



From Our Pastor...

## Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish

# September 2020

### ARE YOU SERIOUS, JESUS? THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

We Lutherans are prolific in our talk of God's grace, mercy and forgiving love. We acknowledge that we are sinners and are in constant need of God's grace received in forgiveness with the promise of justification and salvation. Our life and destiny are clearly in God's hands; as stated by the Apostle Paul, "therefore by the grace of God go I." Our eternal relationship with God through Christ Jesus comes solely to us as gift.

So, what are we to make of Jesus' call to us to follow him on a path of demanding and obedient discipleship, especially in a time of a viral pandemic? The invitation and call to follow Jesus and his way of living is quite clear in its indication that Jesus is the Lord of our lives; that is, Jesus is the lead especially when our understanding of "normal" is upended. Expectations about and for the manner in which we live are to be drawn from the example of Jesus' own life, and not from our wants and desires or that which seeks to bring comfort and pleasure to ourselves, a return to "normal," so to speak.

God's grace brings us into the freedom to understand and walk within the gift of God's eternal acceptance of us in and through Christ. That is, God views us eternally not by the sum of our deeds and misdeeds but mercifully through the manner in which Christ lived, died and continues to live for and within us, a living presence that guides us even in times of uncertainty and through the challenging and often difficult choices to be made.

Grace is the path by which we are to see the future God holds in store for each and every one of us. But discipleship is the way we are to conduct our lives as we walk into the gift of God's eternity. With discipleship come demand and a call to obedience, to live under the Lordship of Christ Jesus and not those who would attempt to rule by fear and deceit, manipulation and opportunism. And the manner in which Jesus described these demands may seem unduly harsh

to our ears, especially for those of us who have grown quite comfortable and content with the notion of grace and "all is good."

Throughout the gospels we are reminded that Jesus connects discipleship with bearing one's cross, with loving one's enemies, with turning the other cheek, with going the extra mile, with opportunities to feed the hungry and care for the poor and all who could be referred to as "the least of these." More so, disciples are to act without false judgments and condemnation of others. In today's heightened rhetoric amidst much social unrest and division, the call to follow Jesus and to participate actively in the ministry and mission of the church can seem quite daunting. Where do we see ourselves in this picture?

Jesus' call to us to become his disciples is a call to continuously discern our priorities and preferences, particularly with regard to personal conduct and relational commitments. In essence, is our commitment to follow Jesus the primary directive and influence by the manner in which we engage life daily, individually and as the "body of Christ," the church?

Our eternal destiny is built upon the way Jesus lived and lives for us; our present walk through this life is to be built upon the manner in which we follow Jesus as Lord. Every decision and action bears a cost. Jesus himself bore the cost of all human sin upon the cross. To follow Jesus as Lord also bears a cost, a cost from God's side measured by grace but on our side measured by obedience and adherence to a life patterned after the way Jesus himself lived. In short, are we up to the task of discipleship, of following Jesus in difficult and challenging times, of bearing witness to God's grace, mercy and love, to be the examples of love over hate, unity over division, faith over fear, life over death?

*Blessings,  
Pr. John*

### Parish Pastor Pastor John Yost

#### Staff Members Of CULC

- Margie Dunkle, Secretary/Asst. Treasurer
- Dianne Shuck, Treasurer
- Cliff Valentine, Financial Recording Secretary
- Loretta Martin, Housekeeping

#### Council Members of CULC

- Lee Spangler, President & Facilities & Administration
  - Dave Murray, Vice President & Inreach
  - Barry Spangler, Council & Recording Secretary, & Inreach
  - Pearl Gemberling, Outreach
  - Doug Gemberling, Outreach
  - Maurice Clouser, Facilities & Administration
  - Joe Dressler, Outreach
  - Kim Blyler, Facilities & Admin
- Phone: 570-922-1860  
Email: culc@dejazzd.com

#### Parish Council Members

- Lee Spangler, (CULC) President
- Jim Schwartz, (FELC) Vice President
- Sue Jows, (FELC) Secretary
- Drew Christy, (CULC) Treasurer
- Dianne Shuck, CULC
- Kim Sawyer, FELC

#### Staff Members of FELC

- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Hank Dorman, Sexton
- Loretta Martin, Housekeeping

#### Council Members of FELC

- Linda Skinner, Council President
  - Sue Jows, Vice President
  - Gloria Mincemoyer, Treasurer
  - Logan Bartlett, Secretary -Y
  - Ann Beckley, Council
  - Libby Loss, Council
  - Sherri Neece, Council
  - Kim Sawyer, Council
  - Jim Schwartz, Council
- Phone: 570-966-0266  
Email: firstlu@dejazzd.com

### **FELC Children's Message**

A Children's Message will be included during worship beginning September 13th. *Children's Church has NOT resumed at this time.*

## CULC & FELC Thank You!

Church Councils from both churches thank their congregation members for their constant offerings to the church during this pandemic and urge members to continue sending their offerings.

