



# First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

# AUGUST

2016

## From Our Pastor...

### A WORLD OF HOPE BY FAITH

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." So begins the creation account found in Genesis 1. Throughout this rendition is an oft repeated phrase: "And God saw that it was good." Our world is filled with God's blessing and goodness. God provides abundantly with love and mercy. God's creation is filled with awe and wonder, and we are called to respond with reverence and steadfast care. In our world, joy and peace are to meet and justice and righteousness are to embrace.

How are we now to face this world and embrace God's presence and promise amidst visions and sounds of terror, violence, hate, intolerance, suffering, fear, apathy, and mean-spiritedness found in almost every nook and cranny of God's good creation? As people of faith, how are we to address a world that is increasingly subject to rhetoric than incessantly fans the flames of hatred and terror and wills that some peoples because of perceived differences can and should be treated with violence, disdain, and indifference? Are we still able to look upon humanity throughout the world and simply see children of God, or do we reduce and subject peoples to classifications that support division and separation? Are we to believe that God's world redeemed and sanctified in

Christ should be identified solely by our perceived differences between liberal and conservative, rich and poor, black, brown or white? Does God define us by the color of our skin or the languages we speak or the politics we profess? Regardless of the religious clothing we may wrap our thoughts and opinions in, hate is hate and terror is terror and neither are in accordance with God's will and purpose.

A world of division fueled by hate and indifference is not a world viewed from one whose outstretched arms hung upon a cross, and whose dying words expressed forgiveness for those of us who do not seem to know what we are doing. If this is God's world as we profess it to be, and if we continue to profess that Jesus is our Lord and savior, and if we believe we are called as disciples to carry forth the ministry and mission of Jesus throughout the world, ought we to proceed by adopting a vision of the world as God intends it to be? Ought we to engage this world with hope rather than despair, love rather than harm?

A vision of God's will for the world amidst the cries of separation and terror-driven fear is found in Isaiah 11. The world then dealt with aggressive nations seeking to impose their will upon others as we have now. Then, some peoples tried to suppress the beliefs of others

through economic and military oppression as we have now. God was not deterred as God is not now. God has raised up for us, all of us, one whose Spirit of understanding and might rests solely upon God's eternal vision of justice and peace for all. God's vision is for a world without predator and preyed upon, oppressor and victim, haves at the expense of have-nots.

May we be able to follow Christ as we hear and respond to the counsel of St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 5: "For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them."

To be sure, wickedness, terror and evil are active in many places in our world. We see so much suffering and hurt throughout the world. But we, as followers of Christ, shall not fall prey or victim to the rhetoric of hate and intolerance, here or abroad, "for in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us."

*In service to Christ and the  
Church,  
Pastor John*

### 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 Girtton, Treasurer
- Gary Girtton, Council
- Liz Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Barb Randecker, Council
- Janet Shoemaker, Council
- Dave Weaver, Council
- Nick Hornig, Council Youth Rep.

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## Council Minutes—June 1, 2016

**Present:** Pastor John Yost, Keith Sawyer, Harry Boyer, Gary Girtton, Cheri Girtton, Jeff Mensch, Bill Musser, Dave Weaver, Lizz Loss, and Jeff Crossland.

Gloria Mincemoyer also present as guest.  
**Absent:** Nick Hornig, Barb Randecker, Janet Shoemaker

**Devotions:** Pastor John Yost presented devotions.

**Secretary's report:** The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's report:** General fund balance as of 05/31/2016 is \$24,505.46. Treasurer's report accepted subject to audit.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor John made some comments and in particular spoke about the difficult of Marlin "Speedy" Troup's death. He also spoke about faith, love, action and stewardship, and discerning how those things work in our lives and guide us to do the things we do.

**Ministry Reports:**

**Worship and Music:** Bill Musser commented about our church in the park service and many on council noted what a terrific service that was, and that the music was terrific.

