

# First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

## From Our Pastor...

### FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

In Paul's address to the church in Corinth regarding the evangelical nature of Christian mission and ministry, he indicates foremost that sharing the gospel is an action of freedom but enacted upon as if one was a slave. (1 Corinthians 9:19f) By this, Paul intends that the gospel frees one from any and all sorts of idolatrous claims upon oneself but in such a manner that within this freedom one is totally captivated by what the gospel promises. Therefore, in the freedom that the gospel presents before oneself, all choices that would become available before oneself would be discerned through the lens of the gospel promise and not from personal desires or wants. The gospel proclaims a freedom from submitting to the false claims of our idols into a freedom for a mission to share the gospel promise in all that we say and do.

We fill numerous roles in our daily lives. We are parent, child, brother, sister, student, teacher, employee, employer, farmer, builder, cook, seamstress, banker, neighbor, friend, taxpayer, citizen, parishioner, minister, singer artist and dreamer. In each and every role, many claims and opportunities are presented before us. Almost every moment of our lives we are faced with a choice to make. These

choices reveal our priorities and responsibilities and ultimately disclose who and what we believe in. Our gods/idols are found through the ways we use or not use our time and talents. Additionally, the care we devote to each of our relationships— family, friends, neighbors, colleagues and strangers alike— reveal our trusts and hopes. From Paul's perspective, whatever role we occupy at a particular time and place presents an opportunity to share the gospel.

For Paul, the gospel, that is, the good news of grace, mercy, love and forgiveness received through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, enables and empowers us as believers to share this same gospel in all of our interactions with others. More so, this gospel served to guide and impact each and all of our decisions, individually and collectively. As Paul himself indicated, the gospel allowed him to be "all things for all people" in order that the gift of salvation would be received in the lives of those with whom he interacted. (1 Corinthians 9:22)

Often when we speak of freedom, we intend a freedom to say and act as we would want to apart from any coercive demands or obligations placed upon us from any external influences. The saving grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ affords us this freedom, but not all choices that we make in

this freedom of ours in Christ will be beneficial to us, to those we are in relationships with, or to the building up of God's kingdom. We are free to do this, or that, or some other thing and we may be sure that Christ is with us in whatever choice we may find ourselves in. Certainly, Christ is present with us whenever there is a choice to be made but he also grants us the freedom to make choices independently of his will or influence. Because Christ lives, all choices we make are under the promise of the gospel, but not all choices we make will reveal the gospel promise to us or to those in our midst. The gospel is informative and formative but is not coercive or oppressive.

Because of Christ, we live and act in the freedom of the gospel which is to be shared freely with and for others in order that each and all may come to know and live the freedom to choose without restraint from external forces. The gospel of Jesus frees us to be able to make choices freely. More so, when we freely share the gospel in and through the choices we make, we unleash the power of God's promise, freed from the chains of coercion and conditions, to guide all into the way of salvation.

~Pastor John



### Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Girtton, Asst. Church Adm.
- Paul Houtz, 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
- Logan Mensch, Council



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This month's Bible studies will take place as follows:

<b>Monday</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>Christ's</b> <b>United</b> January 8,15,22,29	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>First</b> <b>Lutheran</b> January 9,16,23,30	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>Christ's</b> <b>United</b> January 10,17,24,31
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## Thank You

Dear Church Family,

I would like to especially thank Pastor John and everyone at First Lutheran for your visits, prayers, love, support and kind notes that you sent to my mother while she was at Riverwoods. Also thank you for your prayers and many notes of sympathy upon her passing. How blessed I am to be part of this loving church family!

Jennie Servinsky

## Thank You

To The Congregation Of First Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you guys so much for donating the proceeds of your Apple Dumpling Sale to my surgery expenses! Your generous donation will go a long way towards helping us meet the financial burden of this necessary surgery! Thank you so much!

Much Respect,

Logan X

## 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 1:30. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 50 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. Meal serving time: 11AM-12:30PM.

The Community Meal Committee would like to thank all the ladies in the church who baked cookies for the December Community Meal. We plated assortments of the cookies, and gave them to each family who came to our December meal. Everyone appreciated your generosity. Thanks so much for answering our call for donations. Happy New Year.

