



From Our Pastor...

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish

August 2020

A LISTENING TO JESUS FAITH

Most of us find it relatively easy to believe in Jesus, to believe in the life he lived for us, to believe that he gave up his life for our forgiveness and salvation, to believe that he was raised from the dead in order to lead us in our present situation and to prepare us for life eternal our own resurrection. But I also believe we have a more difficult time listening to and heeding Jesus' counsel and advice, especially in matters related to people whose actions, ideas and views are far different than ours.

We currently live in a fractious world filled with divisiveness and hatred, fueled by an anger bent on vengeance and the elimination of those of whom are perceived to be the opposition or enemy. Even as we claim to be followers

of Jesus, we often attempt to address our issues and problems by resorting to tactics that are contrary to the ways taught by Jesus. The mean-spiritedness that erupts from finger-pointing, name-calling and demonizing those perceived to be different often results in further fanning the flames of hatred and violence. We seem no closer today to the unity and peace Jesus prayed for two millennia ago. What is to be done?

Can and should we take seriously the counsel of Jesus in addressing our differences and the discord that arises from such differences, particularly when the rallying cries from society and church alike often call for vengeance and retaliation? We have grown more accustomed and comfortable with the worldly tactics of demonstrating might and strength against the problems we face rather than adopting the practices which Jesus taught. Do we trust Jesus enough to follow the ways he taught us how to live, particularly in the manner of addressing those perceived to be the enemy, over against the world's current practices. How have these worldly tactics been working?

In Luke 6, we hear these words of Jesus: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." Even in the church, have we come to understand this counsel as outdated, that Jesus' teaching is out of touch with our present reality, that our world is more complex and challenging than when Jesus first taught these precepts? Is it practical or prudent that "if anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also...and give to everyone who begs from you?" Will this not encourage some to further engage in acts of deception and injustice? Is Jesus being oblivious to other's malice and evil intent?

Jesus, in Luke 6, seems to call for a Christian response to the problems we face through and by our perceived differences, not by a knee-jerk reaction against our enemies but by modeling the manner in which God in Jesus addresses the actions of even the unkind and wicked: "Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your father is merciful." Does Jesus know something

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

Worship During the COVID Crisis

Brief outline of FELC's worship procedures:

- ◇ Ushers will seat you beginning with the front row to ensure safe distancing (families may sit together)
- ◇ Ushers will dismiss you beginning at the back of the sanctuary
- ◇ Offering baskets will be in the back of the sanctuary
- ◇ Sanitary products will be available
- ◇ If it is necessary to use the bathroom, please follow all posted procedures; children must be accompanied by an adult
- ◇ Please greet fellow parishioners outside before or after worship; **not** inside the church
- ◇ There will be no singing nor standing; please remain seated
- ◇ Please enter through the main entrance on Market Street; the glass doors in the alley will be available if necessary
- ◇ Worship services will still be available online on our website: felcmif-flinburg.org
- ◇ If you or anyone in your household has COVID or has been exposed to a COVID patient, DO NOT come to the church at anytime



about the results (reward) of such conduct of which we are presently unaware or unwilling to participate?

And finally, how are we to relate to one another from a Christian perspective, particularly in our disagreements with one another whether it be theological interpretation or church practice? In the living presence of Jesus and by the movement of the Holy Spirit, what enables us to say, "we are in the right and our opponents are in the wrong?" It has been commonplace in our world today, in a judgmental and condemnatory manner, to belittle and decry those who hold views different than our own. Is Jesus on our side, or for that matter, does Jesus necessarily take sides on the issues on which we take sides?

Again, it may be worthy to listen again to Jesus' counsel: "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you....for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Before we come to quick and determined conclusions about others and what we might think of and about them, particularly those perceived to be different in idea and action from our own leanings, may we listen to Jesus and pray for his guidance. Before we notice and point out the "speck in another's eye," may we pay attention to what clouds our own view from the way that Jesus wants us to be able to see.

