



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

From Our Pastor...

Advent is a time of expectant watching and hopeful waiting, a time of eager anticipation and prepared readiness. Jeremiah announces that "the days are surely coming." And Jesus warns that "there will be signs." As the church, we ready ourselves for Christmas, remembering the birth of Jesus, all the while anticipating the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, "at that time (God) will cause a righteous Branch to spring up, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." And as we remember the birth of Jesus, we also stand guard and watch for "the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Advent hope is grounded on the promise of God, anticipated through our worship and reflected upon our attentiveness to God's word. We know how, when, and for whom to watch because we have heard God's promise and we remember and attest to the faithfulness of those who witnessed the birth of Jesus and followed in his way. We wait with the assuredness that God shall deliver upon that which God has promised: "the days are surely coming." We also watch with a par-

ticular viewpoint beyond the fears and forebodings written upon the ways of the world: "God will cause a righteous Branch to spring up." And we stand guard for the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land."

Our Advent participation suggests that we are ready and willing to submit ourselves to God's promise and to live our lives under the cosmic and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our Advent participation shall reveal our trust that God's promise is manifested and shall be fulfilled in the coming presence of Jesus Christ. And our Advent participation asserts that we shall not be "weighed down with dissipation and the intoxicating worries of this life," but we shall be alert to God's reign as it draws near.

Advent asks of us: shall our values and dreams be shaped by the promise of God incarnate in Jesus Christ or by the schemes devised on Wall Street and Madison Avenue? Are we looking for a good deal at a bargain price or are we allowing ourselves to be embraced with the promise of life in God's hands? Do we expect a future that is merely the summation of even the best of our efforts

or shall we anticipate a time to come that bears the marks of the crucified One and yet rises from the dead and returns in the embodiment of grace and mercy for his gathered people?

"The days are surely coming!" How shall we "read" the signs? How shall we discern the times? Will we be able to "see" the arriving presence of Jesus bringing to fulfillment God's promise or will he simply be remembered from a story beautifully told but some two thousand years past? Shall we be adventurous bearers of expectant hope in the promise of God as fulfilled in the arriving presence of Jesus Christ or shall we cling to past memories and a benign continuation of what already has been? How shall God find us this Advent: alert and ready for who and what is to come or sluggish and weary from where we have been? With eager anticipation what shall we seek: a festive rehearsal of Christmas as an act of mere remembrance or a joyous song led by a choir of angels that announces the arriving presence of Jesus who changes the present by revealing the future salvation and the execution of justice and righteousness?

Wait, watch and be ready! Advent is here and Jesus is on his way!

Blessings,
Pr. John Yost



Staff & Council Members

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

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May God's blessings float
down like soft snowflakes



Council Corner.....Updates & Status'

Jeff Mensch, President

New Parish Council: The following members of First & 4 Bells will serve on the Parish Council: Lee Spangler, President, Gary Girton, Secretary, Deanna Billow, Drew Christy, Jeff Mensch & Diane Shuck, members at large.

First Lutheran Council: Special thank you for the dedicated service to outgoing council members: Jeff Crossland who served as Secretary and Janet Shoemaker.

Welcome to new 2017 Council members: Jane Moore & Tanna Stenger and Logan Mensch, Youth representative.

The following is a list of First Lutheran's Council members for 2017 and the committees they are chairing:

Deanna Billow, Outreach, Service & Stewardship; Harry Boyer, Christian Ed.; Gary Girton, Youth; Liz Loss, Fellowship & Recreation; Jeff Mensch, Finance; Jane Moore, Finance; Bill Musser, Worship & Music; Barb Randecker, Staff Support; Tanna Stenger, Outreach, Service & Stewardship, Dave Weaver, Property and Logan Mensch, Youth.



Christkindl Events

Christkindl 2016 Friday Ham & Green Beans Meal will be served at First Evangelical Lutheran Church on Friday, December 10th. Once again, we will be serving our "German" (Pennsylvania Dutch) style Ham, Green Beans and Potatoes, along with authentic German bread, applesauce and German Apple Cake. The last few years we have served roughly 400 people and have given proceeds of approximately \$2,000.00 to church programs and needs. Thank you for your help. Sign-up sheets are on the bathroom door in the hallway or contact Deanna Billow @ 570-490-1180.

