



First News

December
2018

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

From Our Pastor...

A THANKSGIVING OF DOING THE "WHAT IF'S"

We now have entered another liturgical season of Advent., a four week prelude to the Christmas season. Advent, meaning "arrival" or "a coming," is a time of expectation, anticipation and preparation as we await the fullness of God's promised eternal will as revealed in and through the arriving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. In some ways though, our cultural habits and our theological convictions may conflict with the theme and purpose of Advent as a liturgical time of the church.

Commercially, as evidenced by the retail and media markets, the focus is entirely on Christmas; that is the Christmas of decorations, presents and parties, Santa and the elves. The focus is less on the remembrance of Jesus' birth as it is on feeling good about ourselves and what we have. Despite the at-times overbearing commercialism of Christmas in our time and place, the airplay of Christmas carols and the placement of nativity sets do allow for an image of the incarnation of Christ to be seen and heard. What is missing though, covered over by such commercial excess, is a proper focus on the meaning and the purpose of Jesus' arriving presence in our lives. Because of its cultural and commercial trappings, our Christmas expectations have moved further away from the

expected Jesus of peace and more towards the expected arrival of more stuff.

But before we lay the hammer down entirely on commercial and cultural exploits, we need also notice the manner in which our theological convictions test our understanding of Advent. Rightly, we do and should attend to a focus of the "first" coming of Jesus and the eternal benefits we have received because of the way He lived, died, and was raised from the dead for each and every one of us. In addition, we believe that the Risen Jesus is with us now—in our hearts, in our gatherings in His name, in our Eucharist celebrations, even in the faces of the least of these—helping and empowering us to transform the world by sharing the gospel and serving one another out of Christian love.

If we can talk about the benefits we have already received in Christ—forgiveness, redemption, salvation—how are we now to envision and understand His "future" coming? What more are we to expect? Do we emphasize our hope in the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth and God's promised peace on earth as much as we place our hope in salvation of the person? How are we and do we understand God's promise to and for us in and through Jesus? What is to be our future as it is connected to the gift of Jesus? That we will get to heaven or that God in Jesus in

and through us has more to bear on what is going on in our present world? Is the "coming" of Jesus merely intended as a transporter to heaven or is He "coming" to effect change in the here-and-now?

As the church we need to attest to the "first" coming of Jesus, his birth in a manger in Bethlehem; for all of our theological foundations are derived from this incarnational event. Jesus came into our world to reveal both the truth of God's promised will and to establish the reality of God's eternal reign. In Christ, we have come to know our proper, eternal relationship with God, received by grace and lived in and by faith. Through and by Jesus' faithfulness, we live trusting in His love and forgiveness, and in the promise of hoped-for peace and salvation. As believers, we are also called to be people of expectant hope for even as the fullness of God has been revealed in Jesus, the fullness of God's will, the transformation of heaven and earth bearing peace and justice for all, awaits completion. Therefore, we are "saved," but for the purpose of living by faith in the expectant hope that Jesus' continuing arrival and His "future" (or second) coming will guide and lead us into the fullness of God's peace.

Advent is a necessary reality check—against the cultural

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Girtton, Asst. Church Adm.
- Hank Dorman, Sexton
- Harry Boyer, Council President
- Jeff Mensch, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Girtton, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Girtton, Council
- Libby Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Jane Moore, Council
- Jim Schwartz, Council
- Sue Jows, Council
- Linda Skinner, Council
- Logan Mensch, Council

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Birthdays | 2 |
| Food For The Needy | 2 |
| Reverse Advent | 3 |
| Christkindl Market | 3 |
| Christmas Worship | 3 |
| Calendar | 4 |
| Youth Events | 5 |
| New Council Members | 5 |
| What's Happening | 6 |
| Thank You | 6 |
| Shut-Ins | 7 |

idolatries that subsume Christmas into an "accumulation of stuff" motive as well as against those theological certainties that assume that God's work in Jesus is already fully accomplished. Advent helps us to realize in our waiting, in our watchfulness, in our preparations that Jesus' work continues in our world today and into the tomorrows, and that God's promises, although already unveiled in the incarnation of Jesus, await full consummation only as God's desire of peace and justice for all becomes a reality "on earth as it is in heaven." We now live the promise; soon we shall live its full effect. In faith, with the prophets and the apostles, we can imagine what is to be: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and His Kingdom; (Isaiah 9) and "By the tender mercy of our

God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1)

May we keep the spirit of Christmas alive as we properly remember and reflect upon the way in which Jesus came and lived among us, bearing forgiveness and love in order that we may live redeemed and saved lives. But as importantly, we may continually keep Advent hope alive as we expect the fullness of God's promised peace to ever unfold through our lives of faithfulness in following Jesus until the day when all shall acknowledge Jesus as Lord and all shall live in His peace.

And in this in-between time, may we honor God as together we worship God regularly, pray constantly, serve one another in the way of Jesus' love, unconditionally and without judgement, and expect with assurance the fullness of God's possibilities arriving continually in the presence of Jesus. AMEN

*Blessings,
Pr. John*



Adult Sunday School Schedule

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 continue with series

Devotionals

Devotional books will now be placed in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. There will also be a place to make donations, to help defray the cost, next to the devotionals.



December Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| Edward Henry | 12/02 | Dave Weaver | 12/23 |
| Nicholas Hornig | 12/02 | Jason Fritz | 12/24 |
| Clayton Reed | 12/04 | Logan Mensch | 12/27 |
| Clara Conrad | 12/05 | James Bailey | 12/30 |
| Thomas Orren | 12/06 | Mike Sundberg | 12/30 |
| James Adams | 12/11 | Carol Schwartz | 12/31 |
| John Schnure | 12/15 | Shut-Ins: | |
| Donna Culp | 12/17 | Peggy Kron | 12/25 |
| Garrett Girtton | 12/19 | 390 JPM Road Apt. 301 | |
| Gaven Girtton | 12/19 | Lewisburg, PA 17837 | |
| John Watson Jr. | 12/19 | George Linke | 12/30 |
| Jeffrey Crossland | 12/20 | 3201 River Road | |
| Nancy Shively | 12/20 | E-433 | |
| | | Lewisburg, PA 17837 | |

Last Newsletter...

This will be the last newsletter mailed out to your home. Starting January 2019, newsletters will no longer be mailed out each month. In an effort to try and reduce expenses, newsletters will be emailed or placed in your church mailboxes. If you choose to have your newsletter emailed to you, please provide the office with your current email address.

Food For The Needy Program

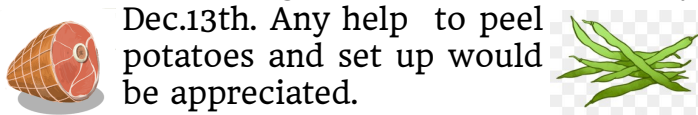
The Kiwanis Club of Mifflinburg would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping needy families in the Mifflinburg School District this Christmas season. We ask that you bring canned or boxed foods to the church and place in a box in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Kiwanians will be collecting the food on Sunday, the 16th of December in preparation for our food distribution on the 21st. We thank you for your support of this program.

-Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club



Christkindl Meal Sign-Ups...

Sign-up sheets for items needed, are on the bulletin board, for the ham, green bean and potatoes, Christkindl meal being served on Friday, December 14th. The preparation for the meal will begin at 9:00 on Thursday,



Dec.13th. Any help to peel potatoes and set up would be appreciated.

Christkindl Market

December 13th, 14th, & 15th are important days here at First Lutheran. It is our opportunity to showcase our Church to visitors and locals alike, as the Christkindl Market takes place right outside our front doors. In order to welcome all our visitors, we need hall monitors to provide a warm hello as well as keep order in the building. Each monitor team will volunteer for a 2 hour shift in a warm building with comfy seats. All necessary information will be provided so that you will know exactly what your responsibilities are. There will be reserved parking in the alley for you. Please sign up on the hall bulletin board for one or more shifts. We want to be sure that our church is respected by all visitors, and we need you to volunteer to be sure this happens. Thank you.



Christkindl Cookies



The youth group is asking for volunteers to donate Christmas cookies for their stand at the Christkindl Market. They are accepting any kind of homemade cookies and as many as you would like to donate. Last year your donations were so popular they ran out of cookies early Friday afternoon! Many people plan to return this year to purchase more cookies! Bake now and freeze them until Christkindl. Money raised will benefit youth group activities and trips.



Reverse Advent Calendar

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR (Not the little chunks of chocolate that you get when you open that tiny window each day) We are asking you to take a box, basket or whatever container you wish and each and every day of Advent place an item in the box. Suggestions are tissues, sanitary napkins, deodorant, toothbrush, paper towels, cereal, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, canned soups, rice... Bring the boxes to church after Christmas and the youth will be working with Joanne Troutman at the United Way to stock their local supply for individuals who truly need these items.



