



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA



From Our Pastor...

THE FACE OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

It's February, and love is in the air, at least the kind expressed by greeting card companies, the makers of fine chocolates, and the dispensers of long-stemmed roses. But as Christians, we are to be focused on love beyond a celebration of Valentine's Day. As Christians, love is to be the way we live out our faith, each and every day of our lives.

The Apostle Paul writes about Christian love in his First Letter to the Corinthian Church, chapter thirteen. He states: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

Love is measured in and by our attitudes and actions directed toward others. How are we to understand this type of love and

these "others" to whom our love is to be directed? Here, Jesus provides wise counsel. In the Gospel of John, chapter thirteen, Jesus reports to his disciples: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus responds to a question posed to him to describe what are the greatest of the commandments by stating that we are to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength and to love one another as we ourselves would want to be loved. In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus calls upon the faithful to love even their enemies. What return is there to love only those who love you back?

From the perspective of Jesus and Paul, love creates and establishes possibilities for peace and togetherness, possibilities that no other action could generate with

such hope and effectiveness. Love active in our relationships toward one another, even directed at our enemies, is that which will fundamentally tilt the world in the direction of God's will. Such love will not only enable us to see and experience God's presence in our lives; this love will also open our eyes to the presence of Christ in the lives of all those we interact with day in and day out.

The love we are called to share with one another is the kind personified in the life of Jesus, the love expressed in his teaching and healing, and the way in which he went to the cross for each and every one of us: "No greater love has anyone than to lay down one's life for another."

Too much of the rhetoric we hear in our time now is focused on divisiveness and separation, fueled by suspiciousness, anger, and hatred. The love Jesus has for us and the love we are able to express and demonstrate in our relationships with one another, even to our enemies, in Jesus' name are the ways to reveal God's hope for the world. Take the risk, and love like Jesus loves.

Pr. John Yost

2017

Staff & Council Members

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

Inside this issue:

Council Corner	2
Groups/Committees	2
Mutual Ministry	2
Youth Events	3
Birthdays	3
Thank Yous	3

NEW STAFF E-MAILS:

In conjunction with our transition to a new phone system/carrier, the following e-mails should be used to correspond with staff, effective immediately:

Pr. John Yost—prjohnyost@gmail.com

Diane Scott—musiciandianescott@gmail.com

Cher Girton—clgirton@gmail.com

Heather Klose—hklclose@gmail.com



Council Corner....Harry Boyer, President

Dear First Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I would just like to reiterate the "Thank-you" to everyone in our Congregation, for all the Staff, Council Members, and all volunteers, for everything which is done to make us First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mifflinburg. If it wasn't for each one of us, our mission to serve would not hap-

pen. I'm sure God is looking down on us and is pleased.

We have achieved many things this past year and with the formation of The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish with Christ's United Lutheran (4 Bells), I am sure, together, we will accomplish more in 2017 as God leads us.

God be with you!

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.

February meal will be held Saturday, February 4th.

Mutual Ministry



Christ's United Easter Egg Sale

Lent begins February 28, which means it's time to start thinking about making our Easter eggs again. This year we are planning on making eggs for seven (7) Mondays beginning the Monday before Lent. We will be making them on February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3 and April 10 provided we have enough help.

Providing there is enough help, eggs will be mixed and shaped starting at 9:00 a.m. each Monday morning and coating and packaging will begin each Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. This is a great fundraiser for the Church and much help will be needed both at 9:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. to make this project successful.

In order for this fundraiser to be successful, EVERY week a minimum of 10 persons are needed in the morning and a minimum of 15 persons are need-

ed in the evening. Sign Up sheets are on the bulletin board. Please sign up so that we know if we have enough help to make eggs that week. The more help we have, the quicker we will get done.

Mark your calendars NOW and please plan to come out and help make these popular treats.

Order forms are available on the table outside of the sanctuary for anyone willing to take orders from relatives, friends or co-workers. If you would like to order just a few eggs, there will be weekly order forms on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary. Just sign up for the week you would like your eggs.

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



SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 28th

6-7:30 PM

Christ's United Lutheran Church

All are welcome!!



BLOCK

P * A * R * T * Y

Sunday, February 19th

1-4:00 PM

While we all wait for sunshine, warm weather and the opportunity for outdoor fun again...
join us for an INDOOR BLOCK PARTY!!!!

A free community wide block party for all ages will be held at Christ's Lutheran Church. There will be an inflatable house, indoor games, other fun activities and refreshments!

February Birthdays

Jeff Hackenburg	1st	Joely Watson	12th	Madison Reed	23rd
Nathan McBryan	3rd	Ed Libhart	14th	Jeff Clouser	24th
Ethel Musser	4th	Pat Stees	15th	Avery Kline	24th
Kim Wagner	4th	Steve Kreisher	16th	Lisa Woodring	25th
Jamie Bartlett	5th	Scott Smith	18th	Cory Harvey	26th
Jim Beckley	7th	Linn Mensch	19th	Cindy Harvey	27th
Carol Mensch	7th	Dotty Seebold	21st	Deb Johnson	27th
Cher Gorton	10th	Kim Sauers	21st	Collin Krout	27th
Ashley Uehling	10th	Caroline Herman	22nd	Kendra Kline	27th
MaryLib Dunkle	12th	Deken Kline	22nd		
Crystal Bollinger	12th	Wayne Shively	23rd		



YOUTH EVENTS

Dinner/Devo's

Sr. High Youth

Sundays, 6-8PM @ Sawyer's home

February date: February 5th

Soup/Sandwich Sales

Please keep selling tickets

for the months of February & March

If you need tickets, please contact

Tracy Seebold @ 570-490-1949.

MACY Bowling

February 26th from 4-7PM

Best Bowl, Selinsgrove

Leave church parking lot @ 3:30PM

Future Dates/Events

Winter Retreat at Wesley Forest

Sat., March 4th-Sunday, March 5th

This retreat is for both Jr. & Sr. High

Youth groups but only the Sr. High

youth will sleep overnight.

Fun time for all!

More details to come.



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.



Youth Fundraiser

On the third Sunday of February and March the youth will be holding a Soup, Sandwich & Sweets Sale. Tickets will be sold for \$10 which includes, **TWO** soups, a sandwich and sweet treat.

Do you normally cook or go out for lunch on Sunday? Forget about it on these days! Go home, keep warm and savor lunch and the warm feeling of helping our youth draw closer to Jesus this summer!

With your \$10 donation you can simply go to the "Lunch to Go Service

Station" in the Multi-Purpose Room after the worship service and select your choice of soups. They will be placed in containers with a sandwich and dessert for you to take home.

Tickets are available in the church office or from our youth. Questions?, See/Call Tracy Seebold at 570-490-1949

Willing to donate a large crockpot of homemade soup? Let Tracy know and we will thank you with a complimentary ticket!

*Thank You
Corner*

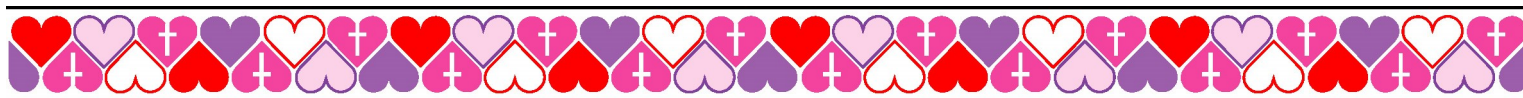
Dear Church family,
Thank you so much for the college care package. It was a wonderful surprise during my finals week. I enjoyed all of the goodies.

Love,
Perri Hull

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

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*

