



BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

Grace and peace to you!

February 18th is Ash Wednesday, and the season of Lent begins, leading us to Holy Week. The word Lent most likely comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," meaning spring, and the German word "Lenz," meaning the time when the days lengthen. The main color of Lent is purple, used to recall Christ's royalty and to mark a penitential period.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Easter Vigil, a forty-six-day period. There are six Sundays during this season, and since Sundays commemorate the first Easter, they are excluded from this season. So, the Lenten season is only forty days. There are two sources for this season's development, both from the early church. The first was a period of fasting held on the day before Easter, which lasted until Easter morning, when the Eucharist was celebrated at 3 am in remembrance of Christ's rising from the dead very early in the morning. The fast was eventually extended to six days, then divided into the events of Holy Week. The second source was the baptism of candidates on the eve of Easter. Candidates were required to fast for forty days, a length suggested by Jesus' fasting in the wilderness, Moses' fasting at Mt. Sinai, and Elijah's fasting on the way to the Mount of God—and each of these fasts lasted forty days.

The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday reminds us, as Christians, of central truths about our human condition. The first is that we are mortal. In Genesis chapter three, we hear the words, "from dust you came and to dust you shall return." Adam comes from "Adamah, meaning soil. The second is that we are sinners. The Israelite tradition is to repent in dust and ashes.

In the next couple of newsletters, I will write about the days of Holy Week and the symbols of the Lenten season. During the Lenten season, I will be preaching a sermon series titled "For Us" and is based on the hymn "O Love, How Deep."

As always, I continue to lift you up in prayer! If you have any pastoral care needs, please let me know.

Peace in Christ,

The Rev. Curt Wingert



PARISH NEWS

Thank You Notes

The Hats, Scarves, Mittens and Gloves campaign was a great success again this year.



Contemporary Worship Services

We will be starting contemporary worship services in March. The services will be held once a month. The first service will be held on March 29 at 10 am at Christ's United. We will have finger food following the service. We hope you will make plans to join us.

WANTED: Passionate Volunteers for our Contemporary Service! Want to help create an amazing worship experience? We have immediate openings on our team. No experience needed—just a willing heart! Please contact Andrea Mayeski at (717) 816-3979 or andreamayeski@yahoo.com.

Bible Study

The Parish Bible Study is currently taking a break.

New Youth Group

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Youth:

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new youth group at the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish. It will be designed to be a place where young people can connect, grow in faith, and have fun in a safe and supportive environment.

MISSION:

To help youth build meaningful relationships with peers and more importantly Jesus Christ. We want all young people to know they have a place to belong and a community that cares about them.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

The youth group will offer a blend of fun activities, engaging discussions about life and faith, service projects, and special events.

LAUNCH EVENT DETAILS:

DATE: February 22, 2026 (Re-scheduled from January 25)

TIME: 5 pm (pizza will be provided)

LOCATION: The 4 Bells gym

AGES: K-12

INFO FOR PARENTS:

Parents are vital to youth ministry. During the kickoff event, we invite you to a brief orientation to share our vision for your children and answer any questions you may have. We encourage you to support your youth by involvement and prayer.

COME AS YOU ARE! WE CANNOT WAIT TO MEET YOU AND WELCOME YOU TO OUR YOUTH GROUP!



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Matthew 22:37-39 May God’s love go with you.

Happy Valentine’s Day from the Shoemakers

Together Through Loss: Grief Support Group

A Place To Share, A Path To Healing

WellSpan Hospice

235 Hospital Drive, Lewisburg

Together Through Loss is a compassionate grief support group dedicated to helping individuals navigate the pain of losing a loved one. Through shared experiences, guided conversations and a supportive community the group offers a safe space to express emotions, find comfort, and begin the healing journey together. Whether the loss is recent or long past Together Through Loss is a place where no one has to grieve alone.

Group Dates

February 25, 2026 @ 2:00-3:30 p.m.