## Fundraisers at CULC

If anyone has an idea for a future event for next year at CULC (fundraiser, activity, etc.), bring the idea to a Council member before its October meeting or attend the Council meeting for consideration and approval.

## Worship at CULC

Beginning September 6th, CULC will return to worship in the sanctuary, following social distancing guidelines and continuing to wear masks. Additionally, adult Sunday School will resume following worship, and will be held in the fellowship hall.

## CULC Turkey Supper

CULC will be having a drive-thru turkey dinner (with all the trimmings) on September 26 beginning at 3:30 p.m. The cost of the meal will be \$9.00. More information will follow.

## New Mailbox at FELC

A locked mailbox has been installed outside by the east (Preschool) entrance. It is a black box on a pole located by the side garage door. Members can drop off any correspondence, including offering envelopes or other various donations at any time. It is locked at all times and items can only be retrieved with a key. It is similar to USPS mailbox except much smaller.

## FELC Council Minutes

A copy of the most recently *approved* minutes will be available for members to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. If you are unable to attend church at this time please call the office and a copy can be emailed to you upon request.

## In Our Prayers:

Winifred Aikey  
Jan Beckley  
Roger Dunkle  
Mike Flickinger  
Doug & Pearl Gemberling  
Dustin Kline  
Ron & Darlene Ulrich & family  
Dr. Bill & Ethel Musser  
Eric Powell & Family  
Ken Smith  
John Snook

Helen Troup  
Tom Watters  
**In Our Military:**  
Brandi Gemberling  
Thaddeus Miller  
Zachary Miller  
**Our Shut-Ins:**  
Jim & Jan Beckley  
Jim & Florence Boop  
Carolyn Bowersox  
Barbara Grimooris

Joan Herman  
Georgie Linke  
Betty Loudenslager  
Dr. Bill & Ethel Musser  
Helen Pirone  
Richard Schnure  
Meda Struble  
Marie VonNeida  
Connie Wagner  
Hertha Wehr



Ramon Beiler	09/01	Jadyn Rothermel	09/16
Vicki Hackenburg	09/02	Grace Crossland	09/17
Elliana Girton	09/03	Curt Rothermel	09/19
Daphine Fritz	09/04	Forrest Showalter	09/19
Thomas Taylor	09/08	Beth Zechman	09/19
Zachary Hornig	09/09	Douglas Gemberling	09/20
Craig Rothermel	09/09	Molly Keister	09/20
Blaine Dunkle	09/12	Terry Kline	09/21
Mary Jane Feaster	09/13	Jacob Moyer	09/22
Sandy Sanders	09/14	Jodi Marshall	09/23
John Uehling	09/14	Pastor John Yost	09/24
Karen Zimmerman	09/14	Mindy Yost	09/24
Aiden Gemberling	09/15	Millard Boyer	09/25
Doug Gemberling	09/15	Michael Culp	09/25
Jace Watson	09/15	Sara Crosbie	09/26
Gayle Zerbe	09/15	Eugene Hassinger	09/26
Jim Mitchell	09/16	Tracy Mensch	09/26
		Tom Woodring	09/26
		Max Zeller	09/26
		Jason Zimmerman	09/26
		Adam Hackenberg	09/27
		Ruth Gessner	09/28
		Andrew Schwartz	09/28
		Brenda Ilgen	09/30
		Maxine Stahl	09/30



Jed & Elizabeth Loss	09/06	12 Yrs
Cliff & Diane Valentine	09/06	51 Yrs
Chip & Beth Zechman	09/06	11 Yrs
Tom & Evelyn Rice	09/09	48 Yrs
Kris & Carla Ruhl	09/16	42 Yrs
Ryan & Cortney Klose	09/17	15 Yrs
Zach & Abi Harvey	09/18	16 Yrs
Brad & Courtney Snyder	09/23	3 Yrs
Joe & Sherry Zimmerman	09/25	44 Yrs
Jeffrey & Vicki Hackenburg	09/26	22 Yrs
Ken & Patty Emery	09/29	47 Yrs
Jason & Daphine Fritz	09/30	20 Yrs
Eric & Gwen Hull	09/30	25 Yrs
Max & Trena Zeller	09/30	31 Yrs

