

## From Our Pastor...

### "C" the Way of Faith

A new year is upon us- a time of careful remembrances and new opportunities, a time of change and renewal. As followers of Jesus, it is a fitting time to look back to the ways we have been faithful and to also acknowledge our shortcomings. And because we are followers of Jesus, we trust in his presence and his authority to provide us with the gifts of remembrance and imagination, gifts of repentance to be able to move beyond our shortcomings and not stay stuck in the past, and by the strength of the Holy Spirit, to have the vision and purpose to again walk in the way of our Lord Jesus. This renewal speaks to the ways of forgiveness, cleansing and guidance that empowers us by the power of Christ to love God with all our heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbors

as ourselves. (Mark 12:30) May God grant us the ability to see, "c," to this renewal in and through our Commitments and our Connections.

To love God with all our heart and soul is to commit to God's will, to God's purpose, to God's promise, to God's presence. To love God is to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to commit oneself to his authority and to follow his teachings and the way of life he calls us to as the body of Christ. We can "c" our way to renewal as we:

Commit to daily conversation and prayer with God,

Commit to diligent study of the Bible and the Confessions,

Commit to regular participation within the church, and

Commit to offer ourselves, our time and our gifts to serve others.

We are to love God. And as importantly, we are to love each other as Jesus loves us. Again, we can "c" our way to renewal as we:

Connect to others' experiences- their accomplishments and their yearnings,

Connect to others' emotions- their joys and their sorrows,

Connect to others' expectations- their hopes and their fears, and

Connect to others' essence- as a person and as sister or brother in Christ.

Our faith is revealed by our commitments and through our connections. May our faithfulness to Jesus be realized in our commitment to his church and as we connect to one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. A blessed new year to all.

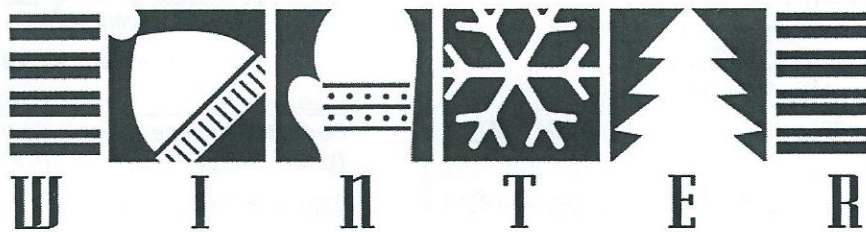
*Pr. John Yost*

### Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Interim Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Parish Administrator
- Tom Taylor, Facilities Manager
- Jeff Mensch, Council President
- Harry Boyer, Vice President
- Jeff Crossland, Council Secretary
- Cher Girton, Treasurer
- Gary Girton, Council
- Polly Hornig, Council
- Liz Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Barb Randecker, Council
- Keith Sawyer, Council
- Janet Shoemaker, Council
- Nick Hornig, Council Youth Rep.

### Inside this issue:

Council Corner	2
Groups/Committees	2
Financial	2
Youth Events	3
Birthdays	3
Thank You's	3
Lenten/Holy Week	4





## Council Corner

### 2016!!!

The following is a list of First Lutheran's Council members for 2016 and the committees they are chairing:

- Harry Boyer, Christian Education
- Jeff Crossland, Finance
- Gary Girton, Christian Ed, Youth

- Nick Hornig, Youth
- Polly Hornig, Service & Outreach
- Liz Loss, Fellowship & Recreation
- Jeff Mensch, Finance
- Bill Musser, Worship & Music
- Barb Randecker, Staff Support
- Keith Sawyer, Property
- Janet Shoemaker, Stewardship

## 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 1:30. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 50 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.

January's meal will be held on the 9th and pork will be served.

February's meal will be held on the 6th.

## January Annual Congregational Meeting/Holiday Dinner

The semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17th following worship.

Annual reports will be distributed prior to the meeting and the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the report and any additional agenda items listed.

You will receive your 2015 Giving Statement along with the agenda prior

to the meeting. They will be placed in your mailbox.

The FELC Family Holiday Dinner will be held after the congregational meeting.

The Council will provide Ham; everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.



## Mission Fundraiser

On the second Sunday of January, February and March, the youth will be holding a Soup, Sandwich & Sweets Sale. Tickets will be sold for \$10 and you'll get **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 Kim Sawyer at 570-713-4577.

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

## Men's Ministry

### Christianity Study

The first & third Thursday of each month, the men of First Lutheran will meet at 7:30PM in the multi-purpose room.

Pr. John will lead February and March meetings with a study of the history of the early church.