March 25, 2026 @ 9:00-10:30 a.m.

April 29, 2026 @ 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Please RSVP prior to the date you wish to attend at 570-522-2550.





Community Vacation Bible School 2026

Tentative date: July 6-9 (awaiting approval from Borough Council)

Place: Mifflinburg Community Town Park Pavillion

Theme: Staying Connected to the True Vine (John 15:5)

Youth Leaders Needed: Please consider keeping this date open

CULC NEWS



Indoor Yard Sale

Stop by our indoor yard sale at Christ's United Lutheran Church on Friday & Saturday, February 6 and 7. The sale runs from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

We expect to have clothing bargains, furniture, glassware, and all kinds of items. Food, refreshments, and quarts of soup will be sold. Come fellowship with us and enjoy the day.

If anyone wants to donate to the yard sale, call Teresa Shuck (570-966-2053) or Idella Zimmerman (570-765-1820). If anyone would like to bake cookies or cakes to be sold at the food stand, please let Teresa or Idella know.

Questions? Contact Idella Zimmerman at 570-966-1340 or Teresa Shuck at 570-966-2053. Proceeds benefit Christ's United Sunday School and other ministries.

2026 Lenten Services

CULC will not have any mid-week services or meals this year during Lent. The turnout was not great last year and it was hard to prepare meals with a limited attendance. We will still hold a service for Ash Wednesday on February 18th and services during Holy Week. CULC will have a Sunrise Service at 6:30 Easter morning with breakfast to follow, but there will not be an 8:30 service. FIRST will have a 10:00 Easter service.

FELC NEWS

Free Community Meal at FIRST

First Lutheran will be serving a free community meal on **Saturday, February 7, from 11:00 – 12:30**. All are welcome! Please enter the door in the alley behind the church. Meals for the remainder of the quarter will be held on **March 7**.

Music at First

Feb. 1 – Pearl Holmes will play hymn selections on the piano. Choir rehearses before worship at 9:45 am; tone chimes rehearse after worship.

Feb. 8 – Piano/organ duet. Tone chimes will rehearse after worship.

Feb. 15 – Basement church. Tone chimes will rehearse before worship at 9:45 am.

Feb. 22 – The choir sings. Tone chimes rehearse after worship.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

The semi-annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 15**. We will have basement church with a potluck meal afterwards and the meeting to follow the meal. Congregation members are asked to bring food and the church will provide the drinks.

Monthly Coffee Hour

Many thanks to those who donated food for the January coffee hour and to those who helped to clean up afterwards.

Coffee hour will **not** be held in February due to the congregational meeting and potluck meal on February 15. We will plan to meet again in March on the 3rd Sunday of the month, following worship in the multipurpose room. We hope you will join us.

Kiwanis Food Boxes for Needy Families

As the new year begins, we have decided to again collect food items for the Christmas boxes given out in December by the Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club. Last year the response from our congregation was wonderful, and the Kiwanis Club was so grateful for our donations. We will run it exactly as we did last year, with a particular food item designated for each month. A box for your donations will be on the pew in front of the hall bulletin board. Please be sure the items will be in date until the end of January 2027. Thank you so much for your participation. The list is as follows:

February - canned fruit

August - peanut butter

March - canned vegetables

September - jelly

April - canned soups

October - pancake mix

May - pasta

November - syrup

June - pasta sauce

December- cereal

July - boxed potatoes

Word in Season Devotionals

The Word in Season devotionals for January – March 2026 are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Altar Flowers

The cost of altar flowers is now \$50 for 2 vases.

Empty Coffee Cans Needed

We are in need of empty #1 coffee cans for altar flowers. You may place them on the pew in the office hallway.

