



2018

First News



First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

From Our Pastor...

CROSS-BEARING DISCIPLESHIP

July is a time when we reflect upon and celebrate our freedom as a nation. It is a time in which we celebrate Americana; that is, we celebrate our independence as a nation through and by events that typify American exuberance—parades and picnics, fireworks and festive music. These celebrations can be loud and bombastic. But we are also to be mindful of the sacrifices of the many who have given their lives in such ways that our freedom as a nation is maintained. We should never take such freedom for granted. And because such freedoms are fragile, we must be ever vigilant against any and all abuses that may infringe upon such freedom.

Freedom has come to mean many things in our world today. We desire freedom... freedom in its many forms, both individually and communally. We seek to be free from somethings... free from oppression, from fear, from tyranny, from illness and disease, from anxiety and despair, free from external infringements on our hopes and dreams, free from injustice and the presence of evil. Likewise we also seek to be free in the manners in which we desire to pave our own path and destiny without the burdens of unsolicited and unwelcomed constraints or restrictions place upon or before us by powers and entities beyond our control.

William Willimon, a retired

bishop in the United Methodist Church, characterizes a contemporary, conventional way of understanding of being free as having “the maximum ability to choose whatever life I want to live with a minimum of external attachments.” In other words, “I am most free when I am least attached to anyone other than me.” William laments, “Modernity is that form of paganism that enjoys thinking that it has at least achieved humanity with unconstrained vistas.... I am free to do anything I want to do. I can write my own script.” Freedom, as such, is cheapened as a concept if it is merely reduced to a freedom from others’ control or as a freedom of choice.

The apostle Paul wrote of a different kind of freedom, a freedom not validated by a culture that promotes exuberant self-expression but a freedom received from another’s obedience and a freedom to serve others beyond one’s own self-interests. Freedom, in this instance, is intricately and inescapably connected to the person and mission of Christ Jesus; freedom is relational and is received as a gift of God to be exercised in faith and loving service. Paul writes, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1). This freedom that Paul asserts is not an autonomous, individualistic freedom apart from limits or boundaries, but rather a freedom characterized by right relationships and selfless action. In Christ, we

are called to be free, but we are not to use our freedom to indulge in selfish ways (5:13).

Paul understands freedom in the Christian sense to be not a philosophical or political concept but a quality to be found in God’s relationship to us through Christ and the Spirit. He writes, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3). We have been set free from self-determinations and self-interestedness and given over and equipped to follow Jesus in caring for others.

Jesus promised his followers, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31-32). As such, freedom is where “one ends up as a result of formation in the word and the practice of discipleship.” Scott Bader-Saye affirms that “true freedom is not an arbitrary license to choose but rather the capacity to become who we are.” Freedom, understood from a Christian perspective, “never separates individuals from one another or from all external authorities, but results in people fully living their humanity rightly oriented to God and in relationship with one another.”

In Christ, free we are! Free to be for each other as Christ is for us!

*Blessings,
Pr. John*

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Gorton, Asst. Church Adm.
- Hank Dorman, Sexton
- Harry Boyer, Council President
- Jeff Mensch, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Gorton, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Gorton, Council
- Libby Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Jane Moore, Council
- Jim Schwartz, Council
- Sue Jows, Council
- Linda Skinner, Council
- Logan Mensch, Council

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PLEASE!!
NOTE

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Week of July 2nd through the 5th





July Birthdays

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

August Birthdays

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

Sexton Position Update

Paul Houtz resigned his position as sexton in May. We want to thank him for all of his hard work and he will be missed!

Hank Dorman has agreed to return as our sexton and has already begun his work by starting some outside projects. Welcome back, Hank!

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 5 - 12, 2018

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.

Prayer Chain



A new email prayer chain is being created at First Lutheran. A Prayer Chain is a group of men and women of our church who pray for the concerns and requests of our members and friends. Someone in need of prayer can contact Jennie Servinsky or the church office and request to be put on the Prayer Chain. Each member of the Prayer Chain will then be notified of the prayer request. Anyone interested in being included as a Prayer Chain member, should contact Jennie Servinsky at: (jennieservinsky@gmail.com).

Please include your name, email address and number in which you can be contacted.

Dandelion Run Saturday, September 1st 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, August 31st, 3PM.