A German Bake Sale will be sponsored by the Youth Group. Please stop by and support the Youth with their fundraiser. The bake sale will be held Thursday evening through Saturday.

Altar Flowers

There has been a change in florists for the remainder of the year and will continue through 2017. The florist will be Steins Florist from Lewisburg. The cost for fresh flowers will now be \$40.00 for both vases. The altar committee has decided since the price continues to rise, we are going to have seasonal silk arrangements made to use for Sundays when there is no sponsor. You will still have the opportunity to place fresh flowers on any Sunday you wish. We do ask that if you sponsor fresh flowers for a Sunday, it is your responsibility to take the flowers after church and deliver them where you wish.

The 2017 Altar Flower chart will be hung by the week of December 18th. You must sign up for the weeks you'd like to sponsor in 2017. No sponsor information will be transferred automatically from 2016.

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.

January meal will be held Saturday, January 7th.

2017



The 2017 offering envelopes will be placed in your mailbox the week of December 11th. Please stop by to pick them up. If you are not currently receiving envelopes and would like a box, please contact the office.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

As of November 30, 2016

Income YTD:	\$150,246.14
Budgeted Income YTD:	\$222,167.00
(Under Budget YTD:	(\$ 71,920.86)
Expenses YTD:	\$145,096.15
Budgeted Expenses YTD:	\$222,167.00
(Under Budget YTD):	(\$ 77,070.85)

General Fund Balance

January 1, 2016:	\$ 20,433.09
Income YTD:	+ \$150,246.14
Expenses YTD:	- \$145,096.15
Transfers:	\$ - 2,630.50
November 30, 2016	\$ 22,852.58



December Birthdays

Ed Henry	2nd	Dave Weaver	23rd
Nick Hornig	2nd	Jason Fritz	24th
Clayton Reed	4th	Peggy Kron	25th
Clara Conrad	5th	Sandy McCloud	25th
Tom Orren	6th	Logan Mensch	27th
Gladys Jamison	10th	Jim Bailey	30th
Jim Adams	11th	Carol Schwartz	31st
John Schnure	15th	Shut-Ins:	
Donna Culp	17th	Georgie Linke	30th
John Watson, Jr.	19th	Riverwoods	
Garrett Girtton	19th	3201 River Road	
Gaven Girtton	19th	E-wing, Room 433B	
Nancy Shively	20th	Lewisburg PA 17837	
Jeff Crossland	20th		



Holiday Luncheon & Annual Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 15th, 2017

Following 10:30AM worship on January 15th, there will be a Holiday Luncheon held in the downstairs social hall followed by the Semi-Annual Business Meeting..

Ham will be provided by council and table service will be supplied. Please bring a covered dish to share. All are encouraged to attend and share in the fellowship!

January Birthdays

Sherri Neece	2nd	Ellie Kreisher	17th	Shelly Orren	27th
Deanna Billow	4th	Andy Long	19th	Kerstie Blue	29th
Mary Alice Deihl	7th	Gwen Hull	19th	Sara Donmoyer	30th
Melissa Lynch	7th	Katie Alexander	19th	Mark Alexander	31st
Brett Harvey	7th	Donna Bitner	21st	Shut-Ins	
Joe Stenglein	14th	Brenda Sweet	22nd	Hertha Wehr—Jan. 22nd	
Logan Taylor	14th	Winston Boyer	24th	Buffalo Valley Luth. Vil.	
Shirley Heasley	15th	Aaron Hackenburg	25th	305 E. Tressler Rd. Room 401	
Carol Graham	15th	Derek Long	26th	Lewisburg, PA 17837	
Amy Orren	15th	Paise Bartlett	26th		

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Remember our Shut-ins

Riverwoods

3201 River Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Georgie Linke

Room 433B

Geri Mattem

Room 429

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village

889 Fairground Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Gar Kron

Pheasant Ridge, Room 126

Hertha Wehr

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village
309 E. Tressler Rd. Room 401
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Elmcroft

2421 Old Turnpike Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Freda Musser Room 125

Manor at Penn Lutheran

800 Broad Street
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Rozella Walter Room 141

Mifflinburg Area

Irene Shirk

3365 Wildwood Drive

Myrtle Shirk

429 Old Orchard Lane

Leona Wagner

674 N. Third Street



1st Sunday of Advent:
2nd Sunday of Advent:
3rd Sunday of Advent:
4th Sunday of Advent:

November 27th
December 4th
December 11th
December 18th



This year's Christmas offering will be given to the Community Meal Fund. The Christmas offering is all monies collected in the specially marked "Christmas" offering envelope and the loose offering. Any regular offering envelopes will go directly to the General Fund.