Weis/Wenger's Gift Cards

Gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100 and make wonderful gifts for any occasion. Kim Sawyer is selling the cards. They will be available on Sundays, before or after church; at her home; in the church office when the secretary is in; and Kim will also deliver. Contact her at 570-713-4577. Make checks payable to "First Lutheran Church" and use them as cash or the recipient can do the same. **YOU receive the card's full value, and Weis gives 5% and Wenger's 10% of purchase to our mission fund!** Many thanks to all who support this mission.



SYNOD NEWS

2026 Synod Assembly

The 2026 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will meet **June 6** at Camp Mount Luther under the theme "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow". The Assembly Planning Team is planning for a time of worship and education around the business meeting of the assembly. Registration will open March 4. The cost is \$90 before April 15; \$100 after that. Visitors pay \$30 and meals and housing are billed separately.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

CULC PRAYER LIST

Randy & Gayle Baker
Paul Brann
Roger Dunkle
Rick & Darlene Endy
Melanie Eng
Amy Evers
Dorothy Furgison
Gary Gemberling
Pearl Gemberling
Linda Gingrich
Gary & Janet Hackenberg
Keith Hackenberg
Paul & Sherri Klauger
Nancy Klinepeter
David Lauermilch
Roy Lauermilch
Kylie Leiser
Tonia Longer
Cathy Meiser
Scott Meiser
Tim Meiser
Steve & Judy Moyer
Brian Nogle
Melinda Noll
Dave Oberlin
Kevin & Ashley Reber
Larry Sampsell
Lucas Sanford
Lee & Kathy Spangler
Chuck Spurr
Dave & Linda Swartz
Rhelda Valentine
Kerm Wagner
Gary & Marlene Walter
Tom Watters
Donald Weller
Alica Zimmerman

SHUT-INS

Betty Goss
Helen Pirone
Dottie Rathfon
Louise Ritter
Sam Schnure

FELC SHUT-INS

Millard Boyer
Mary "Lib" Dunkle
Lois Elliott
Doris Moll
June Ocker
Barb Reed
Dotty Seebold
Pat Smith
Nancy Ulrich
Max & Trena Zeller

THE TROOPS

Thaddeus Miller — (*deployed overseas
for six months*)
Zachary Miller

Also:

The family of Pat Smith



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Jeffrey Hackenburg (F)
- 2 – Addalynn Zimmerman (C)
- 3 – Nathan McBryan (F)
- 4 – Kim Wagner (F)
- 5 – Jaime Bartlett (F)
- 8 – Barbara Clouser (C), Sheryl DeHart (F)
- 9 – Nichole Ammon (C), Drew Christy (F)
- 10 – Teresa Shuck (C)
- 12 – Mary “Lib” Dunkle (F)
- 14 – Ed Libhart (F)
- 15 – Kenneth Emery (C)
- 19 – Linn Mensch (F), Glenn Spangler (C)
- 21 – Kim Sauers (F), Dotty Seebold (F)
- 22 – Caroline Herman (F), Deken Kline (C)
- 23 – Andrew Clouser (C)
- 24 – Scott Sampsell (C)
- 27 – Kendra Kline (C), Rose Wenrich (C)
- 28 – Alicia Zimmerman (C)

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 – Duane & Carol Miller (1988) (C)





February

VOLUNTEERS

CULC

Date	Greeters	Lay Reader	Communion Assistants
2/01	Judy Moyer/Idella Zimmerman	Barry Spangler	Barry Spangler
2/08	Judy Moyer/Idella Zimmerman	Maurice Clouser	Judy Moyer
2/15	Judy Moyer/Idella Zimmerman	Lee Spangler	Janice Wagner
2/18	Judy Moyer/Idella Zimmerman	Greg Shuck	Dianne Shuck
2/22	Judy Moyer/Idella Zimmerman	Glenn Spangler	Glenn Spangler

Sound System: Dave Bickhart

Altar Guild: Janice Wagner/Dianne Shuck

Ushers: Greg Shuck/Linda Smith

REMINDER! You are responsible for finding a substitute if you are unable to be here when scheduled. Altar Guild Members, Sound System Operators & Ushers are responsible for any special services scheduled during the month.