JULY 2018

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	2 <i>Office Closed all week</i>	3	4—Fourth of July 	5	6	7 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's 11AM-12:30PM: Community
8 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	9	10	11	12	13	14 8AM: Men's Breakfast—Carriage Corner
15 10:30AM: Worship/HC	16 Youth @ Harvey Cedars Bible Camp thru 7/21	17	18	19	20 8:30PM: Family Movie Night—First Lutheran Lawn	21 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike
22 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	23	24	25	26	27	28 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's
29 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	30	31				

JULY VOLUNTEERS

Chief Usher: Bill Musser

Acolytes:

- 1: Head Usher
- 8: Emily Seebold
- 15: Head Usher
- 22: Victoria Harvey
- 29: Barb Randecker

Announcements: Earl Michael

Lay Readers:

- 1: Jeff Crossland
- 8: Shirley Heasley
- 15: Jeff Mensch
- 22: Sally Rothermel
- 29: Troy Smith

Altar/Communion: Deanna Billow

Children's Church:

- 1: Grace Alexander
- 8: Polly Hornig
- 15: Jane Moore
- 22: Samantha Orren
- 29: Tom Orren

Offering Envelopes: Nancy Snook
Irena Zeller

Ushers:

- 1: Sue Jows, Andy Long
- 8: Libby Loss, Liz Loss
- 15: Jeff Hackenburg, Jim Schwartz
- 22: Dave Weaver, Max Zeller
- 29: Shirley Heasley, Marianne Motto
- 1: Jeannie Sawyer, Kim Sawyer
- 8: Don Seebold, Don Seebold II
- 15: Harry Boyer, Cindy Harvey,
- 22: Carol Klose, Troy Smith

AUGUST 2018

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 10:30AM: Worship/HC- Vacation Bible School	6 Vacation Bible School	7 Vacation Bible School	8 7PM: Council	9	10	11 8AM: Men's Breakfast— Old Turnpike
12 10:30AM: Worship/HC	13	14	15	16	17	18 8AM: Men's Breakfast- Ard's
19 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	20	21 Office Closed	22	23 Office Closed	24	25 8AM: Men's Breakfast- Carriage Corner
26 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Chief Usher: Logan Mensch

Acolytes:

- 5: Head Usher
- 12: Jaydn Rothermel
- 19: Head Usher
- 26: Quinton Bartlett

Announcements: Linda Skinner

Lay Readers:

- 5: Jane Moore
- 12: Harvey Ilgen
- 19: Barb Randecker
- 26: Karen Boyer

Altar/Communion: Andy Long

Children's Church:

- 5: Shirley Heasley
- 12: Sally Rothermel
- 19: Mandy Rothermel
- 26: Kim Sawyer

Offering Envelopes: Linn Mensch &

Don Seebold

Ushers:

Crossland Familu

- 5: Jeff Mensch, Troy Smith
- 12: Dave Weaver, Max Zeller
- 19: Eric, Gwen & Perri Hull
- 26: Tom Orren
- Harvey & Brenda Ilgen
- Dewey & Barb Reed

Congregational Council Minutes

June 6, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1905 by Harry Boyer.

Present: Deanna Billow, Pr. John Yost, Jim Schwartz, Libby Loss, Jane Moore, Harry Boyer, Jeff Mensch, Heather Klose, Cher Girton, Logan Mensch, Linda Skinner, and guest Gloria Mincemoyer

Absent: Gary Girton, Bill Musser, Sue Jows and Barb Randecker

Pr. John opened with devotions relating to John 6, questioning “why do we believe?”.

Secretary’s Report: May minutes were submitted and will be approved at next meeting as some did not receive them.

Treasurer’s Report: May reports submitted and approved subject to audit. Discussion was had on some of the expenses. Jeff Mensch made a motion to cancel RightNow Media (\$80/MN), seconded by Jane Moore; passed unanimously.

Pastor’s report: Pr. John reported that some upcoming activities include this Sunday’s Worship in the park. He will be in Florida on vacation beginning Monday, June 11 through the 22nd. He has been working on getting together a VBS from Sunday August 12th through Tuesday, August 14th with a sleepover Monday night and breakfast on Tuesday also to include a field trip and swimming.

Communication: None

Executive: None

Gifts & Endowments – None

Worship & Music – None

Property – Jim Schwartz reported that the painter is six weeks behind and will begin in July. Water bill is back to normal. The refrigerator in the kitchen needed repair again. Was able to be fixed temporarily. Cost to permanently fix is approximately \$750. Jim Schwartz made motion to have repair, seconded by Linda Skinner, motion passed unanimously. Hank Dorman was hired as sexton.

Christian Education –no report

Fellowship & Recreation – Jim Schwartz reported that there is a very low response to the Father/Child Dinner but it will still be held. Libby Loss reported that they served a funeral meal for Jean Sanden.

Service & Outreach – Deanna Billow has the sign up sheets from “Volunteer Sunday” and will give them to the committee heads. Ideas were thrown out about having a get together similar to the progressive dinners that were held in the past. Perhaps a monthly potluck or coffee hours sponsored by groups. Another idea is having a Fifth Sunday Breakfast. Ideas will be discussed at next Parish Council meeting.