## Thank You

A HUGE Thank You goes out to everyone who helped, in any way, with the Ham, Potato and Green Beans Dinner during Christkindl.

Without all the donations of time, food, paper products and dollars, we would not have had such a success!

A special Thank You goes to Ann Beckley for all her guidance throughout the entire process. I can't thank her enough.

From the profits, we gave the Church \$200. The remaining money will go to a needy family in town and the Community Meal.

A job well done everyone! Sue Jows

## January Birthdays

Sherri Neece	01/02	Andrea Long	01/19
Deanna Billow	01/04	Donna Bitner	01/21
Mary Alice Deihl	01/07	Brenda Sweet	01/22
Melissa Lynch	01/07	Hertha Wehr	01/22
Logan Taylor	01/14	Winston Boyer	01/24
Carol Graham	01/15	Aaron Hackenburg	01/25
Shirley Heasley	01/15	Paige Bartlett	01/26
Amy Orren	01/15	Shelly Orren	01/27
Kathryn Alexander	01/19	Sara Donmoyer	01/30
Gwen Hull	01/19	Mark Alexander	01/31



## Thank You

We are blessed to have fellow church members remembering our military grandsons, Zachary and Thaddeus Miller, this past year. Our older grandson recently returned from a deployment in Afghanistan; the younger grandson finished an intensive two-year U.S. Army program.

Thank you for the prayers,  
Jim and Carol Schwartz

January 2018

Happy New Year!

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# Parish Happenings

**January 1st-3rd:** Passion Conference at the Anthem in Washington, DC

**January 3rd:** First Lutheran Council Meeting 7:00PM

**January 4th:** WELCA @ First Lutheran

**January 6th:** Community Meal at 11:00AM at First Lutheran. We begin preparing the meal at 9:00 and are usually done by 1:30. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 50 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 14th:** Youth Dinner & Devotions 7:00PM @ Sawyer's Home

**January 19th:** 2018 Winter Jam, leaving church parking lot at 3:30PM.

**January 20th:** Buffalo Valley Sportsmen Banquet—Help will be needed in the dining room and kitchen. Cakes will also be needed. Please contact Christ's United to sign-up to help or donate cakes.

**January 21st:** Youth Soup+Sandwich+Sweet Fundraiser at 11:45AM in the multi-purpose room, First Lutheran.

**January 21st:** Camp Mount Luther Camperson Meeting starting at 3:00PM. A Camperson is a liaison between Camp and your Congregation, who is interested in camp and wants to regularly share camp news with others. Campersons are ambassadors and promote camping ministry in your congregation. Each synod congregation is asked to send a representative to this event to learn more. Campersons will: Share information; plan and coordinate a camp Sunday; recognize campers; reach out to promote outdoor ministries and support camp fundraising efforts. Each congregation who sends a camperson to this event will receive Camel Bucks for the camp store for each camper. Please contact the church office if you are interested in being the church camperson.

**January 21st:** Camp Mount Luther Turkey Benefit Dinner, 4:00PM-6:00PM. The dinner will be held in the Evergreen Center at Mount Luther. The cost of the meal is \$14 per person. Reservations are required by calling 570-922-1587 or [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org). Deadline of reservations is Tuesday, January 16th by 9:00AM.



In 2018, we would like to begin again making homemade **Baptismal Napkins**. We will GLADLY teach beginners. Please contact Gwen Hull, (570)524-0289 or put a note in her mailbox.

## Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday is February 14, which means it's time to start thinking about making Easter eggs again at Christ's Lutheran. Watch future bulletins and newsletters for the exact schedule.

**Lots of help will be needed both at 9:00 a.m. when the eggs are mixed and shaped and at 6:00 p.m. when they are coated and packaged. Please plan to come out and help make these popular confectioneries.**

Order forms will soon be available on the table outside of the sanctuary, at Christ's Lutheran, for anyone willing to take orders from relatives, friends or co-workers.