*Blessings,
Pr. John*

August Bible Study Schedule

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	7:00 p.m.
<u>CULC</u>	<u>FELC</u>	<u>CULC</u>
Aug. 3rd	Aug. 4th	Aug. 5th
Aug. 10th	Aug. 11th	Aug. 12th
Aug. 17th	Aug. 18th	Aug. 19th
Aug. 31st	Sept. 1st	
<u>**No study</u>	<u>Week of Aug.</u>	<u>24th**</u>

FELC August Volunteers:

Chief Usher: Gloria Mincemoyer

Ushers:

8/2 - Harry Boyer

8/9 - Shirley Heasley

8/16 - Linda Lewis

8/23 - Jeff Mensch

8/30 - Craig & Sally Rothermel

In Our Prayers:

Winifred Aikey

Jan Beckley

Roger Dunkle

Mike Flickinger

Doug & Pearl Gemberling

Dustin Kline

Dr. Bill & Ethel Musser

Eric Powell & Family

Ken Smith

John Snook

Helen Troup

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

Worship at CULC

Attentive and sensitive to the continuing concerns of COVID-19 and its effects on our actions and behaviors, our congregational council has decided that for the foreseeable future our Sunday worship services will continue at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall, abiding by social distancing and the wearing of facial masks.

As we are now in the "green" phase of social guidelines, we are not limited to gatherings of 25 or fewer. Therefore, there is no longer a need to sign-up in advance to attend worship. As all are welcome on Sunday morning, the Thursday evening scheduled worship will cease. We encourage you, when you are comfortable and feel safe, to gather with us Sunday mornings.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the synod council members or call Pastor John at 570-837-9232 or email him at pastorjohn@gmail.com.

At July's council meeting, church council voted that our Sunday worship services include congregational singing.

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.

CULC Council Needs

CULC'S Church Council is looking for a congregational member willing to be appointed and fill a Council position for the remainder of this calendar year. If you are interested, please talk to any Church Council member for more information.

CULC West End Fair Update

After much consideration it was decided that we will not be serving food at either the food stand or from the church during this year's West End Fair.

Terry Diehl	08/01	Mike Shoemaker	08/12
Irene Musser	08/02	Payton Spigelmyer	08/12
Candi Taylor	08/02	Brandi Zimmerman	08/12
Kimm Watson	08/02	William Donmoyer	08/13
Larry Sampsell	08/03	Tom Catherman	08/14
Troy Smith	08/03	Calista Girton	08/14
Joshua Sawyer	08/04	Elizabeth Loss	08/14
Sianah Gemberling	08/05	Ethel Schnure	08/14
Libby Loss	08/05	June Wenrich	08/15
Michael Beckley	08/06	Nancy Ulrich	08/17
Kim Blyler	08/07	Larry Zerbe	08/17
Jane Moore	08/08	Traci Musser	08/19
Erica Boyer	08/09	Stacey Gemberling	08/20
Hannah Boyer	08/09	Denise Seebold	08/21
Grace Alexander	08/10	Sue Blyler	08/22
Logan Bartlett	08/10	Timothy Klose	08/24
Charlotte Pirraglia	08/10	Eric Dunkle	08/25
Wesley Pirraglia	08/10	Janet Hackenberg	08/25
Landon Auld	08/11	Calen Loss	08/28
Susan Jows	08/11	Janet Shoemaker	08/28
Carol Shipton	08/11	Kaelex Shuck	08/28
Erica Hess	08/12	Barbara Grimooris	08/29
Eric Hull	08/12	Jim Randecker	08/31



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.

Pre-register by August 21 and pay only \$25. 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/>

Ways to Help Camp Mt. Luther

On Saturday, May 30, the camp board decided to cancel the 2020 Summer Residential Camping Season. The board also voted to hire a team of returning staff members for three weeks this summer to do leadership development, service work, and a virtual camp experience for our campers. What that all looks like will be announced in the coming weeks. This will give us an opportunity to do ministry together in a new way with these young adults and with you. Mount Luther's "Camp COVID-19 in '20" will look differently from anything we've seen, and we hope you will take advantage of the options we develop for a Mount Luther experience this summer.

