

First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

From Our Pastor...

NOW WHERE ARE WE TO FIND HIM?

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb...” In Luke’s Gospel, the writer simply informs the reader that “they” went to Jesus’ burial tomb. The reader may surmise that the “they” refers to the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee and had seen his body lain in the tomb. These women then prepared spices and ointments for Jesus’ deceased body. But upon return to the tomb, they found the stone rolled away and upon entering the tomb they found no body. What would they have thought? Was there some trickery involved? Had there been vandals? Perplexed and frightened, the women were greeted by two strangers who asked them why they would be seeking “the living among the dead.” Could they have thought that these two strangers might have something to do with Jesus’ disappearance? These strangers called upon the women to recall a time in Galilee when Jesus indicated that he would be crucified but “on the third day rise.” How would have these strangers known that? Were they also followers of Jesus? Everything seemed so mysterious.

How were these women, faithful followers of Jesus, to process such information? They had just recently witnessed the suffering and death of their

beloved Jesus. So much was happening so quickly. Maybe they were still in a state of shock and were not capable of thinking clearly. Was fear clouding their understanding? What could these strangers have meant by “the living among the dead?” Surely, they had witnessed Jesus’ last breath. How was any truth to be sorted out from what they had seen and heard?

And then, the writer of Luke’s Gospel simply informs the reader that “they remembered his words.” Remembered what words? What had Jesus said to them? Did they remember a prediction of Jesus’ death and resurrection? Did this remembrance fill them with belief and hope? Whatever they had been feeling, again the writer of Luke’s Gospel shares, these women returned to tell others, including the disciples, what they had seen and heard. How did these women share such news? Were they excited or fearful, jubilant or unsure? Whatever the case, their audience heard their story as an “idle tale” and did not believe them, at least, for a certain period of time.

But two millennia later, stories are still being told that Jesus’ body is not to be found in a tomb for he has been raised from the dead and he lives! How we are indebted to these women who spoke the truth and persisted even in the midst of others’ doubts and disbelief. Not only do we bear

witness to Jesus’ resurrection, for we also live in the continuity of the hope displayed by these women, some who are identified as Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Joanna in Luke’s Gospel. Jesus lives! And we believe! Easter faith lives on!

As Easter people, we carry on the promise of God the Father. Because Jesus lives, we live in the hope of resurrection and the restoration of all things. But our Easter faith also bears witness to Jesus’ living presence in our world today. Our faith directs us to resurrection hope as well as to recognize Jesus’ living presence in our daily living. If we are to tell others that Jesus is not just a memory brought to us from the distant past but a living presence for us today, how will we respond to others’ inquiries of where this Jesus may be found in our time and place?

If we say that Jesus overcame death upon a cross and now lives, where might we tell others where he may be found? Is Jesus in heaven? Is Jesus present on earth? Is Jesus with believers? Is Jesus to be found in the church? Is Jesus with people in their time of need? Is Jesus in places, holy and righteous? Is Jesus in places, hellish and filled with terror and fear? Is Jesus in our hearts? Is Jesus with doubt-



Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Girtan, Asst. Church Adm.
- Tom Taylor, Facilities Manager
- Harry Boyer, Council President
- Jeff Mensch, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Girtan, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Girtan, Council
- Liz Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Dave Weaver, Council
- Jane Moore, Council
- Tanna Stenger, Council
- Logan Mensch, Council

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ers and unbelievers? Is Jesus in the faces of our neighbors? Is Jesus in the faces of our enemies? Is Jesus where we want him to be? Is Jesus where God the Father wants him to be?

Are we able, by our faith, to direct others to experience Jesus' presence in their lives regardless of whatever it

is they are saying or doing? Are we able to help others see Jesus' presence in our own words and actions? Are we able to reveal Jesus' presence through the plethora of choices we make each and every day?

The impact of Jesus' resurrection bears upon the promise of our own resurrection. But as importantly, Je-

sus' resurrection impacts the way we are called to live now, in faith and with others. Easter directs us away from an empty tomb back into a busy world filled with Jesus' presence, a presence of forgiveness, mercy, grace and love. For where there is love, Jesus will be seen.

Pr. John Yost

April Birthdays

Maria Kuba 04/01
Noah Kuba 04/03
Peter Henninger Sr. 04/04
Perri Hull 04/05
Harvey Ilgen 04/05
Karen Fritz 04/06
Tessa Woodring 04/06
Kinsley Herb 04/07
Helen Troup 04/09
Ed Bielski 04/10

Darryl Mincemoyer. 04/10
Sue Smith 04/10
Reagyn Rothermel. 04/11
Zachery Taylor 04/13
Joan Haire-Campbel. 04/15
Nancy Snook. 04/15
Donna Rhoades. 04/17
Don Seebold 04/17
Bob Musser 04/18
William Musser 04/18

Catrina Bollinger 04/21
Ray Mincemoyer 04/23
Jim Shipton 04/23
Donald Everitt. 04/24
Janelle Hicks 04/24
Jeffrey Mensch Esq. 04/24
Clark Wagner. 04/24
Dwayne Reed 04/28
Cora Reed. 04/29

Mutual Ministry

Christ's United Easter Egg Sale

Don't forget to order your Easter Eggs! Only two weeks left, April 3 and April 10.

Eggs are mixed and shaped starting at 9:00 a.m. each Monday morning and coating and packaging begins each Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. Order forms are also available in the office at First Lutheran.

PLEASE NOTE: Orders not in the church kitchen, at Christ's United, by NOON on Sunday, will be filled last (if quantity permits). If you have any questions talk to Bev Catherman, at Christ's United.



Rooted Relational Therapy

Morgan and Doug Richard are from Mifflinburg, and they have recently returned to the area to open their therapy practice, Rooted Relational Therapy, which provides counseling services to people of all stages of life in Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties. Whether you desire decreased conflict, better communication, or more satisfying relationships, they look forward to

working with you to help you reach your goals.

Morgan and Doug are empathic, knowledgeable, and attentive therapists with comprehensive training and clinical experience working with individuals, couples, and families to improve relationships and encourage personal growth. As Marriage & Family Therapists, they take a systemic, relational approach to therapy, exploring how each person's context and relationships influence their well-being.

If you, a family member, or a friend is going through a challenging time, we would be happy to work with you.

Doug Richard, MAMFT
Morgan Richard, MAMFT
(570)884-4662
www.RootedRT.com



Weekly Sponsors Needed!

The 2017 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 \$40 per week and you may either take or donate the flowers. Your dedication will be printed in the bulletin for the week sponsored.

Lenten Supper

6:00 PM

4/5/17 Christ's
United Lutheran

Good Friday Breakfast

Mifflinburg Kiwanis will host its annual benefit Good Friday Breakfast on April 14, 2017 in the community room of the Mifflinburg United Methodist Church at Third and Market Streets. A full breakfast will be served promptly at 8AM. All donations received will go to help the Adam Dorman/Danielle Houser family and their three children who lost everything in a recent house fire. For group take-out orders, call 570-966-1804 by April 12. If you have questions, call 570-966-2322 or 570-966-0623. The Kiwanis Club of Mifflinburg is "dedicated to improving the world one child and community at a time".

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 1:00. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 30 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.

April meal will be held Saturday, April 1st.

Dinner/Devo's

Sr. High Youth

Sundays, 6-8PM @ Sawyer's home
April 9th & April 23rd

Jr. High Youth 5-7PM

April 23rd @ Ben Horning's
May 21st @ Sarah Harter's

Future Dates/Events

April 9th -Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Being held during Sunday School.

Organized by the Horning Family.

April 29th-Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

We need the help of ALL the Junior High and Senior High Youth.

April 30th—MACY Movie Afternoon

Leaving the church at noon. Pizza and discussion at Messiah Lutheran on our way home. Need drivers please.

Criminal & Child Abuse Clearances

Our Criminal and Child Abuse Clearances need to be updated in church office. We need to have clearances on file for any one involved with our youth in any capacity. If you need to have clearances completed, please contact the church office and we will provide you with the forms.

MINISTERIUM BACKPACK PROGRAM



The churches of the Mifflinburg Ministerium are providing backpacks of food for students in the elementary school for weekends when they may not have a hot meal. At this time there are over 60 students signed up for the program.

The Ministerium is asking for help with this program through donations of the following items:

Individual Microwavable Macaroni & Cheese

Individual Snack Packs of Pudding, Applesauce or Fruit

Individual Cereal Bars

Granola Bars

Pop Tarts

Individual Microwavable Chef Boy R Dee Products

Drinks—Capri Sun, Hi-C, etc.

Clementine Oranges

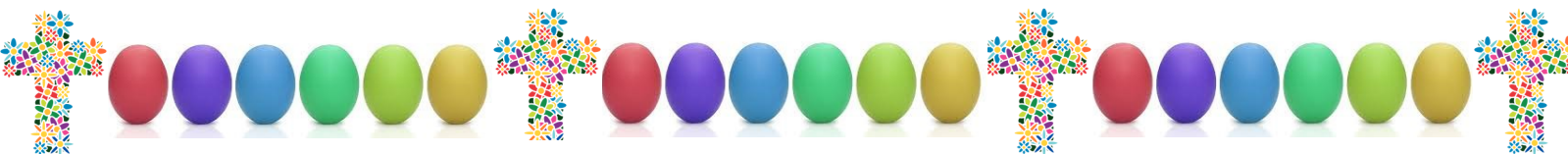
Fruit Snacks

Apples

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

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Address Service Requested



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

First Lutheran Sunday Worship
Service beginning at 10:30 AM

Sunday School will begin at
9:15AM



*When you are aware of situations requiring pastoral care,
such as births, deaths, hospital admission, serious illness, etc.,
please notify Pastor John Yost at 570-837-9232 (cell) or
pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com*