**Property:** Keith Sawyer noted that the sewer/plumbing work in the basement is going to start soon.

**Motion by Keith Sawyer/Second Bill Musser to install a door to install a door at outside basement entrance at a cost of no more than \$700, work to be done by Jim Boop. Motion passed unanimously.**  
**Motion by Keith Sawyer/Second Bill Musser to purchase a cordless weed wacker for \$89. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Keith Sawyer/Second Bill Musser to do additional staining of sandstone up to a height of about 12 feet to blend previous patchwork with original sandstone and new sandstone. Additional costs is \$4332. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Christian Education:** Pastor John continues with his Bible study classes. Sunday school is now over for the summer. Vacation Bible School will be postponed until August.  
**Finance:** Jeff Mensch noted that the finance committee will be meeting in early July.

**Youth:** Gary Girtton noted that the youth are getting ready and preparing for their Haiti trip and prayer partner lists are in place.

**Business:**

Council continues to have a vacancy for the young adult position (age 18-31).

An update was provided on the exterior project, noting that the tower slates are loose, and screening at bell chamber is down, and spire holes should likely be filled.

The water fountains are being removed, and will be replaced. Harry Boyer said he will get some quotes on some new water fountain systems that we might use to replace what we had.

There was a discussion of T-shirt expense, and the cost of T-shirts have been paid, and that cost will be covered by T-shirt sales.

The door locks and key fobs appear to not be working consistently and/or properly. Discussion held on this topic, and there will be further investigation of this problem. There was discussion of event/supply notifications. Heather Klose is to notify Tom Taylor of all church event schedules and room set up needs, and Tom is to notify Heather of all church supply needs.

**Motion by Harry Boyer/Second Gary Girtton to have the minutes of council minutes go back to being published in our church newsletter. Motion passed unanimously.** There was discussion of snow removal and split billing for that. We will bill the owners of our shared parking lot for their share of snow removal.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Jeff Crossland



### COMMUNITY DINNER

August's meal will be held on Saturday, the 6th.

Anyone willing to volunteer to help for part or all of the day would be greatly appreciated. Any questions, please contact Libby Loss @ 570-966-1606.

THANK YOU!



### Baptismal Napkins

First Lutheran has been proudly presenting newly baptized members with handcrafted napkins for many years. These napkins are created by members of our church congregation.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the library. For more information, please contact Gwen Hull @ 524-0289.

**The next meeting is Wednesday-day, August 3rd.**

If you like to do handiwork, please join the group for an evening of fun and crafting. New faces & hands are always welcome.

### Apple Dumpling Project Update

The Apple Dumpling Project is a HUGE fundraiser for First Lutheran. Well over \$5000 is raised each year and donated to a family in need and/or projects around the church are funded.

Deanna Billow will chair the project this year. The proceeds will be divided equally between the youth and a community family/person in need.

Sign Up sheets and help needed will be posted in the hallway in the near future.



### Christkindle Dinner Chairperson Needed

Ann Beckley has graciously chaired the Christkindl dinner for the last five years. She has a rather extensive portfolio of information that will help create a smooth change over. She will provide any help for the transition of someone else becoming involved.

If you would be willing to be a co-chair for either of these events, please contact the office for more information.



July/August, 2015

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# August Birthdays

Irene Musser	2nd	Logan Bartlett	10th	Nancy Ulrich	17th
Kimm Watson	2nd	Carol Shipton	11th	Dottie Bollinger	19th
Candi Taylor	2nd	Sue Jows	11th	Cathi Shirk	21st
Troy Smith	3rd	Mike Shoemaker	12th	Denise Seebold	21st
Josh Sawyer	4th	Eric Hull	12th	Lew Sanden	22nd
Libby Loss	5th	Carla Watson	12th	Jamie Ulrich	22nd
Mike Beckley	6th	Clay Gessner	12th	Irene Henninger	23rd
Kaleisha Page	6th	Erica Hess	12th	Tim Klose	24th
Bailey Klose	8th	Sara Trovato	12th	Lori Galer	26th
Jane Moore	8th	Bessie Ruhl	13th	Janet Shoemaker	28th
Mike McCloud	9th	Bill Donmoyer	13th	Dave Galer	28th
Erica Boyer	9th	Liz Loss	14th	Calen Loss	28th
Hanna Boyer	9th	Calista Gorton	14th	Ed Wagner	30th
Grace Alexander	10th	Lauren Stahl	15th	Jim Randecker	31st

