



2017

First News



First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

From Our Pastor...

CROSS-BEARING DISCIPLESHIP

I'm not sure summer is the best time to talk about discipleship, particularly the kind which calls upon followers of Jesus to take up their own cross in order to truly follow his way. Our thoughts during this time of the year seem more attuned to vacations and picnics, the beach and camping, relaxation and getting away. The weather and the breaks from certain routines enhance the feeling for escape, fun, and a large glass of lemonade by poolside. And can we not rationalize the whole schema asserting that as important as faith is and discipleship is, so too is Sabbath rest?

Maybe what deserves our attention is the discernment of the connection between faith and discipleship or, more specifically, the relationship between what we believe Jesus did and does for us and what Jesus expects from us in living out our beliefs. We are certainly called to believe in Jesus and trust in the ways we benefit by his actions on our behalf (forgiveness and salvation). But are we not also called by Jesus to follow a lifestyle that bears a striking similarity to the way Jesus himself lived (discipleship)?

Is it possible to separate a belief in Jesus from a call to follow him?

Is it comprehensible to believe that not all believers would be called to become disciples?

Would we seriously consider

that Jesus did not intend for all who believed in him to also follow his ways, even as it included a path to the cross?

To be sure, I find no greater comfort than to hear these words of Jesus: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your lives. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (MT 11:28-30)

But as I hear these words of comfort, I'm also reminded of these words of Jesus which appeared only a chapter earlier in the same Gospel: "He who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it." (MT 10:38-39)

The gifts of forgiveness, mercy and salvation we freely receive from Jesus are only a part of our relationship with him. Equally true, but maybe more challenging, is the call to live as his disciples, to live and do as he did. We are certainly a church that believes in Jesus and what he has done and continues to do for us. We are comfortable with the language of forgiveness, grace and salvation. But do we wear the marks of cross-bearing and discipleship equally as well?

Another way that Jesus

invites us to discern the relationship between faith and discipleship is to "see" through the eyes of humility and to "act" by the hands of a servant. (MT 23:11-12) Disciples of Jesus are called to be humble servants in a world that so often seeks prestige, privilege and power.

So as we pray at the picnic table amidst the aroma of grilled burgers and cut watermelon, may we ever be mindful of the benefits we have because of Jesus, ever thankful for his forgiveness and mercy. And may we also pray for the strength and perseverance to be able to follow Jesus in ways of selfless service to any others in need and to understand that we may bear the weight of the cross with humble hearts and unconditional love.

At poolside and with our toes in the sand, may we know that we are saved by grace. But know also for all the laughter and joy that emanate from our summer excursions, there are those cries that continue to reach the heavens yearning for relief from suffering and hurt. From those cries, Jesus calls out to us again to carry our cross and live for others in the way he lived for us.

*Blessings,
Pr. John*

Staff & Council Members

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





July Birthdays



| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|----------------|-------|
| McKenna Magyar | 2nd | Dylan Harvey | 15th | Ann Beckley | 23rd |
| Alan Wagner | 3rd | Paige Ulrich | 15th | Judy Everitt | 26th |
| Josh Hornig | 3rd | Dewey Reed | 19th | Sarah Fritz | 2;6th |
| Bonnie Conrad | 4th | Norm Conrad | 20th | Helen Donmoyer | 29th |
| Gary Girtan | 4th | Tim Shoemaker | 20th | Lee Miller | 29th |
| Sally Rothermel | 5th | Ty Watson | 20th | | |
| Tyler Wagner | 15th | Brian Dauberman | 22nd | | |

August Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------------|-------|
| Irene Musser | 2nd | Mike Shoemaker | 12th | Lori Galer | 26th |
| Kimm Watson | 2nd | Eric Hull | 12th | Janet Shoemaker | 28th |
| Candi Taylor | 2nd | Carla Watson | 12th | Dave Galer | 28th |
| Troy Smith | 3rd | Clay Gessner | 12th | Calen Loss | 28th |
| Josh Sawyer | 4th | Erica Hess | 12th | Ed Wagner | 30th |
| Libby Loss | 5th | Sara Trovato | 12th | Jim Randecker | 31st |
| Mike Beckley | 6th | Bill Donmoyer | 13th | Shut-Ins: | |
| Kaleisha Page | 6th | Liz Loss | 14th | Rozella Walter | 26th |
| Bailey Klose | 8th | Calista Girtan | 14th | Manor @ Penn Lutheran | |
| Jane Moore | 8th | Nancy Ulrich | 17th | Room 141 | |
| Mike McCloud | 9th | Dottie Bollinger | 19th | 800 Broad St. | |
| Erica Boyer | 9th | Cathi Shirk | 21st | Selinsgrove, PA | 17870 |
| Hanna Boyer | 9th | Denise Seebold | 21st | Bess Ruhl | 13th |
| Grace Alexander | 10th | Lew Sanden | 22nd | Riverwoods | |
| Logan Bartlett | 10th | Jamie Ulrich | 22nd | 3201 River Road | |
| Carol Shipton | 11th | Irene Henninger | 23rd | Lewisburg, PA | 17837 |
| Sue Jows | 11th | Tim Klose | 24th | | |

Altar Guild in need of Volunteers

The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to serve next year. The year runs from October - Sept. so I will be setting up the schedule very soon. The duties include setting up the Altar and Communion for one month out of the year and it normally only takes 30-45 minutes a week to set up at a time that is convenient for you and then put everything away after church Sunday mornings. If we have enough people on the committee we can have two people work together each month which means it would take you less time. If you would be interested in serving your church in this way, please contact me as soon as possible so I can set-up the schedule for next year. If you are presently on the committee please confirm that you will continue to serve next year and let me know which month you would like to volunteer for. You may contact Sheryl Fetter at 570-966-2817 or 570-716-4435 or my email is safetter@outlook.com. Thank You!

Service In The Park

On Sunday, July 2nd, at 9:30, we will once again host Re-Creation., during our service at the Mifflinburg Park. The members of Re-Creation's 42nd edition are winding down their year of service to America's Heroes. There will be two offerings collected, one for the church and one for Re-Creation. In case of rain, the service will be held at First Lutheran. Please join us for this very special service.

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.

West End Fair Meal Stand

August 7 - 14, 2017

Christ's United will again be having their meal stand at the West End Fair in Laurelton PA. They will be serving lunch and dinner, Monday through Saturday. If you are a member or friend Christ's United and would like to donate supplies, bake pies or help at the stand, you can do so at www.4bellschurch.com.

Dandelion Run Saturday, September 2nd Camp Mt. Luther

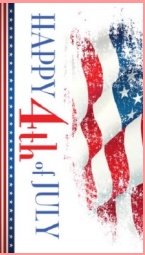
**Donations of homemade cookies
are being sought.**

**A sign-up sheet will be
on the church bulletin board.**

**Donations should be brought to the church
by Friday, September 1st, 3PM.**

JULY 2017

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|-----|-----|-----|--|
| | | | | | | 1 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner |
| 2 9:30AM: Worship in the Park—Re-Creation | 3 | 4  | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Turnpike |
| 9 10:30AM: Worship/HC | 10 9AM-2PM: Community Missions Group-MPR | 13 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's 3PM: Wedding |
| 16 10:30 AM: Worship/HC | 17 | 18 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner |
| 23 10:30AM: Wor-ship/HC | 24 10:30AM: Wor-ship/HC | 25 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Turnpike |

Chief Usher: Bill Musser
Announcements: Jeff Mensch
Altar/Communion: Sheryl Fetter & Carol Klose
Offering Envelopes: Sue Jows & Gloria Mincemoyer

Acolytes:

2: At the park
9: Paige & Quinton Bartlett
16: Victoria Harvey & Collin Kroust
23: Jady'n & Sally Rothermel
30: Emily Seebold

JULY VOLUNTEERS

Lay Readers:

2: Norm Conrad
9: Karen Boyer
16: Jeff Mensch
23: Earl Michael
30: Tom Orren

Children's Church:

9: Ann Beckley
16: Liz Loss
23: Barb Randecker
30: Shirley Heasley

Ushers:

2: Kim Sawyer
9: Harvey & Brenda Ilgen
16: Sue Jows, Andy Long
23: Libby Loss, Liz Loss
30: Jeff Mensch, Earl Michael
Jane Moore, Marianne Motto
Craig & Sally Rothermel
Cindy Harvey, Kim Wagner
Tom & Sam Orren
Dewey & Barb Reed

AUGUST 2017

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------------|-----|-----|--|
| | | 1 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 2 7PM: Council | 3 | 4 | 5 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's |
| 6 10:30AM: Worship/H/C | 7 | 8 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner |
| 13 10:30AM: Worship/H/C | 14 9AM-2PM: Community Missions Group-MPR | 15 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike |
| 20 10:30 AM: Worship/H/C | 21 | 22 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's |
| 27 10:30AM: Worship/H/C | 28 | 29 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 30 | 31 | | |

Chief Usher: Logan Mensch
Announcements: Shirley Heasley
Altar/Communion: Andy Long
Offering Envelopes: Jane Moore & Sally Rothermel

Acolytes:
 6: Logan Bartlett & Barb Randecker
 13: Paige & Quinton Bartlett
 20: Victoria Harvey & Collin Krout
 27: Nick Horning & Cora Reed

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Lay Readers:
 6: Sally Rothermel
 13: Don Seebold II
 20: Linda Skinner
 27: Troy Smith

Children's Church:
 6: Jane Moore
 13: Grace Alexander
 20: Sam Oren
 27: Jamie Bartlett

Ushers:
 6: Jim & Karen Adams
 13: Mike & Ann Beckley
 20: Shirley Heasley, Carol Klose
 27: Barb Randecker, Jeannie Sawyer
 13: Jeff Hackenburg, Kim Sawyer
 20: Don Seebold, Don Seebold II
 27: Harry Boyer, Jim Schwartz
 Dave Weaver, Max Zeller

May 3, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1846 by Pr. John.

Present: Gary Girton, Cher Girton, Jane Moore, Heather Klose, Deanna Billow, Harry Boyer, Jeff Mensch, Pr. John Yost, Bill Musser, Barb Randecker, Logan Mensch and Liz Loss.

Absent: Tanna Stenger

Pr. John opened with devotions; based on Romans and God's spirit is present in us all.

Secretary's Report: submitted and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: submitted and approved as read subject to audit.

Pastor's report: Pr. John reported he made it through the Lenten season and Holy Week and all services went well and there was good attendance. There will be (2) joint services in May. The 21st is the parish dedication here and the 28th will be held at the park. Both services are at 10:30. Two requests have been submitted for weddings; one in July and one in October.

Communication: none

Executive: none

Gifts & Endowments – none

Worship & Music – Bill Musser reported a request to reinstate the \$800 music scholarship. It was discussed to open it up to individuals within the Parish. Jeff Mensch made a motion to approve a scholarship; Jane Moore 2nd the motion; motion passed unanimously. There was a discussion on paying guest musicians to play at the church. Four Bells does not pay for guest musicians. Worship & Music will meet and discuss this further as council is concerned about paying for these guests.

Property – Dave Weaver resigned council and as property co-chair. A new representative is required. Front door knob was fixed.

Christina Education – Harry reported that Sunday School would end May 14th. Adult class will continue until at least the end of June.

Fellowship & Recreation – Liz Loss reported that they are working on the luncheon for the Joint service on the 21st.

Service & Outreach – Deanna Billow reported the price on the new bibles is \$8. We'll be getting information out to the congregation that these will be available to sponsor.

Finance – no report. Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 8th.

Youth – Logan Mensch reminded of Youth Sunday on the May 14th and the spaghetti supper went really well. 119 tickets were sold; approximately \$1750 raised.

Staff Support – no report

Business:

Dave Weaver replacement: Jeff Mensch moved to ask Jim Schwartz to fill in the vacancy. Motion was 2nd by Bill Musser and passed unanimously. Harry Boyer will contact him.

Church Painting: Only one response was received of the 3 letters sent out to bid entries. (acknowledging specific requirements of the job).

Synod Assembly: No one has volunteered from the congregation.

Gross Mowing: Tom Taylor approached Pr. John asking that during lacrosse season to have Scott Walter, the person who did the snow removal, do the lawncare. Discussed this concept of having subcontracting work performed when it is work in the person's job description. Barb Randecker will contact Tom and see when he planned on resuming the lawncare. Heather Klose will contact Scott to see what his impression of the job was.

Summer hours: Discussed whether or not we would change to 1PM. Discussion to keep regular hours all summer. No more change to 1PM.

Phones: No system has been changed. Everything still in the works.

Mutual Ministry: Two reps are needed to serve on this joint parish committee. Suggested Sheryl Fetter and she accepted. Shirley Heasley was suggested. Jeff Mensch will discuss it with her.

Kris Lamey, our preschool teacher was in a serious car accident.

Letter from therapists (Morgan & Doug Richards): We received a letter requesting more access. Discussed having them offer sessions in the parsonage. Will have bathroom facilities checked in the parsonage and most likely refer them in that direction.

Meeting closed by Harry Boyer with prayer and adjourned @2050 .

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Klose,

Recording secretary

June 7, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1706 by Pr. John.

Present: Gary Girton, Cher Girton, Jane Moore, Heather Klose, Deanna Billow, Harry Boyer, Jim Schwartz, Jeff Mensch, Pr. John Yost, Bill Musser, Liz Loss, Barb Randecker and guest, Gloria Mincemoyer

Absent: Logan Mensch

Pr. John opened with devotions relating to the Holy Spirit.

Secretary's Report: submitted and approved as read

Treasurer's Report: submitted and approved as read subject to audit

Pastor's report: Pr. John reported that Myrtle Shirk passed away and the memorial service will be Sunday, June 25th @ 3PM.

Communication: Colbie Loss reported that the total amount in coins collected by the kids for the Servant Trip to Rocky Boy was \$253.

Executive: Harry Boyer reported that the committee met and report will follow under business.

Gifts & Endowments – None

Worship & Music – Bill Musser reported that Sheryl Fetter asked if any services, i.e. communion, would be needed for next outdoor service. Communion will be served. The service on July 2nd will be at 9:30 AM. Cherub choir doing well. Committee met to discuss payment of musicians for playing at worship of special services. The committee would like to continue to do so. Motion by Bill Musser that director of music be authorized to make payment for special services, i.e., Christmas, Easter and Pentecost and up to four additional times per year. Payment not to exceed \$40 per person or \$200 per group made payable from G&E music funds. Motion seconded by Jeff Mensch and passed unanimously.

Property – Jim Schwartz reported that committee met. Ed Libhart has agreed to serve as co-chair of the property committee. The bids for the painting were reviewed. Two bids submitted. Red's Interior Painting - \$16,500 and Bobby Cross Painting - \$13,074. Additional costs could be incurred to replace Plexiglas which could ultimately cost more than the painting itself. Property recommends Bobby Cross Painting. Finance recommends using the \$10,000 in the Exterior Fund and what is needed from the bequest received from Betty Bottiger. Jeff Mensch made motion regarding the financing; seconded by Bill Musser and passed unanimously. Council approved the committee's recommendation to hire Bobby Cross Painting. Council will present to the congregation to allow up to a total of \$20,000 for this project.

Jim reported the sign along Chestnut street in the planter looks horrible. Recommending the sign be replaced. Would cost approximately \$300-400 plus installation. Jim Schwartz motioned to have project completed; seconded by Deanna Billow and passed unanimously.

Property committee reported that all work and discussions done by the property will be a TEAM effort; no individual projects.