*Merry Christmas
to you and your family
from Pr. John and staff
of First Lutheran*



Christmas Eve/Holiday Services:

4:30 PM: Contemporary
Candlelight Worship
7:00 PM: Candlelight Service
@ Christ's Lutheran
(4 Bells)
10:00 PM: Music of the
Season
10:30 PM: Traditional
Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 25th, 10:00 AM @
First Lutheran
Sunday, Jan. 1st, 10:00 AM @
Christ's Lutheran
*No Sunday School on December
25th or January 1st. Regular clas-
ses resume January 8th.*



Silent Night, Holy Night

DECEMBER 2016

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-Contemporary 6PM: Advent by Candlelight-DS</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 6PM: Cherubs 6:30PM: Contemporary 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir 7PM: Council-MPR</p>	<p>8 Youth German Bake Sale CHRISTKINDL</p>	<p>9 11AM: Ham & Green Bean Dinner-DS Youth German Bake Sale CHRISTKINDL</p>	<p>10 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner Youth German Bake Sale CHRISTKINDL</p>
<p>11 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC – Traditional-Call Sunday 12-2PM: Confirmation-MPR 6PM: Annual Youth Christmas</p>	<p>12 9AM-2PM: Community Missions Group-MPR</p>	<p>13 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR</p>	<p>14 3-8PM: Loss—MPR 6PM: Cherubs 6:30PM: Contemporary 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir</p>	<p>15 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike</p>
<p>18 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-Contemporary Shoemaker-DS</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR</p>	<p>21 7:15PM: Christmas Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 7:15PM: Christmas Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 4:30 PM: Candlelight Service/HC—Contemporary-First Lutheran 7PM: Candlelight Service/HC-Traditional-Christ's Lutheran (4 Bells) 10PM: Music of the Season 10:30PM: Candlelight Service/HC-Traditional-First Lutheran</p>
<p>25 10:00AM: Worship/HC-Traditional-First Lutheran</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR</p>	<p>28 6PM: Cherubs 6:30PM: Contemporary 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

Chief Usher: Barb Randecker
Announcements: Sally Rothemel
Altar/Communion: Brenda Ilgen
Offering Envelopes:
Linn Mensch & Don Seebold

Acolytes:
4: Collin Krout & Cora Reed
11: Quinton Bartlett & Barb Randecker
18: Logan & Paige Bartlett
Christmas Eve 4PM: Jadya & Sally Rothemel
Christmas Eve 10PM: Denise & Emily Seebold
DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Lay Readers:
4: Jeff Crossland
11: Harvey Ilgen
18: Jane Moore
Christmas Eve 4PM: Karen Boyer
Christmas Eve 10:30: Jeff Mensch
Christmas Day 10AM: Don Seebold II

Children's Church:
4: Shirley Heasley
11: Ann Beckley
18: Sam Orren

Ushers:
4: Mike & Ann Beckley, Sheryl Fetter
11: Eric, Gwen & Perri Hull, Carol Klose
18: Crossland Family
Christmas Eve 4PM: Harry Boyer, Shirley Heasley
Deb Johnson, Jane Moore
Christmas Eve 10:30: Jeff Mensch, Don Seebold
Keith & Kim Sawyer
Christmas Day 10AM: Tom & Sam Orren
Cindy Harvey, Don Seebold II