### Breakfast

Saturday mornings at 8AM the men will meet for breakfast at an area restaurant.



### Weekly Sponsors Needed!

The 2016 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 \$35 per week and you may either take or donate the flowers. Your dedication will be printed in the bulletin for the week sponsored.

## Baptismal Napkins

The group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7PM in the library. For more information, please contact Gwen Hull @ 524-0289.

*Upcoming meetings are Wednesdays, February 3rd and March 2nd.*

## DOLLAR\$&CENTS

As of December 31, 2015

<b>Income YTD:</b>	<b>\$177,426.51*</b>
Budgeted Income YTD:	\$239,581.00
(Under Budget YTD:	(\$ 62,154.49)
<b>Expenses YTD:</b>	<b>\$165,685.90</b>
Budgeted Expenses YTD:	\$239,581.00
(Under Budget YTD):	(\$ 73,895.10)

### General Fund Balance

January 1, 2015:	\$ 7,594.68
Income YTD:	+\$177,426.51*
Expenses YTD:	-\$165,685.90
December 31, 2015	\$ 19,335.29

\*Income includes \$6000 transfer from WELCA fund.

## January Birthdays

Sherri Neece	2nd	Carol Graham	15th	Winston Boyer	24th
Deanna Billow	4th	Amy Orren	15th	Aaron Hackenburg	25th
Mary Alice Deihl	7th	Ellie Kreisher	17th	Derek Long	26th
Melissa Lynch	7th	Andy Long	19th	Paige Bartlett	26th
Brett Harvey	7th	Gwen Hull	19th	Shelly Orren	27th
Joe Stenglein	14th	Katie Alexander	19th	Kerstie Blue	29th
Logan Taylor	14th	Donna Bitner	21st	Sara Donmoyer	30th
Shirley Heasley	15th	Brenda Sweet	22nd	Mark Alexander	31st



## February Birthdays

Jeff Hackenburg	1st	Hank Dorman	12th	Deken Kline	22nd
Nathan McBryan	3rd	Joely Watson	12th	Wayne Shively	23rd
Ethel Musser	4th	Mike Hackenberg	13th	Madison Reed	23rd
Kim Wagner	4th	Ed Libhart	14th	Jeff Clouser	24th
Jamie Bartlett	5th	Pat Stees	15th	Avery Kline	24th
Jim Beckley	7th	Steve Kreisher	16th	Lisa Woodring	25th
Carol Mensch	7th	Scott Smith	18th	Cory Harvey	26th
Cher Girton	10th	Linn Mensch	19th	Cindy Harvey	27th
Ashley Uehling	10th	Dotty Seebold	21st	Deb Johnson	27th
MaryLib Dunkle	12th	Kim Sauers	21st	Collin Krout	27th
Crystal Bollinger	12th	Caroline Herman	22nd	Kendra Kline	27th

### Shut-Ins

**Hertha Wehr**—January 22nd  
 29 Grayson View Court, Apt. 118  
 Selinsgrove, PA 17870

**Bep Steese**—February 17th  
 Riverwoods, Room 414B  
 3201 River Road  
 Lewisburg, PA 17837

## YOUTH EVENTS

### Dinner/Devo's

8th Grade and up  
 Sundays, 6-8PM @ Sawyer's home  
**January dates: 17th, 24th & 31st**  
**February dates: TBA**



### Soup/Sandwich Sales

Please keep selling tickets  
 for the months of February & March  
 If you need tickets, please contact  
 Kim Sawyer @ 713-4577



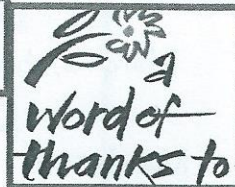
### Future Dates/Events

First Winter Retreat  
 Friday, March 4th-Sunday, March 6th  
 Save the date!  
 DO NOT MISS this weekend  
 of fellowship, food, fun  
 and so much more!  
 Details revealed after completed!

### Tubing @ Tussey

Sunday, February 21st  
 More info to follow

## Thank You Corner



Dear Friends at "First",

Thank you so much for all the prayers, telephone calls, visits, treats and concern. I very much appreciate the friendship that has been shown to me and my family during the last few weeks. We have a very kind and caring congregation which I can so happy to be a part of. Again, my sincere thanks! Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
 Trena Zeller

Dear Lutheran Friends,

THANK YOU!...for being so AMAZING and for blessing our family in a BIG way! May our Lord bless you in 2016!!!

The Chapmans  
 Doug, Jenn, David, Joseph & Michael



**Lenten**  
Meal & Services

Dinners begin at 6PM  
at the host church  
Starting Wednesday,  
February 25th & continuing  
through March 25th.