There are problems with the thermostat for the A/C in the sanctuary. Tony Sweigert can replace it with the same kind (programmable) as he installed for the heating for approximately \$300. Property recommends this be done. Council approved recommendation. Jim will call Tony tonight.

Issue of shrub trimming hasn't been done. Much discussion was had about this. Suggested the Youth do a large portion of this work. Staff Support will address these issues.

Christian Education – No report

Fellowship & Recreation – Liz Loss questioned what we need to do for Re-Creation. Suggested possibly using Country Cupboard to feed them. More information will follow.

Service & Outreach – Deanna Billow reported that birthday cards did not go out for May. June did go. A man from Lifetouch has been in contact to schedule pictures.

Finance – Jeff Mensch reported that committee met in May and everything is going as planned. Will meet in July.

Youth – no report

Staff Support – Barb Randecker reported that they will be meeting with all of the staff after the Rocky Boy trip.

Parish Council: No meeting has been had since last council.

Business:

FELC Constitution update: Executive committee met and made some proposed changes to the constitution. Some things needed to be changed to comply with ELCA. Other changes include the guidelines for our Annual meeting times. The "specified" Sunday shall be removed. The number constituting a "quorum" will be amended. A few small wording changes under the "Congregation Council" section. All proposed changes will be made available to the congregation prior to the scheduled congregational meeting. Jeff Mensch motioned to have amendments made pending approval by congregation. Seconded by Gary Girton and motion passed unanimously. Meeting will be scheduled for June 25, 2017.

Church Painting: discussed under property

Meeting closed by Barb Randecker with prayer and adjourned @2030.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Klose,

Recording secretary



4th of July at the Park

Youth will be leading children's games beginning at noon. Fresh lemonade and walking tacos stand to begin at 6PM. Huge fundraisers and lots of help is needed; even for a few hours! Please see the bulletin board or contact Tracy Seebold or Deanna Billow for more information.

PARENTS:

Donations of supplies are needed; the more donated, more profit!

YOUTH:

You are needed to work a few hours.

Church Scholarships

Applications for the Wehr & Munson Memorial Scholarships are available in the office to students who have completed three semesters of college courses.

Deadline for submission is August 1st.

Bible Sales

First Lutheran is purchasing new Bibles for our pews. We are seeking monetary donations for the bibles in memory or in honor of someone. The names will appear in the front of the bibles. You are also able to purchase bibles for your own personal use as well!

Description. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV); Published by Zondervan Publishing House; the bibles are the complete text hardcover binding includes foil stamping; red hardcover; white page edging including subject headings; printed on high quality bible paper; durable.

YOUTH EVENTS

Harvey Cedars Bible Conference

July 10-15th

Please keep the following youth and their leader in your prayers during their time at the conference: Kim Sawyer (youth leader), Sarah Alexander (counselor), Daniel Crossland (counselor), Samantha Orren, Grace Alexander, Cora Reed, Anna Harter, Denise Seebold, Maverick Stenger, Logan Mensch, Alexa Hackenburg & Calista Girton.



CHURCH DAY CAMP!!!

Monday-Friday, July 17-21, 2017

In lieu of VBS this year, First Lutheran will send the kids to the Day Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Pr. John is the chaplain the week of day camp.

Third through Fifth graders can come to camp from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM for just one, a couple or all five days. Parents and grandparents can also stay at camp and create their own program while their kids are with our staff.

The cost of the camp will be covered by First Lutheran; lunch included.

If interested, please contact Pr. John or the church office.

BIBLE ORDER FORM



I would like to purchase:

_____ Bibles for myself @ \$8.00 a piece _____

_____ Bibles for the pews @ \$8.00 a piece _____

TOTAL DUE _____

GIVEN BY _____

(Please circle your choice in memory, or in honor of.)

In memory/honor of _____

In memory/honor of _____

In memory/honor of _____

In memory/honor of _____

Please return form and payment to the church office.

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 announcements 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