JANUARY 2017

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00AM: Worship/H/C-Christ's Lutheran (4 Bells)	2	3 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	4 6PM: Cherubs 6:30PM: Contemporary 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir 7PM: Council-MPR	5 1PM: WELCA 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	6	7 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Arc's 11AM-12:30PM: Community Meal
8 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/H/C-Contemporary 12-2PM: Confirmation-MPR	9 9AM-2PM: Community Missions Group-MPR	10 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	11 6PM: Cherubs 6:30PM: Contemporary 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	12	13	14 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner
15 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/H/C-Traditional Annual Meeting/Luncheon	16	17 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	18 6PM: Cherubs 6:30PM: Contemporary 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	19 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	20	21 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike 1-2:30PM-VIMCA Kids Can Cook-DS
22 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/H/C-Contemporary January Soup/Sandwich Sale	23	24 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	25 6PM: Cherubs 6:30PM: Contemporary 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	26	27 5-9PM: Loss-DS	28 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Arc's
29 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/H/C-Traditional	30	31 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	29	30	31 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner	

JANUARY 2017 VOLUNTEERS

Lay Readers:

Chief Usher:
 Announcements: Shirley Heasley
 Altar/Communion: Mandy & Sally Rothmehl
 Offering Envelopes:
 Mike & Ann Beckley

Acolytes:

8: Collin Krout & Cora Reed
 15: Logan & Paige Bartlett
 22: Jady'n & Sally Rothmehl
 29: Denise & Emily Seebold

Children's Church:

8: Polly Horning
 15: Sam Orren
 22: Mandy Rothmehl
 29: Kim Sawyer

Ushers:

8: Sheryl Fetter, Sue Jows, Liz Loss, Marianne Motto
 15: Jeff Mensch, Earl Michael, Dave Weaver, Max Zeller
 22: Jim & Karen Adams
 29: Mike & Ann Beckley
 Harvey & Brenda Ilgen
 Deb Johnson, Jane Moore

YOUTH Activities



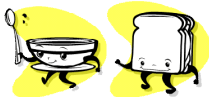
\$10 Challenge

Any youth participating in the \$10.00 Challenge and has not received their \$10.00, please contact Kim Sawyer. The results of the challenge will be shared at the Annual Youth Christmas Party.



Youth Christmas Party

The annual youth Christmas Party will be held at The Carriage Corner Restaurant on December 11th at 6:00 pm. All youth attending are asked to bring a jar of peanut butter or jelly for the Kiwanis Food Baskets.



Annual Youth Soup and Sandwich Sale

The Annual Youth Soup & Sandwich & Dessert Fundraiser will be held January 15th, February 19th and March 19th. Tickets are \$10.00. See youth member for tickets, or call the office. Please see our youth for tickets and support them in their Fundraising efforts.



Indian Reservation Servant Trip

The next Indian Reservation Servant Trip Meeting will be held at 6:00 pm, January 8th, at the church

Weis/Wengers Cards

Please support the Mission Fund as well as the Reservation Trip 2017!

Pick up Weis and Wengers cards (\$25, 50 & 100 denominations available) in the hallway before worship or in the office and sponsor any youth going on the trip!

Sweet Frog Cards Also Available!!

Purchase your \$5 gift card and \$1.25 of the sale goes towards the Youth Fund!

Great stocking stuffers!!

Upcoming Events



Tussey Mountain Tubing & Bowling



All youth, mark your calendars! January 29th, the youth will be going tubing at

Tussey Mountain. February 26th, the youth will be going bowling.

Youth Overnight Retreat



Overnight Retreat is planned for March 4th and 5th.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

404 Market Street

Mifflinburg, PA 17844

570-966-0266

E-Mail: firstlu@dejazzd.com

Office Hours: TUES-THURS, 9:00-2:00

Address Service Requested



Christmas Eve/Holiday Services:

- 4:30 PM: Contemporary
Candlelight Worship
- 7:00 PM: Candlelight Service
@ Christ's Lutheran
(4 Bells)
- 10:00 PM: Music of the
Season
- 10:30 PM: Traditional
Candlelight Service
- Sunday, Dec. 25th, 10:00 AM @
First Lutheran
- Sunday, Jan. 1st, 10:00 AM @
Christ's Lutheran

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

First Lutheran regular worship
service begins at 10:30 AM .

Sunday School begins at 9:15
AM.

*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*