**February 17th**  
St. John's United Church of Christ

**February 25th**  
Mifflinburg United Methodist

**March 2nd**  
First Lutheran

**March 9th**  
Trinity Lutheran-Cowan

**March 16th**  
Christ's United Lutheran-Four Bells

*There is no charge for the meal  
but a freewill donation/offering is accepted.*



Ash Wednesday Worship Service  
February 10th at 7:00 PM  
at 4 Bells Church



Breakfast @ Four Bells Church  
the following  
Wednesdays @ 8AM:  
February 17th—Pr. Krell  
February 24th—Pr. Reamer  
March 2nd—Ted Justice  
March 9th—Pr. Liz Taylor  
March 16th—Johnnie Blake

First Lutheran Lenten Dinner  
*Ham & Green Beans*

Wednesday, March 2nd

A sign-up sheet for donations and help  
needs will be posted on the bulletin board  
in the coming weeks.



Holy Week 2016

Maundy Thursday:

March 24th, 6:00PM @ 4 Bells Church  
Dinner & Worship together in the Social Hall

Good Friday:

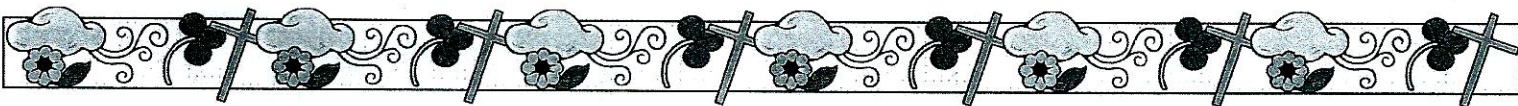
March 25th, 7:00PM @ First Lutheran  
The Stations of the Cross

Easter Dawn:

March 27th, 6:30AM @ 4 Bells Church

Easter Morning:

March 27th, @ First Lutheran, time TBA



**January 2016 – Volunteer Schedule**

**Acolytes:**

- 10: Paige Bartlett & Barb Randecker
- 17: Jaydn & Sally Rothermel
- 24: Victoria Harvey & Collin Krout
- 31: Denise & Emily Seebold

**Announcements:** Liz Loss

**Lay Readers:**

- 10: Shirley Heasley
- 17: Jeff Crossland
- 24: Norm Conrad
- 31: Andy Long

**Chief Usher:** Jeff Crossland

**Ushers:**

- 10: Deb Johnson, Carol Klose  
Jane Moore, Marianne Motto
- 17: Jim & Karen Adams  
Mike & Ann Beckley
- 24: Eric, Gwen & Perri Hull  
Harry Boyer
- 31: Dewey & Barb Reed  
Craig & Sally Rothermel

**Children's Church**

- 10: Sam Orren
- 17: Jamie Bartlett
- 24: Catrina Bollinger
- 31: Shirley Heasley

**Altar:**

- 10: Gwen Hull & Sue Smith      **Communion:** Cindy Harvey
- 17: Jane Moore & June Ocker

**Offering Envelopes:**

- 24: Karen Boyer & Mary Alice Deihl      Linn Mensch
- 31: Ruth Gessner & Marianne Motto      Don Seebold

**February 2016 – Volunteer Schedule**

**Acolytes:**

- 7: Logan & Paige Bartlett
- 14: Nick Hornig & Colten Page
- 21: Dottie Bollinger & Cora Reed
- 28: Quinton Bartlett & Barb Randecker

**Announcements:** Shirley Heasley

**Lay Readers:**

- 7: Jeff Mensch
- 14: Harvey Ilgen
- 21: Earl Michael
- 28: Jane Moore

**Chief Usher:** Liz Loss

**Ushers:**

- 7: Cindy Harvey, Sue Jows  
Libby & Liz Loss
- 14: Harvey & Brenda Ilgen  
Shirley Heasley, Andy Long
- 21: Don Seebold, Don Seebold II  
Keith & Kim Sawyer
- 28: Carol Klose, Troy Smith  
Kim Wagner, Dave Weaver

**Children's Church:**

- 7: Polly Hornig
- 14: Jane Moore
- 21: Sam Orren
- 28: Tom Orren

**Altar: (Month of February)**

- Lori Bailey, Kim Sawyer      **Communion:** Kim Sawyer  
Lori Bailey

**Offering Envelopes:** Mike & Ann Beckley

**ANNUAL REPORT**

The 2015 Annual Report will be available for pick-up  
in your mailbox after Wednesday.

Please bring your copy to the meeting  
immediately following worship, Sunday, January 17th.

The meeting will be held in the downstairs social hall.