# YOUTH MINISTRY

## January Plans



**January 1st-3rd:** 8 High School Seniors and/or College Students and Kim will attend the Passion Conference at the Anthem in Washington, DC January 1-3, 2018. The Conference will be held at three SOLD OUT VENUES in Atlanta & DC with over 55,000 Seniors/College students – so very excited to be a part of this event. It includes several prominent speakers, including Louie Giglio, lead pastor of Passion City Church; Levi Lusko, Francis Chan, Beth Moore, John Piper, Christine Caine and Katherine and Jay Wolf. There will also be performances by Chris Tomlin, Christy Nockels, Hillsong UNITED and Crowder. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 10:00 AM on New Year's Day! Please pray for this team as they Celebrate their faith with 50,000 +.



**January 14th:** Dinner & Devotions – @ Sawyer's Home @ 6:00 PM



**January 19th:** Leaving the church parking lot at 3:30PM to travel to the Bryce Jordan Center, State College to attend 2018 Winter Jam. If you need a ride to the church from the school. Please contact, Kim. We are not renting a bus – just a 15-passenger van so space is limited! Youth first...if there is room then adults! Kim needs a \$10 deposit to hold a seat in the van – please do not wait till the last minute! After you arrive at the event, the money will be refunded to you!



**January 21st:** Soups+Sandwich+Sweets Fundraiser chaired by Tracy Seebold will be held at 11:45AM in the church multi-purpose room. At least 12 different homemade soups available – select 2 and all will be bagged up for you to take home and enjoy during the cold winter days! Thanks so much for supporting our youth as they prepare to serve this summer at the Group Workcamp in Wrightsville, PA & Harvey Cedars Bible Conference!

Our young adults LOVED the care package boxes they received! THANKS to our church family for all the time and effort put into these great boxes! By the way...Record number sent this year! Awesome!

**Logan Stenger:** Just wanted to thank you for the care package! I really appreciate it!

**Maverick Stenger:** Thanks for the care package. Hope all is well.

**Dylan Harvey:** Thank you for the care package! The chips are almost gone!

**Perri Hull:** Thank you so much for the care package!

**Megan Mensch:** It was so nice to get the care package. So thoughtful. The socks are good luck for my finals! Thank you so much!

**Daniel Crossland:** You and the church family rock! Thank you so much!

**Sarah Alexander:** Thank you sooooo much for the care package! It was certainly a great help during finals week. It was very thoughtful and appreciated! Thank you again!

**Madison Reed:** That care packaging certainly helped me with finals! I dove right into that box! Thank you so much!



THANKS to all who baked, plated, sold, purchased (and ate) cookies for the Christkindl Stand. 200 dozen cookies were sold by 2:00 Saturday afternoon! We will be doubling the number of cookies next year so don't get rid of your cookies sheets! We met so many great people as they entered the parsonage to get warm and talked about our small community and the beautiful church. They all left with cookie purchases! A special THANK YOU to Jen Harter & Vicki Hackenburg, who chaired this event.

## Inspirational Quotes For The Month

"It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings."

--Ann Landers

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Peace on earth will come to stay, When we live Christmas every day."

--Helen Steiner Rice

"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."

--Charles Dickens

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

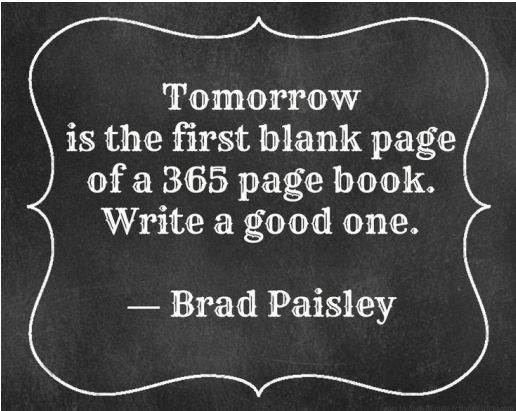
--William James

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

--Harriet Tubman

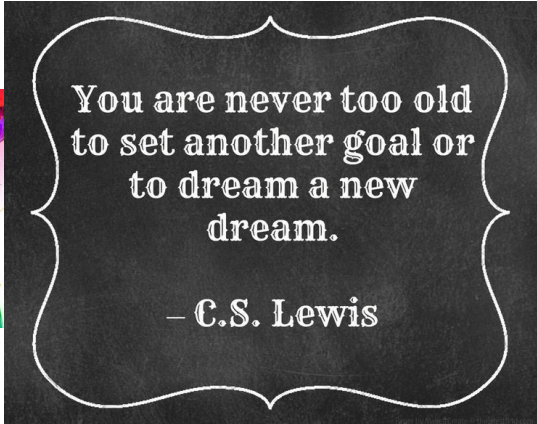
"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic."

--Anonymous



Tomorrow  
is the first blank page  
of a 365 page book.  
Write a good one.

— Brad Paisley




You are never too old  
to set another goal or  
to dream a new  
dream.

— C.S. Lewis

# JANUARY 2018

*First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 Church Office Closed	3 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir 7PM: Council	4 1PM: WELCA 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	5	6 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner 11AM-12:30PM: Communi-
7 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	8	9 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	10 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	11 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	12	13 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike
14 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC- 6PM: Dinner/Devo's—Sawyer's	15	16 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	17 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	18 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	19 3:30PM: Youth Winter Jam—State College	20 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's
21 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-Soup/Sandwich/Sweet Sale after Worship—MPR	22	23 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	24 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	25	26	27 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner
28 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	29	30 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	31 6-6:20PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir			

## January VOLUNTEERS

Chief Usher: Jeff Mensch

### Acolytes:

7: Chief Usher  
14: Paige Bartlett  
21: Chief Usher  
28: Jaydn & Sally Rothermel

## Announcements: Linda Skinner

### Lay Readers:

7: Jeff Crossland  
14: Shirley Heasley  
21: Jane Moore  
28: Norm Conrad

## Altar/Communion: Mandy & Sally Rothermel

### Children's Church:

7: Jamie Bartlett  
14: Ann Beckley  
21: Mandy Rothermel  
28: Tom Orren

## Offering Envelopes: Sue Jows & Jane Moore

### Ushers:

7: Marianne Motto, Barb Randecker  
14: Craig & Sally Rothermel  
21: Cindy Harvey, Shirley Heasley  
28: Jeff Mensch, Earl Michael  
Sue Jows, Carol Klose  
Libby Loss, Liz Loss

## Congregational Council Meeting Minutes December, 2017

The meeting was called to order on December 6, 2017 @ 6:10PM by Harry Boyer.

**Present:** Cher Gorton, Gary Gorton, Pr. John Yost, Sue Jows, Libby Loss, Jane Moore, Jim Schwartz, Bill Musser, Harry Boyer, Barb Randecker, Jeff Mensch, Deanna Billow, Liz Loss, Logan Mensch, Heather Klose and guest Tom Duke.

**Absent:** Tanna Stenger.

**Tom Duke** opened with an insurance proposal for the general liability of the church. Coverage is mirrored with what is currently in place and the cost of their policy would be \$6,340 yearly and we are currently paying Brotherhood approximately \$9,750 yearly.

**Treasurer's Report** was submitted with a General Fund balance for November 30, 2017 of -\$5,320.62 and accepted subject to audit.

**Secretary's Report** was submitted with the minutes of the November 1, 2017 and approved as submitted.

**Pr. John** led devotions.

**Welcome** to new council members Sue Jows and Libby Loss.

**Communications:** Tanna Stenger resigned her position on council. Jeff Mensch motioned to accept the resignation, Jim Schwartz seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Christkindl had a few questions regarding the parsonage during the event. A thank you note was received from Logan Roush. Deanna Billow received a thank you note and donation for the Apple Dumpling Project. A thank you was received from Colby and Jenny Libhart for the gift they received from the Youth.

**Executive Committee:** No report

**Gifts & Endowments:** No report

**Worship & Music:** No report

**Property:** Jim Schwartz reported the new stoves for the kitchen will be delivered next Tuesday. The A/C project is complete as well as the ceiling in the hallway. Jim requested permission to place signs along the 4<sup>th</sup> street side of the parking lot and the west parking lot restricting parking during Christkindl be limited to church members; council agreed. The stained glass window above the main entrance of the church is breaking and the cost to replace it is approximately \$1,450. Gary Gorton motioned to repair the glass; seconded by Bill Musser and passed unanimously.