FELC

Date	Lay Reader	Ushers	Acolytes
2/01	Jeff Mensch	Carol Klose/Marianne Motto	Perri Hull
2/08	Shirley Heasley	Hull Family	Brynn Umholtz
2/15	Andy Long	Dewey Reed/Jim Schwartz	Hannah Boyer
2/22	Tom Orren	Jeff Hackenburg/Tom Orren	Erica Boyer

Chief Usher: Christian Boyer

Money Counters: Shirley Heasley/Sue Jows

Altar Guild: Sue Jows/Libby Loss

Please Note: If you are scheduled to help with the service and are unable to fulfill your responsibility, please contact the chief usher. If you are scheduled to count money and are unable to do so, please find a substitute.

BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH

The Rev. Curt Wingert, Pastor

Parish Council Members: Terry Kline, Marianne Motto, Barb Randecker, Kim Sauers, Teresa Shuck, Linda Smith

CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
13765 Old Turnpike Rd., Millmont, PA 17845
570-922-1860

CULC e-mail: culc@4bellschurch.com
CULC Website: www.4bellschurch.com
CULC Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/4bellchurch1>

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

STAFF MEMBERS

The Members of the Congregation

The Ministers
Matthew Wagner, Organist
Diane Valentine & Karen Zimmerman, Pianists
David Swartz & Barry Spangler, Digital Music Arrangers
Loretta Martin, Custodian
Margie Dunkle, Secretary/Asst.Tr.
Dianne Shuck, Treasurer, Financial Recording Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joel Blyler – Dennis Boop
Gina Buttorff - Bev Catherman
Duane Lapp - Lisa Lapp
Greg Shuck - Teresa Shuck
Linda Smith – Breonna Zimmerman
Idella Zimmerman

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
404 Market St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844
570-966-0266

FELC e-mail: felcmifflinburg@gmail.com
FELC Website: felcmifflinburg.org
FELC Facebook: First Evangelical Lutheran Church Mifflinburg PA

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

STAFF MEMBERS

Sue Nentwig, Church Secretary
Katiann Lloyd, Financial Secretary
Diane Scott, Director of Music
Hank Dorman, Sexton
Kay Trick, Housekeeping

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jeff Mensch, Council President
Kim Sauers, Council Vice President
Linda Lewis, Secretary
Gloria Mincemoyer, Treasurer
Jamie Bartlett, Council
Christian Boyer, Council
Drew Christy, Council
Perri Hull, Council
Barb Randecker, Council
Don Seebold II, Council

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 Worship- CULC 9:30 Koinonia Kafe-CULC 9:00 Adult SS- FELC 9:45 Choir-FELC 10:30 Worship- FELC Chimes-FELC	2 6:00 Kiwanis- FELC	3 6:30 Scouts-FELC	4 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC	5 1:00 WELCA- FELC	6 7:30-4:00 Indoor Yard Sale- CULC	7 7:30-1:00 Indoor Yard Sale- CULC 11-12:30 Community Meal-FELC
8 8:30 Worship- CULC 9:00 Adult SS- FELC 10:30 Worship- FELC Chimes-FELC	9	10 6:30 Scouts-FELC	11 6:00 Council- FELC il-Meet at Scarlet D	12	13	14
15 8:30 Worship- CULC 9:00 Adult SS- FELC 9:45 Chimes- FELC 10:00 Basement Church/Meal/ Meeting-FELC	16 President's Day 6:00 Kiwanis- FELC	17 Shrove Tues. 5:30-7:00 Meal- CULC 6:30 Scouts-FELC	18 Ash Wed. 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC	19	20 March Newsletter Articles Due	21
22 1st Lent 8:30 Worship- CULC 9:00 Adult SS- FELC 10:30 Worship- FELC Chimes-FELC	23	24 6:30 Scouts-FELC 7:00 Council- CULC	25	26	27	28

