryan  
    (13 yrs.)  
20 - John & Linda Schnure (56 yrs.)  
22 - Scott & Sue Smith (47 yrs.)  
29 - Mike & Janet Shoemaker  
    (52 yrs.)



## VOLUNTEERS

### CULC

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>
1/07	Ben Wenrich	Barry Spangler	Barry Spangler
1/14	Jim & Karen Zimmerman	Maurice Clouser	Judy Moyer
1/21	Kris & Carla Ruhl	Glenn Spangler	Janice Wagner
1/28	Greg & Teresa Shuck	Greg Shuck	Greg Shuck

**Sound System:** Dianne Shuck

**Altar Guild:** Dianne Shuck & Janice Wagner

**Ushers:** David Bickhart & Eugene Hassinger

**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>
1/07	Andy Long	Nicole Gessner Klose/Marianne Motto	
1/14	Shirley Heasley	Eric Hull/Gwen Hull	Barb Randecker
1/21	Tom Orren	Jeff Hackenburg/Jeff Mensch	
1/28	Sherri Neece	Linda Lewis/Sherri Neece	

#### **Acolytes:**

1/07 – Colbie Loss    1/14 – Hannah Boyer  
 1/21 – Evan McBryan    1/28 – Aria Gessner/Colbie Loss

**Chief Usher:** Sue Jows

**Money Counters:** Mike Beckley/Linda Lewis    **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***

### **Winterfest Invitation**

High school youth! Do you wish you could worship with kids your own age? Do you long for lively and exciting new worship experiences? This is the opportunity for you!

As part of the Upper Susquehanna Synod's new youth initiative, we are sending a group of high schoolers and young adults to participate in Lower Susquehanna Synod's Winterfest, January 5-7, 2024 in Lancaster, PA. Winterfest gathers 200 youth from central Pennsylvania together for worship, spiritual formation, and fellowship. There will be live music, bouncy houses, worship services, and plenty of opportunities to grow in your faith. Camp Mount Luther's associate director Jim Vitale will serve as chaplain at the event.

If you're interested in participating, please email [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org) by December 1st.

### **Here's some info on this year's theme: The Way**

In the time following Jesus' Resurrection, the earliest followers adopted the name, 'The Way' to reflect the way they would strive to follow the teachings and habits of Jesus. To be a follower of 'the Way' was a matter of belief, of practice, and of identity in the one who saves. It was because they believed God was fulfilling God's promise of a New Exodus through the person and work of Jesus that they lived this new journey life-style

Two thousand years later that New Exodus is still going—people are being brought out of the Exile of sin and death into the new in covenant with God. We are still walking the "The Way" with Jesus. Youth will be invited to consider the way of Jesus, the challenges we encounter along the way, the cost of 'discipleship' or of following the way, and the joy we encounter on the way, particularly in the community of the beloved. Storytelling will include relating our historical journeys to modern-day stories of people who are currently striving to follow the way of Christ.

**ICYMI: Something new for 2024 Synod Assembly:**

A new optional step in our registration process this year allows each congregation to submit its voting members early, which will enable us to communicate directly with them when the registration process opens early in the new year. Go to the synod assembly website and click the link "pre-registration" and enter their names and contact information. <https://www.uss-elca.org/assembly/>

And, the minutes from the last synod assembly on that page, too!



***CAMP MOUNT LUTHER***

*355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844*

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

**Upcoming Events**

- January 31** Young Adult Fellowship
- February 11** Camp Mount Luther Sunday/Taste of Camp
- March 13-14** Raise the Region
- March 15-16** GROW in the Snow

**Giving Tuesday Update**

We raised \$4,270 during Giving Tuesday. That will allow us to buy 38 new mattresses for Maple Village cabins! We had 18 donors. Thank you one and all for your support and getting the word out.

**Taste of Camp February 11 @ 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 11, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., you can get a Taste of Camp! Enjoy songs, food, games, a campfire program, information on the 2024



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 (or sign up to be a camper with the director) will get Camel Bucks for all their congregation's Summer 2024 campers.

This year's summer camp season will begin on June 23 and run until August 2. There are programs for all ages from elementary to senior high, and for adults and families. If you're looking for a place where your child can grow in faith and have fun doing it, Camp Mount Luther is that place. Don't settle for second-rate summer programs. Camp Mount Luther has been giving kids fun, exciting, faith-filled, outdoor experiences for 60 years. If you have questions about our summer programs, feel free to reach out to us at [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)

### **Camp Mount Luther Sunday** **February 11** all-day

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated Transfiguration Sunday each year as "Camp Mount Luther Sunday" to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Members of USS congregations are encouraged to celebrate outdoor ministries on February 11, 2024. Camp 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. Go here for ideas to celebrate this day: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-Camp-Mount-Luther-Sunday-Flyer.pdf> are here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-Mount-Luther-Sunday-Flyer.pdf>

### **GROW In The Snow** **March 15-16**

All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat on March 15-16. This year's theme is "Break Forth in Song" based on Psalm 98. Experience your Creator, play winter games, and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. The cost is \$79 for the whole program. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and the number of youth attending. A flyer and registration form are coming soon.

# 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**

**Janet Hackenberg, Asst. Treasurer**

**Tammy Boop, Financial Recording  
Secretary**

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Joel Blyler - Kim Blyler**

**Gina Buttorff - Bev Catherman**

**Terry Kline - Lisa Lapp**

**Greg Shuck - Teresa Shuck**

**Linda Smith - 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](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**

**Sue Jows, Council**

**Jane Moore, Council**

**Barb Randecker, Council**

**Don Seebold II, Council**

# DRIVE THROUGH Ham Loaf Dinner

Saturday, January 13, 2024  
3:30 until Sold Out

Dinners include  
Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetable and Applesauce



## DRIVE THROUGH

Take Out Only

# \$14

Pre-Orders accepted  
at [4bellschurch.com](http://4bellschurch.com)

Christ's United Lutheran '4 Bells' Church



Located  
3 miles West of Mifflinburg  
on Rt 45

# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b> 	<b>2</b>  6:30 Scouts-FELC	<b>3</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC  6:30 Council-FELC  6:30 Tone Chimes-FELC	<b>4</b>  1:00 WELCA-FELC	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11-12:00 Free Meal-FELC
<b>7</b> 8:30 Worship-CULC 9:30 Koinonia Kafe-CULC 10:30 Worship-FELC Choir Rehearsal-FELC	<b>8</b>  1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC	<b>9</b>  6:30 Scouts-FELC	<b>10</b>  10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  TBA Dinner Workday	<b>13</b>  3:30 Ham Loaf Dinner-CULC
<b>14</b> 8:30 Worship-CULC 10:30 Worship-FELC Choir Rehearsal-FELC 6:00 Acoustic Praise Worship service -FELC	<b>15</b> <b>Annual Reports Due-FELC</b>  1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC	<b>16</b>  6:30 Scouts-FELC  7:00 Council-CULC	<b>17</b>  10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <b>FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30 Worship-CULC 10:30 Worship-FELC Choir Rehearsal-FELC Basement Reserved-FELC	<b>22</b>  1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC  6:30 Parish Council-CULC	<b>23</b>  6:30 Scouts-FELC	<b>24</b>  10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 Worship-CULC 10:30 Worship-FELC Choir Rehearsal-FELC	<b>29</b>  1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC	<b>30</b>  6:30 Scouts-FELC	<b>31</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC  7:00 Young Adult Fellowship Zoom			