*Motion by Gary Gorton to recess for the meal; seconded by Liz Loss and passed unanimously.*

*Harry Boyer called the meeting to order again at 1935.*

**Christian Education:** Harry Boyer reported that this is a slow time but classes are going well. The men's class will resume January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Fellowship & Recreation:** No report

**Service & Outreach:** Deanna Billow reported that the last call for members to submit photos for the new directory will be going out.

**Finance:** Jeff Mensch reported the 2018 budget was adopted by the congregation.

**Youth:** Gary Gorton reported a written report was submitted by Kim Sawyer.

**Staff Support:** No report

**Parish Council:** Meeting scheduled for next Tuesday

**2018 Chief Ushers:** **January:** Jeff Mensch, **February:** Deanna Billow, **March:** Harry Boyer, **April:** Sue Jows, **May:** Barb Randecker, **June:** Jane Moore, **July:** Bill Musser

**August:** Logan Mensch, **September:** Gary Gorton, **October:** Jim Schwartz, **November:** Libby Loss, **December:** Council

**2018 Property Chairs:** *Worship & Music:* Bill Musser, *Property:* Jim Schwartz, *Christian Education:* Barb Randecker, *Fellowship & Recreation:* Sue Jows & Libby Loss, *Service & Outreach:* Deanna Billow, *Finance:* Jeff Mensch & Jane Moore, *Youth:* Gary Gorton & Logan Mensch, *Staff Support:* Harry Boyer

### Business:

**Parsonage/COG:** The Richards countered \$2000 to our offer of \$3000 to use the parsonage in 2018; \$3000 is our only offer. COG contacted the church and the Richards questioning the operation of a business in the parsonage (The Richards placed a large sign on the parsonage porch which attracted attention) and noted it is not zoned as such. Discussion was had regarding the taxes for the parsonage. Currently it is not on the tax roles but should a for-profit business operate there it mostly likely would be placed back on the roles with a guesstimated amount of \$2500 per year. Motion was made by Jeff Mensch that should this occur and the Richards remain using the parsonage, they would be responsible for the tax amount in addition to the yearly amount previously offered to them; seconded by Jim Schwartz and passed unanimously.

**Decorations:** Harry Boyer was approached by members stating they did not like some of the decorations/banners in the sanctuary. Council referred this matter to the Altar Guild.

**December Chief Ushers:** 12/10: Deanna Billow, 12/17: Liz Loss, 12/24: Harry Boyer, 12/31: Jim Schwartz

**Organ use:** Request was received from Diane Scott to allow Matt Wagner to teach organ lessons in the church. Jeff Mensch motioned to approve the request; seconded by Deanna Billow and passed unanimously.

**Insurance Proposal:** Jeff Mensch motioned to approve the proposal submitted by Tom Duke; seconded by Jane Moore and passed unanimously.

**Holiday Offerings:** It was proposed that this year's Thanksgiving offering will be sent to Puerto Rico for hurricane relief and the Christmas offering will be given to the Community Meal. Discussion was had to develop a set plan for future offerings. Jeff Mensch motioned to have this year's offerings be given as proposed and for future offerings: the Easter offering be given to a local charity, the Thanksgiving offering be given to a national/global need and the Christmas offering be given to an internal community outreach need; seconded by Jane Moore and passed unanimously.

**Parish Council:** Two council members are needed to serve on the Parish Council for 2018. Motion made by Liz Loss for Jeff Mensch and Gary Gorton to serve; seconded by Logan Mensch and passed unanimously.

**Thank you:** Harry Boyer thanked Liz Loss for her years of service on church council.

Harry Boyer closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 2030.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather L. Klose, Recording Secretary

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

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MIFFLINBURG, PA 17844  
570-966-0266  
E-Mail: [firstlu@dejazzd.com](mailto:firstlu@dejazzd.com)  
Office Hours: MON-THURS, 9:00-2:00

Address Service Requested



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Sunday School begins at  
9:15AM.



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 an-  
nouncements you'd like to be posted  
to the church office.

# 2018

## Happy New Year!

*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)*