Please continue to pray for the camp and if able, send in a donation to help in this time, particularly for:

1. Support the Staff- donations are being sought to raise funds for the 12 people we are hiring to do three weeks of work this summer. Cost is about \$350 per staff per week.

2. Team 21- we determined that we need \$21,000 per month to meet essential expenses. So, if you can donate toward our general operating expenses, that would be great!

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/](https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2020/02/2020-Sept-Golf-Tournament-Flyer.pdf)

[uploads/2020/02/2020-Sept-Golf-Tournament-Flyer.pdf](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. 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>



**Our condolences....
to the family of Ed Wagner**

Edward Arthur Wagner, 88, of Mifflinburg, entered into eternal rest unexpectedly at 1:36 a.m. on June 26, 2020, surrounded by family. On October 24, 1952, at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, he married Leona E. Gast. They built a home on the Gast property, raised their family and lived there until 1976. At that time, they moved down the hill to the 1850 farmhouse that Ed and Leona lovingly restored. They shared many years of happiness there with family and friends. Ed was an avid cyclist, logging thousands of miles on the rail trail between Mifflinburg and Lewisburg. He was a local legend known by many on both ends of the trail. It is amazing to know that he rode the entire trail the day before his death. Regulars were inspired by him and will miss his smile and his friendly hello.

to the family of Delight Showalter

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Delight Showalter, 88, who passed away on May 24 at her home. Delight was a dedicated member of Christ's United and served the church in many ways, not only by faithful attendance but also as a Sunday school teacher, altar guild member and church supper server. She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Forrest & Torey Showalter, four grandchildren, Kyla Varney, Cain (Kristen) Showalter, Corrin (Colby) Zechman and Kalvin Showalter, seven great-grandchildren and one sister-in-law. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, daughter, Beverly Scheffler and one brother, Terry Davies. A private graveside service was conducted at the Hartleton Cemetery.

to the family of Ruth Diamond

We were also sorry to hear of the passing of Ruth Diamond, 101, of Indialantic, Florida. Ruth, who died Friday, Oct. 11, 2019 was the daughter of Luther & Carrie Yarger of Swengel. Pastor John will conduct a graveside service in Swengel when circumstances permit it.

Please remember these families in your prayers as they deal with the recent loss of a loved one.



Ron & Darlene Ulrich	08/07	55 Yrs
Steve & Becky Forcheskie	08/11	30 Yrs
Ken & Bev Catherman	08/12	58 Yrs
Charles & Arlene Behrent	08/15	15 Yrs
Don & Erma Hower	08/20	70 Yrs
Larry & Gayle Zerbe	08/20	53 Yrs
Drew & Paula Christy	08/29	50 Yrs
Andrew & Jennifer Keister	08/31	7 Yrs



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and kind words we received after the passing of our father, Ed Wagner. We have felt the love and support of so many from the church, and we are grateful!

We especially want to thank Pastor John for his visits and the touching funeral service, as well as the wonderful people who provided the food for after the service.

Thank you also for the many people who gave him extra love and attention over the past several years.

With gratitude and love,
The Wagner Family

Congratulations!!

Liam John Crosbie was born at 9:22 a.m. on July 7 to Sara (Moyer) & Philip Crosbie. He weighed 8 lb. 9 oz. and was 22 inches in length. Steve & Judy Moyer are two proud grandparents.

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	3 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	4 10:30AM: Bible Study - FE:C	5 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: FELC Council 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	6	7	8
9 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	10 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	11 10:30AM: Bible Study - FE:C	12 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	13	14	15
16 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	17 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	18 10:30AM: Bible Study - FE:C 7:00PM: Council - CULC	19 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	20	21	22
23 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	24 <i>No Bible Study Week of Aug. 24th</i>	25	26 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC	27	28	29
30 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	31 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC					