



# **BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS**

## **JULY 2026**

### **PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This newsletter article is a collaboration between Andrea and me. We were chatting the other night, and the newsletter came up. I soon received a document attached to an email from Andrea, which is included in this letter.

Andrea and I spent a night with our youth during our first lock-in, and I want to say how amazing our youth are! I often hear that we don't have any youth. And yes, we may not see our youth every Sunday, but they are very much present in our communities and being disciples of Christ! My heart was full at the conclusion of the lock-in (I was really tired, but my heart was full)! In Matthew chapter 10, we hear Jesus say, *"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me....and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."* This amazing group of kids welcomed Isaiah (the neighbor next to 4 Bells, who has Down syndrome) and his sister, Heidi, with open arms. They treated Isaiah (and Heidi) like one of the other kids and encouraged and cheered for him as he played wiffle ball. Molly Keister showed Heidi how to hold the bat and how to stand when she was up to bat. They laughed together, made hot dogs and s'mores together, and even took pictures with Isaiah. And when he left, Isaiah shook the hand of each person there. I told my friend Chuck this story, and his response was, "That is very neat that the neighbor is included, that's very 'Jesusy'!" And it is very "Jesusy!" Isaiah would not be welcomed

by some and excluded from some groups, but Jesus welcomed all! And, like Jesus, our youth welcomed all and gave them a cup of cold water! There truly is hope in this broken world, and our youth are going to lead the way!

Summer is in full swing, bringing with it the familiar rhythm of vacations, county fairs, family barbecues, and a much-needed shift in our daily pace. While the season is often busy with travel and outdoor activities, it also invites us to pause, breathe, and reflect on the abundant gifts God has provided.

In Galatians 5:22-23, the Apostle Paul reminds us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Often, the summer months offer us unique opportunities to practice these very virtues. Whether it is sharing a meal with a neighbor at a summer block party, showing patience on the road during a family trip, or simply taking time to appreciate the beauty of God's creation around Pennsylvania, we are called to be the light of Christ in everything we do.

As we navigate the second half of the year, I encourage you to use this season of "ordinary time" to nurture your faith. Even if you are away on a Sunday, you can stay connected to our church community and remain engaged with our mission.

May God bless your summer travels, keep you safe in the warm weather, and grant you moments of quiet peace. We look forward to seeing you in the pews—whether you are joining us in your Sunday best or your summer casual!

Peace in Christ,

***The Rev. Curt & Andrea Wingert***



## ***PARISH NEWS***

### **A Note of Thanks**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of Andrea and myself, I want to take a moment to share our heartfelt gratitude with our church family.

When we stood before God and exchanged our vows, we were surrounded not only by our families, but also by you – our spiritual family. Your presence, your prayers, and your love made our wedding day more than just a ceremony; it became a true celebration of God’s goodness and faithfulness.

From the warm smiles as we walked down the aisle, to the kind words and blessings you shared, we felt the embrace of a community that has walked with us through seasons of growth, faith, and love. Many of you served in ways we may never fully know - decorating, food preparation, coordinating, or simply lifting us up in prayer. Please know that every act of kindness touched our hearts deeply.

We are reminded of Ecclesiastes 4:12, which says, “*A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*” We believe that one of those strands is the love and support of our church family, which strengthens our marriage as we begin this new chapter.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being part of our special day and for continuing to walk alongside us in our journey as husband and wife. We pray that God blesses each of you abundantly, just as you have blessed us.

May our marriage be a reflection of Christ’s love, and may we continue to grow together as one body in Him.

Thank you,

*Pastor Curt & Andrea*

## Joint Service & Picnic

A joint worship service and picnic will be held on **Sunday, July 26** at the Mifflinburg Community Park, starting at **10:00 AM**. Those attending are invited to bring a covered dish to share for the picnic, which will be held after worship. The Parish will supply the meat, paper goods, and beverages.



## VBS

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish Community Vacation Bible School that was scheduled for the evenings of July 6-9 located at the Mifflinburg Town Park is cancelled for this year.

What's Happening! 

## ***CULC NEWS***

### Helpers Needed

We continue to be in need of additional helpers to count offerings after worship services. If interested, contact Barry Spangler (570-966-0406).

### Council

The next regular scheduled council meeting for Christ's United will be held on **Wednesday, July 15, starting at 6:30 p.m.**

### Upcoming

Mark your calendars for the following 2026 Meals at CULC:

**September 26** – Turkey Dinner  
**November 7** – Pot Pie Quart Sale

### Koinonia Kafe

We will not be having a Koinonia Kafe during the summer. It will resume in September.



## ***FELC NEWS***

### **Congratulations!**

Elliana Girton graduated from Millersville University on May 9<sup>th</sup>, receiving a BA in Psychology, Cum Laude.

### **Community Meal at FIRST**

**There will NOT be a community meal at First Lutheran on July 4.** The next meal will be on **Saturday, August 1, from 11:00 – 12:30.** All are welcome! Please enter the door in the alley behind the church.

### **Music News**

We need special music for upcoming services. Do you love music? Whether you're a seasoned singer, a curious beginner, or someone who simply enjoys making joyful sounds, we'd love to have you join us!

Our **Church Choir** and **Tone Chime Ensemble** are open to all who wish to share their gifts and grow in fellowship. No prior experience is required—just a willing heart and a joyful spirit.

**There will be a meeting for all those interested on Sunday, July 12, 2026/after the service.**

Come and be part of a ministry that uplifts hearts, strengthens community, and glorifies God through music. For more information or to sign up, please contact Andrea Wingert at 717-816-3979/[andreamayeski@yahoo.com](mailto:andreamayeski@yahoo.com).

### **Food Donations**

The Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club provides food boxes each December to needy families within our school district. In an effort to fill these boxes, we are collecting a designated food item each month. Donations can be placed in a box in the hallway. Food should not go out of date before February 2027. For the month of **July**, we will be collecting **boxed potatoes**.

## **Adult Sunday School**

Adult Sunday School continues to meet throughout the summer. We meet at 9 am. We would love to have you join us.

## **Coffee Hour**

We will **NOT** have coffee hour in **July or August**. We will resume in September.

## **FELC Scholarships**

Applications for the Wehr & Munson Memorial Scholarships are available in the office to students who have completed three semesters of college courses. The deadline for submission is **August 1**.

## **Word in Season Devotionals**

The Word in Season Devotionals for **July-September 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 & Davy's Market 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, and they will be available on Sundays, before or after church; at her home; and in the church office when the secretary is in. She 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.

Thanks to Barb Randecker for the suggestion of trying out Davy's gift cards. My initial order was \$500, which is 21 \$25 gift cards. We get 5% on each card and I selected the 25 denomination because I thought they would make an ideal gift for someone as well as a good amount for anyone shopping there. Let's see how it goes!

**YOU receive the card's full value, and Weis gives 5%, Wenger's 10%, and Davy's 5% of purchase to our mission fund!** Many thanks to all who support this mission by purchasing cards.



IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**CHRIST'S UNITED**

Tom Catherman  
Donnie Chappel  
Nicole Dunkle  
Roger Dunkle  
Melanie Eng  
Amy Evers  
Dorothy Furgison  
Gary Gemberling  
Pearl Gemberling  
Linda Gingrich  
Gary & Janet Hackenberg  
Keith Hackenberg  
Laurie Harvey  
Eugene Hassinger  
Paul & Sherri Klauger  
Nancy Klinepeter  
David Laudermilch  
Roy Laudermilch  
Kyleigh Leiser  
Tonia Longer  
Cathy Meiser  
Scott Meiser  
Tim Meiser  
Brian Nogle  
Larry Sampsell  
Lucas Sanford  
Leona Showalter  
Lee & Kathy Spangler  
Chuck Spurr  
Don Swartzlander  
Rhelda Valentine  
Kerm Wagner  
Marlene Walters

Tom Watters  
Donald Weller  
Steve & Stevie Wenner  
Alica Zimmerman

**The Shut-Ins:** Betty Goss, Helen  
Pirone, Dottie Rathfon, Sam Schnure

In an effort to keep our prayer list current, we are going to clear the current list on a quarterly basis. A new list will begin in January, April, July and **October**. **If you want to continue an existing prayer appeal or have a new prayer request talk to Margie.**

**FIRST LUTHERAN**

**Prayer List:**

Ruth Gessner  
John & Linda Schnure  
Jeanne Shively

**Shut Ins:**

Mary "Lib" Dunkle  
Doris Moll  
June Ocker  
Barb Reed  
Dotty Seebold  
Nancy Ulrich  
Max & Trena Zeller

**The Troops**

Thaddeus Miller  
Zachary Miller



## **BIRTHDAYS**

### **CULC**

- 6 – Brandi Gemberling  
Rylan Shuck
- 10 – Kim Woods
- 14 – Kayla Forcheskie
- 16 – Dayna Bickhart
- 17 – Pat Spangler
- 18 - James Gemberling
- 29 – Steve Forcheskie  
Zachary Harvey
- 27 – Donald Bowersox  
Ashley Wenrich
- 30 – Gregory Shuck
- 31 – Darlene Endy

### **FELC**

- 4 – Bonnie Conrad
- 5 – Sally Rothermel
- 19 – DuFrane Reed
- 20 – Norman Conrad,
- 23 – Ann Beckley
- 29 – Helen Donmoyer, Lee Schwartz-  
Miller
- 31 – Evan McBryan

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **CULC**

- 10 – Glenn & Pat Spangler (1982)
- 22 – Dennis & Tammy Boop (1989)

### **FELC**

- 1 – Norman & Bonnie Conrad (48 yrs)
- 12 – Harvey & Brenda Ilgen (67 yrs)
- 17 – Don & Dotty Seebold (71 yrs)
- 31 – Emil, Jr & Tanna Stenger (33 yrs)



# VOLUNTEERS

## CULC

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Communion Asst.:</b>
7/5	Idella Zimmerman/Judy Moyer	Barry Spangler	Barry Spangler
7/12	Idella Zimmerman/Judy Moyer	Lee Spangler	Judy Moyer
7/19	Idella Zimmerman/Judy Moyer	Lisa Lapp	Dianne Shuck
7/26	<b>Joint Service &amp; Picnic @ Mifflinburg Park</b>		

**Sound System:** Barry Spangler      **Altar Guild:** Janice Wagnerr  
**Ushers:** Janice Wagner & Bob Goss

**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 servis scheduled during the month.

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## FELC

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Acolytes:</b>
7/05	Andrea Wingert	Jane Moore/Marianne Motto	Owen Mayeski
7/12	Linda Skinner	Jeff Crossland/Linda Skinner	Erica Boyer
7/19	Barb Randecker	Libby Loss/Barb Randecker	Brynn Umholtz
7/26	----- <b>Joint Service/Picnic @ Mifflinburg Park</b> -----		

**Chief Usher:** Perri Hull

**Money Counters:** Mike Beckley/Shirley Heasley      **Altar Guild:** Vicki Hackenburg

**Volunteers, Please Note:** If you are scheduled to help with the service and are unable to fulfill your responsibility, please contact the head 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**

**Pastor Curt's e-mail:** [pastorbuffalovalleyparish@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbuffalovalleyparish@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Members:** Marianne Motto, Barb Randecker, Kim Sauers,  
Greg Shuck, Teresa Shuck, Idella Zimmerman

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

**CULC e-mail:** [culc@4bellschurch.com](mailto:culc@4bellschurch.com)  
**CULC Website:** [www.4bellschurch.com](http://www.4bellschurch.com)  
**ULC 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](mailto:felcmifflinburg@gmail.com)  
**FELC Website:** [felcmifflinburg.org](http://felcmifflinburg.org)  
**FELC Facebook:** First Evangelical

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

## **STAFF MEMBERS**

***Sue Nentwig, Church Secretary***

***Katiann Lloyd, Financial Secretary***

***Gloria Mincemoyer, Treasurer***

***Dylan Maneval, Sexton***

***Kay Trick, Housekeeping***

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

***Jamie Bartlett – Christian Boyer***

***Drew Christy - Perri Hull***

***Linda Lewis - Jeff Mensch***

***Barb Randecker – Kim Sauers -***

***Don Seebold II***



355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
Telephone (570) 922-1587 F x (570) 922-1118  
E-mail: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)

You don't want to miss a chance this summer to stop scrolling, get outside, and start growing! July highlights at Camp Mount Luther include:

- Fantasy Camp inspired by role-playing adventures
- Mini-Camp
- Staff-in-Training (SIT)
- Pirate Week with water-themed activities
- Backpacking Trip
- Day Camp
- Classic Half-Week Camp
- Two Adult GROW and Lunch sessions

We cannot wait to welcome campers, families, volunteers, and friends back to Camp Mount Luther for another unforgettable season. Every summer at camp is filled with laughter, worship, outdoor adventure, and meaningful relationships—but each week also has its own unique personality and opportunities for grow.

This summer, campers will explore what it means to "Wear Love" in everyday life. Through Bible study, worship, small-group discussions, and Camp Mount Luther's signature GROW Time (Gather and Reflect On the Word), campers will discover ways to live out Christ's love at camp, at home, and in their communities. Alongside faith formation, campers enjoy favorite camp traditions such as swimming, crafts, games, campfires, music, and outdoor adventures. Each day combines meaningful cabin-group connections with exciting all-camp activities led by trained staff.

In **Week 4, (July 5-10)** imagination takes center stage during Fantasy Week. Inspired by the creativity of fantasy adventures and role-playing games, camp transforms into a world of dragons, quests, knights, and wizards. Campers ages 9–15 will solve challenges, play games, and journey through an unforgettable story together while growing in friendship and faith. Mini Camp offers younger children a shorter introduction to camp life, while older teens in the Staff-in-Training program begin learning what it means to serve and lead others.

**Weeks 5 and 7 (July 12-17, July 27-31)** send Camp Mount Luther staff beyond the campgrounds and into local communities through Off-Site Camp ministry. Partnering with congregations, camp staff bring high-energy programming, faith formation, songs, games, and outdoor ministry directly into church settings. These weeks help introduce children and families to both congregational ministry and the overnight camp experience while building lasting relationships in local communities.

**Week 6 (July 19-24)** promises one of the most anticipated traditions of the summer: Pirate Week. This water-filled adventure includes creek hikes, canoeing, fishing, water games, and extended time at the pool and pond. Alongside all the splashing fun, campers will reflect on the meaning of baptism and God's promises through active, memorable experiences rooted in joy and faith. Older campers will also participate in backpacking adventures and leadership training opportunities.

Finally, **Week 8 (August 2-4)** closes the summer with a meaningful final celebration. Half-week mini camps and on-site day camps offer one last opportunity to experience the friendships, worship, games, and community that make Camp Mount Luther special. As the season comes to an end, campers and staff alike will celebrate all the ways God has been at work throughout the summer. Whether you are looking for adventure, family connection, leadership growth, outdoor exploration, or simply a place to belong, Summer 2026 at Camp Mount Luther offers a place for you.

### **Other Events**

**July 5, 2026 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

**Dinner Church (CaTALYST) July 5, 2026 @**

Join us for a time of fellowship, food, and faith as part of Mount Luther's new faith community. Questions? Contact Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org)

**July 14, 2026 8:00- 9:30 pm**

**Fellowship and Faith**

Join us on Discord for a time of fellowship focused.

**July 18, 2026 8:00 - 9:30 pm**

**Game Night**

Join us on Discord for a time of fellowship and games.

Questions? Contact Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org)



## **WOMEN'S NEWS**

### **Saturday, July 25**

#### **USSWO Convention**

**Location: United Lutheran Church, Sunbury**

**Cost: \$40**

The day will include the necessary business meetings, a Bible study, and a breakout session involving the packing of 150 school kits which will go to CWS (Church World Services) for distribution. Items for the kits will be purchased by the USSWO Board. Churches are being asked to donate toward the cost of the items.

This year the In-Kind donation will be for pet supplies to be given to a pet shelter and a pet clinic in the area. The items requested include: dog treats, garbage bags, blankets, laundry detergents, towels, wet dog food, Piddle pads, small dog beds, belly and surgical suits.

Bring a friend or two and enjoy the day with other women from across the Synod. A registration form is available in the church office.

### **Saturday, October 24**

#### **USSWO Fall Event**

The USSWO Fall event will be a bus trip, set up through Boscov's Travel, on October 24th. Contact Kathy Whitesel at [katydid337@gmail.com](mailto:katydid337@gmail.com) for an online flyer.



## **SYNOD NEWS**

**July 18, 2026 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.**

### **Heart Of The Matter**

The Lay Ministry Institute (LMI) is sponsoring a workshop on **July 18, 2026**, at Faith Lutheran Church, 2349 Old Turnpike Rd, Lewisburg. Bishop Craig A. Miller will present "The Heart of the Matter" - a workshop about Lutheran Theology, which is open to anyone who is interested in learning more or refreshing their knowledge about the foundational teachings of Lutheranism. Sign-in and networking begin at 9 am. The workshop is scheduled from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm with a break for lunch, which will be provided. Please contact Brenda at the Upper Susquehanna Synod Office at 570-524-9778 to register. There is a \$10.00 fee to participate.

### **Synod Youth News**

The Synod Youth Team is putting together a group to attend the 2027 ELCA Youth gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme for the Gathering is IMAGINE MORE. The dates of the Gathering are **June 28 through July 2, 2027**. All youths in 8th through 12th grade in 2026-2027 are invited to join the group. The cost to go with the group would be \$1,650.00. That cost covers registration, travel costs, hotel costs, and meal costs. Youth would need extra spending money for snacks and souvenirs. The plan is to meet on Sunday, June 27 at Camp Mount Luther. The group would fly out on the 28th early in the morning, attend the gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and then return to Camp Mount Luther sometime on July 2nd. If youth want to go with the Synod group, they need to register by November 6th. A deposit of \$250.00 would be due then. There will be a registration page on the Camp Mount Luther Camp Brain website. If youth decide they want to go after that the cost will increase by \$100.00, and the last day to sign up is February 8th.

If you have any questions, you can contact Charlene Rineer at 570-524-0745 (Christ's Lutheran, Lewisburg) or [charlene@campmountluther](mailto:charlene@campmountluther).

### **Live from LSM**

Join online through Live from LSM and enjoy more than 30 free concerts, recitals, and worship services streamed live from Lutheran Summer Music at St. Olaf College. Highlights include a special guest performance by Cantus, Bach's St. Matthew Passion, the Bach Cantata Eucharist, the Festival of Hymns, and joyful performances by the Festival Band, Choir, and Orchestra.

**August 17 – 19, 2026**

### **Innovation Sessions**

Two members of the ELCA Innovation Lab will be traveling through the Upper Susquehanna Synod August 17-19 to listen to our thoughts and ideas, and to offer a creative boost to our efforts at shaping the mission of the synod and its congregations.

# July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>July is the high noon of the northern year...firefly nights and corn growing so fast out in loway that you can hear its joints pop in the moonlight.</i>			<b>1</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day</b>  <b>No Community Meal-FELC</b>
<b>5</b> <b>CULC</b> 8:30 Worship  <b>FELC</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>CULC</b> 8:30 Worship  <b>FELC</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship Music Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC  6:30 Council-CULC	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>CULC</b> 8:30 Worship  <b>FELC</b> 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship	<b>20</b>  <b>August Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>21</b>  7:00 Council-CULC	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>No Adult SS-FELC</b> 10:00 Joint Worship/Picnic -Mifflinburg Park	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	