# Dandelion Trail Run

Camp Mount Luther will be holding a 5- and 10- kilometer trail run race at the camp on **Saturday, September 5, 2020**. This is an entry-level trail race on Mount Luther grounds with proceeds going to the camp. The start time for the race is 9:00 a.m. Runners decide on race day if they want to do a 5k or 10K (a double loop of the 5K) run. The 10k distance is included in the Rocksylvania 10k race series. More details on that are available at <http://midpenntailblazers.com/links.html>. Race day registration is \$30.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. on race day. Spectators are welcome as well. A kid's fun run will also be held with two age categories: six and under and 7-10. Special awards will be presented to every participant in the fun run. Again, this year, a one-mile fun walk on a dirt road will be held with the same registration fees and amenities applying (or you may just walk without receiving amenities for \$10). Awards will be given for overall male and female race time, three

awards for each age group and an overall master's for male and female in both the 5K and the 10K. The awards ceremony will be immediately following the race. Shower facilities are available after the race. All miles for the course will be marked and there is one water stop on the course. Timing will be electronically done. To register, visit <http://midpenntailblazers.com/trail-race-events/dandelion-run/dandelionrun.html>.

The Dandelion Run, begun in 2002, is organized by Joel and Shelley Heasley of Middleburg. It was named in honor and memory of Rev. Glenn E. Heasley, Jr., former Assistant to the Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Glenn's favorite "flower" was the dandelion. Heasley's widow, Shirley, is also involved in the planning of the race. A flyer is available here: <http://midpenntailblazers.com/trail-race-events/dandelion-run/dandelion-run-application.pdf>

## 2020 Apple Dumpling Fundraiser Cancelled

The Apple Dumpling Committee sadly announces that this year's fundraiser is cancelled due to COVID-19. Making dumplings would expose volunteers to inherent risks while shopping for ingredients, making and baking, as well as pick up and delivery of dumplings.

As the fundraiser supports local persons in need, please consider giving directly to those people or other organizations as you feel so moved. As the Mifflinburg Food Pantry has closed this year, contributions to Hopes Haven Food Pantry at Christ's United may be a good choice to help ensure members of our local community do not go hungry. This committee does anticipate holding the fundraiser again in 2021.

## Worship at FELC

Beginning September 6th, Sunday worship will include two verses of two familiar hymns to which the congregation may hum along.

Also, communion will be available to those who choose to participate. Congregants will receive individual disposable communion kits upon arrival and communion will then be celebrated during worship.

## FELC Office Hours

Office hours will continue as Tuesday and Thursday from 9AM-2PM after Labor Day. *\*\*Please call the office first to ensure someone is available. There is various work that occurs outside of the office in addition to vacations and illnesses.* Thank you!

## Bishop's Open Golf Classic September 21st

The annual Bishop's Open Golf Classic scheduled for May 11, 2020, has been postponed until September 21, 2020, with the same schedule. Registration starts at 11 with lunch following and a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. Snacks and prizes after golfing. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther's annual fund. A flyer/bulletin insert containing information and registration form is available here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2020/02/2020-Sept-Golf-Tournament-Flyer.pdf>. The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can help, please contact the camp office at 570-922-1587 or [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org). Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors. Get involved and help our synod's outdoor ministry!

## God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service

You are invited to add your voices to this year's "God's work. Our hands." Day of Service. And, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of PA can help you take your service to neighbor a step further toward justice through advocacy. Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/y8a4p2hu>

# September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: FELC Council	3	4	5
6 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	7 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	8 10:30AM: Bible Study - FELC	9 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	10	11	12
13 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	14 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	15 10:30AM: Bible Study - FELC 7:00PM: Council - CULC	16 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	17	18	19
20 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	21 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	22 10:30AM: Bible Study - FELC	23 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	24	25	26
27 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	28 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	29 10:30AM: Bible Study - FELC	30 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC			

## September Bible Study Schedule

### Monday

10:30 a.m.

***CULC***

Sept. 14th

Sept. 21st

Sept. 28th

### Tuesday

10:30 a.m.

***FELC***

Sept. 1st

Sept. 8th

Sept. 15th

Sept. 22nd

Sept. 29th

### Wednesday

7:00 p.m.

***CULC***

Sept. 9th

Sept. 16th

Sept. 23rd

Sept. 30th

## FELC September Volunteers:

Chief Usher: Kim Sawyer

Ushers:

9/6: Sheryl Fetter

9/13: Cindy Harvey

9/20: Harvey & Brenda Ilgen

9/27: Tom Orren