## Shut-Ins:

Rozella Walter 26th  
Manor @ Penn Lutheran  
Room 141  
800 Broad St.  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

## CARD SHOWER!!!

Bess Ruhl turns 90 on  
August 13th!!

Please send cards to:

Bess Ruhl  
280 N. 8th St.  
Mifflinburg, PA 17844



*First Lutheran,*

*I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to my church family for all the prayers, cards and support that my family and I received during the recent illness and death of my father, Melvin Finck.*

*Karen Boyer*

## DOLLAR\$&CENTS

As of June 30, 2016

<b>Income YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 82,410.54*</b>
Budgeted Income YTD:	\$ 121,182.00
(Under Budget YTD:	\$ (38,771.46)
<b>Expenses YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 75,620.20</b>
Budgeted Expenses YTD:	\$ 121,182.00
(Under Budget YTD):	\$ (45,561.80)

### General Fund Balance

January 1, 2016:	\$ 20,433.09
Income YTD:	+\$ 82,410.54
Expenses YTD:	-\$ 75,620.20
Transfers:	-\$ 1,630.50
June 30, 2016	\$ 25,592.93

FELC Council, Congregation & Family,

"You made our day!" Thanks so much for all of your prayers and support during our trip to Haiti. We really appreciated the opportunity to serve.

Much thanks & hugs,  
Candi & Zach Taylor

Dear members of 1st Lutheran Church,

No words can express my gratitude for the support you have given to the Haiti Mission group and the Workcamp crew this year. We would never have been able to do these trips without your support.

We were truly blessed by you!

Thank you very much!

In His love,  
Cindy Harvey

Quilt Ladies,

How nice of you to be so thoughtful!

Thank you for the quilt!

Spencer Dunkle

## FIRST LUTHERAN,

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT DURING SPEEDY'S ILLNESS. YOUR CARDS, PRAYERS, FOOD & SUPPORT WERE VERY APPRECIATED.

WE KNOW HE WILL BE MISSED GREATLY BY US ALL.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE LUNCHEON AFTER THE SERVICE. IT WAS WONDERFUL!

THE TROUP FAMILY

Dear First Lutheran Quilters,

Thank you very much for the quilt in honor of my graduation. It was very thoughtful of you all. I'm sure it took tons of hard work and I really appreciate it. I like my quilt a lot and will definitely take it to college with me. Thanks again!!

Love,  
Daniel Crossland

## SEWER UPDATE!!

The old sewer line has been removed and replaced. Concrete has been poured to fill the hole that was dug. Carpeting for the preschool room has been approved and will be ordered and installed in August. Options for new flooring for the Social Hall and kitchen are being explored. Work in that area is hoped to be completed in September.



# First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

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Office Hours: TUES-THURS, 9:00-1:00

Address Service Requested



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

First Lutheran will continue with one worship service beginning at 10:30 AM.

Sunday School will be not meet during the summer months.



The First Evangelical Lutheran website is up and running!!

Please visit [FELCMifflinburg.org](http://FELCMifflinburg.org) and see what's happening.

Submit any comments and or announcements you'd like to be posted to the church office.

## FAMILY DAY AT CAMP MT. LUTHER!!

**Sunday, September 11**

**"God's Work, Our Hands"**

**Worship begins at 11:00AM**

**Followed by activities and service**

**More information will be in upcoming bulletins.**

*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/text) or e-mail, [pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com](mailto:pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com)*