Finance – Jeff Mensch reported that committee will meet in July. An audit needs to be performed at each church. Gloria would be willing to serve on First’s behalf and Andy Long will be asked to serve as well. A third will be sought out.

Youth – no report

Staff Support – meeting will be scheduled

Parish Council: Parish social committee met and discussed having a worship/picnic day at Knoebels on Sunday, September 9th. Movie night will be held on the lawn in July.

Business:

Preschool: Their fund has a negative balance. Spoke with the teacher and tuition will be a set amount for next year and a certain enrollment will be expected to be obtained. She was unable to be here tonight due to an emergency. We will ask her to be here for August’s meeting.

Lawsuit update: Jury will be selected in July for the trial. No agreement has been able to be reached.

July Meeting: July 4th is the first Wednesday. July meeting will be cancelled. Jeff Mensch and Pr. John suggested closing the office that week as well.

Harry Boyer closed the meeting with prayer and adjourned at 2035.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L Klose

Recording Secretary



First Lutheran Family,
Thank you all From the bottom of our hearts For all you have done to support & sustain us through this difficult time. We are so blessed to be a part of such an amazingly loving & caring church Family. We could not get by without the help of our Faith & Family of people around us. Thank you all so much.

❤ The Gessners



Weekly Sponsors Needed!

There are dates available in July—July 1st and 22nd. Please see Sally Rothermel or 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.

Blank sponsor forms are available below the flower chart. Thank you!

*First Lutheran Church,
Thanks so much for all your hard work on the reception following Jean's service. It was a great success; the food was delicious and it gave us a chance to catch up with friends & family. I'm sure Jean had a big smile looking down on us all.*

*With much appreciation,
The Sanden Family*

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.

First Finances

Currently, the General Fund has a negative balance. The majority of the expenses were daily operating and were consistent with budget projections. Spending has been frugal and mindful of the current situation. A mechanical engineer was brought in to review our heating system(s) and has made some adjustments.

If you have any questions and/or would like more information regarding the church finances, please contact a member of the finance committee or church office.

We encourage regular giving so that our operating expenses can be met and ministry opportunities fulfilled.

Monthly Financial Needs: \$16,617

Monthly Offering: \$ 13,764

Difference: \$ -2,853

PARISHIONERS

HELPING

PARISHIONERS



The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish's "Parishioners Helping Parishioners Committee" is seeking members of Christ's United and First Lutheran to help out with the following:

- Small repair projects
- Pick up prescriptions, offer transportation, or cooking meals
- Offer to visit our shut-ins

The group welcomes helpful folks, ideas or suggestions. If interested, please contact Doug & Pearl Gemberling, Joe Dressler, Linda Smith or Dianne Shuck.

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## YOUTH EVENTS



### 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.



**Stop by the Youth Group Stand @**

**Mifflinburg 4th of July**

**Wednesday Evening!**

### Harvey Cedars Bible Conference

**July 16-21st**

Please keep the following youth and their leader in your prayers during their time at the conference:

Youth Leader: Kim Sawyer

Adult Leaders: Calista Girton (Girls), Maverick Stenger (Guys)  
Tanna Stenger, Maria Kuba

Youth: Alexa Hackenburg, Logan Bartlett, Sara Harter,  
Collin Krout, Elliana Girton,  
Aaron Hackenburg, Emily Seebold, and Ben Hornig.

### Sharing Camp Experiences

**Sunday, August 19th**



GROUP

**WORKCAMPS**  
Home Repair

**Harvey Cedars**  
BIBLE CONFERENCE

The youth and adults of our congregation who attended Work Camp in Wrightsville, PA in June, and those who are attending Harvey Cedars in July will be sharing their experiences with our congregation during worship, on Sunday, August 19th. Please mark your calendars!

### *What's Happening at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish...*

**July 4th:** Festival at the park. Youth will be sponsoring games and food and beverages.

**July 16-21:** Youth attending Harvey Cedar's Bible Camp

**July 20:** A family movie will be shown outside (weather permitting) on First Lutheran's grounds. Festivities will start at 8:30 p.m. with a social time, following with a movie soon after it becomes dark enough. The parish will supply drinks and snacks. Attendees are to bring blankets and chairs to sit on. Attendees may also bring snacks to share if they wish. No advance sign-up is necessary. Stay tuned for more details on the name of the movie.

**August 12th-14th:** Parish Vacation Bible School held at First Lutheran. Optional sleepover Monday night and breakfast on Tuesday also to include a field trip and swimming. See future bulletins for more details and times.

*\*\*More detailed information regarding these events are in the monthly newsletter. Copies are available at the back of the church as well as any order forms. Please see the bulletin board in the main hallway for sign-up sheets.*

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

404 MARKET STREET  
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 Sunday Worship  
Service beginning at 10:30 AM



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.

*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](mailto:pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com)*