Christmas and New Year's Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 23rd

10:00AM — Combined service at First Lutheran Church

Monday, December 24th

7:00PM — Combined service at Christ's United Lutheran Church

10:00PM — Music of the Season at First Lutheran Church



10:30PM — Combined Service at First Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 30th

10:00AM — Combined service at Christ's United Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2018

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's |
| 2 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC- 6:30PM: Advent by Candle- | 3 | 4 10:30AM: Bible Study | 5 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 6 WELCA Christmas Luncheon 7:30PM Men's Ministry MP Room | 7 | 8 8AM: Men's Breakfast—Carriage Corner |
| 9 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC- | 10 Noon-8PM: Loss-MPR | 11 10:30AM: Bible Study | 12 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM: Youth Cookie | 13 Christkindl Market | 14 11AM: Ham & Green Bean Dinner—DS Christkindl Market | 15 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike |
| 16 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC- | 17 | 18 10:30AM: Bible Study | 19 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir | 20 7:30PM Men's Ministry MP Room | 21 | 22 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's |
| 23 10:00AM: Worship/HC-Combined Service @ First Lutheran Noon: Shoemaker-DS | 24 7:00PM: Christmas Eve Worship/HC-Christ's United 10:00PM: Music of Season- | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 8AM: Men's Breakfast—Carriage Corner |
| 30 10:00AM: Worship/HC-Combined Service @ Christ's United | 31 |  | | | | |

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Chief Usher: Linda Skinner

Acolytes:

2: Head Usher
9: Jaydn & Sally Rothermel
16: Head Usher
23: Barb Randecker
Christmas Eve: (10PM)
Logan & Paige Bartlett

Announcements: Andy Long

Altar/Communion: Cindy Harvey

Lay Readers:

2: Andy Long
9: Harvey Igen
16: Jane Moore
23: Tom Orren
Christmas Eve: Jeff Mensch

Children's Church:

2: Kim Sawyer
9: Barb Randecker
16: Tom Orren
23: Samantha Orren

Offering Envelopes: Sue Jows & Jane Moore

Ushers:

2: Harry Boyer, Jeff Hackenburg
Sue Jows, Carol Klose
9: Cindy Harvey, Shirley Heasley
Tom Orren, Jim Schwartz
16: Andy Long, Libby Loss
Liz Loss, Marianne Motto
23: Earl Michael, Jane Moore
Dewey Reed
Christmas Eve: (10PM) Jeff Crossland, Jeff Mensch
Dave Weaver, Max Zeller

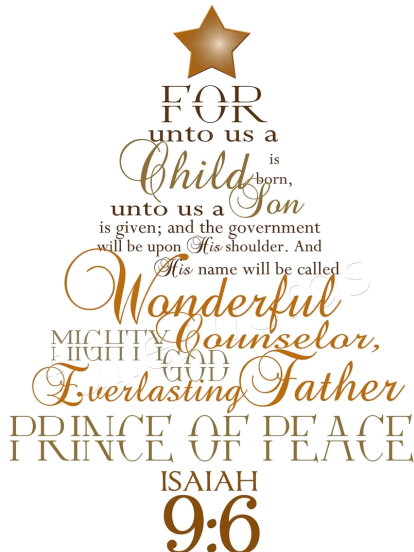


Sunday, December 2nd – Cookie Baking for Christkindl Cookie Stand @ Methodist Kitchen – Starts at 3:00! Bake – Eat – Devos – Bake Again!

\$10 CHALLENGE Youth will be given \$10 in December and challenged to help as many individuals as possible with that \$10 during the Christmas season and will report their efforts after Christmas. We have had many amazing results from this in the past and we are looking forward to more this season.

Christkindl Market – Wednesday, December 12th @ 6:45 in church basement to plate the cookies, Stand will be open Thursday, Friday & Saturday – 13th-14th Signup with Vicki Hackenburg & Jen Harter to work! We also need cookie donations and they must be brought Wednesday night – Get your family to bake their favorite homemade recipes! We sold out last year the second day – All funds go towards youth activities & trips!

Sunday, December 16th – Dinner & Devos @ Sawyer's at 6:00 PM



5-12 Year-Old Youth Ministry

There are discussions being made about forming a 5-12 year-old youth group. A preliminary meeting to discuss thoughts and ideas of forming this youth group, is being held on Sunday, December 2nd at 1:00PM at Christ's United. Contacts for Christ's United are Deken and Tracy Kline and for First Lutheran, Ruben and Maddie Casilla.