2026 Parish Worship Service Calendar

Jan 4	2 nd Sun of Christmas	
Jan 11	1 st Sun after Epiph; Baptism of Our Lord	
Jan 18	2 nd Sun after Epiphany	
Jan 25	3 rd Sun after Epiphany	Potential combined contemporary service
Feb 1	4 th Sun after Epiphany	
Feb 8	5 th Sun after Epiphany	
Feb 15	Transfiguration/Last Sun after Epiphany	
Feb 17	Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday	5:30-7 PM at 4-Bells (meal; no worship service)
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday	7 PM Combined service at 4 Bells (Diane - musician)
Feb 22	1 st Sun in Lent	Potential combined contemporary service
Mar 1	2 nd Sun in Lent	
Mar 8	3 rd Sun in Lent	* No Wed Lenten services for 2026 *
Mar 15	4 th Sun in Lent	
Mar 22	5 th Sun in Lent	
Mar 29	Palm/Passion Sunday	10 AM Combined svc at 4-Bells (Diane - musician) *finger foods after*
Apr 2	Maundy Thursday	7 PM Combined service at FELC (service, no meal); (Diane - musician)
Apr 3	Good Friday	7 PM Combined service at 4-Bells (Matt - musician)
Apr 5	Easter	Sunrise at 4-Bells (Matt) brk after; 10:30 at FELC (Diane) * No 8:30 svc *
Apr 12	2 nd Sun of Easter	
Apr 19	3 rd Sun of Easter	
Apr 26	4 th Sun of Easter	Potential combined contemporary service
May 3	5 th Sun of Easter	
May 10	6 th Sun of Easter	
May 17	7 th Sun of Easter	
May 24	Pentecost	
May 31	1 st Sun after Pentecost/Trinity	Potential combined contemporary service
Jun 7	2 nd Sun after Pentecost	
Jun 14	3 rd Sun after Pentecost	
Jun 21	4 th Sun after Pentecost	
Jun 28	5 th Sun after Pentecost	Potential combined contemporary service
Jul 5	6 th Sun after Pentecost	
Jul 12	7 th Sun after Pentecost	
Jul 19	8 th Sun after Pentecost	
Jul 26	9 th Sun after Pentecost	10 AM Combined service in the Miff Park with potluck lunch (Diane)
Aug 2	10 th Sun after Pentecost	
Aug 9	11 th Sun after Pentecost	
Aug 16	12 th Sun after Pentecost	
Aug 23	13 th Sun after Pentecost	
Aug 30	14 th Sun after Pentecost	Potential combined contemporary service
Sep 6	15 th Sun after Pentecost	
Sep 13	16 th Sun after Pentecost	10 AM Combined service in the Miff Park with potluck lunch (Diane)
Sep 20	17 th Sun after Pentecost	
Sep 27	18 th Sun after Pentecost	Potential combined contemporary service
Oct 4	19 th Sun after Pentecost	
Oct 11	20 th Sun after Pentecost	
Oct 18	21 st Sun after Pentecost	
Oct 25	Reformation/22 nd Sun after Pentecost	10 AM Combined service at FELC (Diane – musician)
Nov 1	All Saints / 23 rd Sun after Pentecost	
Nov 8	24 th Sun after Pentecost	

Nov 15	25 th Sun after Pentecost	
Nov 22	Last Sun after Pentecost; Christ the King	
Nov 29	1 st Sun of Advent	10 AM Combined service at 4-Bells (Matt – musician) (pastor vacation)
Dec 6	2 nd Sun of Advent	
Dec 13	3 rd Sun of Advent	
Dec 20	4 th Sun of Advent	
Dec 24	Christmas Eve (Thu)	4 PM at 4-Bells (Matt); 7 PM at FELC (Diane); 10 PM at FELC (Diane)
Dec 27	1 st Sun after Christmas	10 AM Combined service at 4-Bells (Potential contemporary service)