New Council Members

Starting January 1, 2019, Sherri Neece, Carol Klose and Logan Bartlett will assume positions on the church council. They will be replacing, Jeff Mensch, Harry Boyer, Bill Musser and Logan Mensch whose terms will end on December 31, 2018. There is still one open position on council. If you have an interest in serving on church council, please see a current member of council. The council members for 2019 will be as follows:

Barb Randecker
Deanna Billow
Gary Girton
Libby Loss
Jane Moore
Jim Schwartz
Sue Jows
Linda Skinner
Sherri Neece
Carol Klose
Logan Bartlett



What's Happening at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish...

December 1: Parish Allenberry Dinner Theater trip

December 2: Advent by Candlelight, doors open @ 6PM, begins @ 6:30PM

December 13, 14 & 15: Christkindl Market; youth will be selling baked goods. Cookie Donations are appreciated.

December 14: Ham and Green Bean Dinner in the church basement during the Christkindl Market.

Thank You!

The 2018 Apple Dumpling Committee would like to thank our church members, members of our community, friends, family and area business for making this year's apple dumpling fundraiser a success! All of this would not be possible without your hard work and prayers.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | |
| Proceed distribution | |
| 10% Tithe | \$ 1,011.00 |
| Remainder | |
| 50% General fund* | \$ 4,548.15 |
| 40% Youth group | \$ 3,640.00 |
| 10% Gessner family | \$ 910.00 |

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Comparison with prior years (best guess from previous notes) | | |
| Year | Dumplings | Proceeds |
| 2018 | 3,854 | \$10,109 |
| 2017 | 4350 | \$10,548 |
| 2016 | 3785 | \$10,218 |
| 2015 (5 wks) | 3,294 | \$7,750 |
| 2014 (5 wks) | 3,200 | \$7,035 |
| 2013 | 2,209 | \$5,563 |
| 2012 | 2,342 | ? |
| 2011 | 2,489 | \$6,916 |
| 2010 (5 wks) | 2,634 | \$6,182 |
| 2009 (5 wks) | 2,180 | \$5,442 |



Christmas Greetings

Page 7

When sending out Christmas cards, please consider adding our shut-ins to your list.

Georgie Linke
3201 River Road
E-433B
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Dr. Bill Musser & Ethel
189 East Tressler Blvd.
Room 407
Lewisburg, PA

Leona Wagner
674 North Third Street
Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Rozella Walter
800 Broad Street
Room B-141
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Lewis Sanden
8980 49th Street North
Unit 111
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

Betty Loudenslager
2421 Old Turnpike Road
Room 136
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Wayne & Nancy Shively
2380 Green Ridge Road
Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Ethel Bilger
800 Broad Street
Room 301
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Hertha Wehr
189 East Tressler Blvd.
Room 401
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Irene Shirk
3365 Wildwood Drive
Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Jim & Jan Beckley
425 Market Street
Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Christ United Bon-Bon Sale

Christ's United will be holding a Bon-Bon Sale in December. The sale will be by orders only. They will be made on December 3rd and December 10th. If you would like to help make the bon-bons, the mixing and shaping will begin at 9:00AM and the dipping and boxing will begin at 5:00PM on these two dates. If you are interested in placing an order for bon-bons, please contact Bev Catherman, at 922-1640.

Christmas Caroling

All are invited to join Christ's United Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 23rd at 2:00PM. They will be going to local nursing homes and shut-ins. If you would like to join in on the caroling, please meet at Christ's United.

Christmas Choir

Christmas Choir (10pm service) rehearsals are Wed Dec 12, & 19, and Sunday 23rd 7:15 -8:30pm. Please consider joining! A small commitment of 3 rehearsals may be more manageable with your busy schedule. See Diane Scott if you have any questions.



*The First Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff,
wish you and your families a blessed Christmas
and a healthy and safe 2019.*

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

404 MARKET STREET
MIFFLINBURG, PA 17844
570-966-0266
E-Mail: firstlu@dejazzd.com
Office Hours: MON-THURS, 9:00-2:00

Address Service Requested



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

First Lutheran Sunday Worship
Service beginning at 10:30 AM



Please visit FELCMifflinburg.org
and see what's happening.

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



*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*