



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

June

2018

From Our Pastor...

A BLESSED LIFE (Ephesians 1:3-14)

Both in retrospection and in wishful longing, many talk about having had, having or wanting the “good” life. Indicators of the “good” life have often varied through the ages, conditioned as well by cultural values and norms. In our time and place, the “good” life is often defined in terms of degrees of success, usually with respect to comforts, power, prestige, prosperity or status. Indicators allowing for a measurement of this “good” life have included physical and cognitive abilities, material possessions, capital and societal ranking and influence. A successful foray into the “good” life is said to bring about a “peace of mind,” producing high levels of happiness and pleasure as well as keeping to a minimum the effects of stress and pain.

Regardless of our abilities and ambitions, and the demands and wants placed upon us in our time and place, there are no guarantees that anyone’s “good” life will bear the marks of perpetuity or immortality. One can and does “fall,” at times quickly, from the “good” life through one’s own faults and failures from choices acted upon as well as missed opportunities or, more often than not, simply by those external factors and the “accidents” of natural occurrences which impact and exacerbate the many limitations imposed upon our bodies and minds and well-being.

Because the pursuit and hoped-for attainment of the “good” life

is often affected by and influenced by factors and occurrences beyond our control, what then are we to trust and where do we place our hope? The apostle Paul addressed this very question in his letter to the Ephesians for a people whose lives and interests were not so much unlike our own. Majestically, Paul used the language of what was then perceived as the normal way to depict the “good” life in his day (riches, wisdom, pleasure, inheritance, power, status) and reframed and reformulated it to now characterize the “blessed” life that all are able to receive according to the foundational (before there was even a time or place to pursue the “good” life) will of God the Father through the redemptive gift of Christ Jesus. This “blessed” life can only be received by and through the immeasurable and boundless grace provided as Christ shall gather all in heaven and on earth in the fullness of time.

Whereas it was and is often thought that the “good” life was to be pursued through and by human ambition, motivation and effort, and could also be necessarily affected by external natural and societal courses, and therefore subject to gain and loss, the “blessed” life that Paul refers to is but a gift of grace simply and solely received in trust and hope. Whereas the “good” life could always be affected and influenced by the factors of personal choices, preferences and effort as well as external oc-

currences, natural and/or social, the “blessed” life is a predestined and external gift from God’s actions in and through Christ and, therefore, not subject to the whims of human thought or behavior. This is “GOOD NEWS”/ Gospel for ALL, and not just for those who have attained or hope to attain the “good” life.

In Paul’s day, suggestions of the “good” life often depend greatly on one’s nationality, gender, status or wealth, that is, whether one was Jew or gentile, man or woman, master or slave, rich or poor. These categories of differentiation and division that functioned, even as they still do in many places today, to determine the “good” life were erased, according to Paul in his opening statement in Ephesians, by the mystery of God’s good pleasure and eternal will, planned and given purpose before the foundation of the world; that is, before anyone was able to say or achieve anything, be it good or bad. Therefore, the grace of God at work in the redemptive and forgiving way of Christ brings all, in heaven and on earth, to a state of “blessedness” (1:3, 10). In and because of God’s grace, the pursuit of the “good” life has given way to the gift of a “blessed” life, where the drive for success gives way of peace for all by and in God’s grace.

Our collective “blessed” life is neither initiated nor attained

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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by us through our attitudes and behaviors, ambitions and wants, motivations and desires. Unlike the “good” life, a “blessed” life cannot be achieved or awarded by being “good” at something, such as growing crops, baking pies, singing songs, hammering nails, repairing cars, caring for children, hitting baseballs, or preaching sermons. These abilities and actions are. Indeed, “good,” for they help build and sustain caring, supportive and productive communities at many levels of work and play, but in no way do they merit special favors from the God of

grace. We are “blessed” simply because God, mysterious as it may be to us, thought it was a “good” idea to give blessing to us before the world was even formed. This gift of a “blessed” life rests entirely upon the gift of God’s grace shared by and through the faithfulness of Christ Jesus. A “blessed” life does not adhere to nor is regulated by the ups and downs of human performance and preference but is drawn down to and from the power and authority of God’s grace which, in Christ, gathers together all in heaven and on earth according to God’s


good pleasure.

The “good” in our lives, whether thoughts, actions or deeds, is intended by God to be a thankful response to the gift of our “blessing” at the hands of God’s grace received in, through and by Christ. Our “goodness,” therefore, is but an attribute of our being “blessed” by God, and a call to reach out and share the fruits of our “blessing” with all because God’s “blessing” through Christ includes all.

--Pastor John

Community Meal

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.

	June Ocker	06/02	Debbie Dauberman	06/16
	Jonathan Fritz	06/03	Leona Wagner	06/16
	Colbie Loss	06/03	Remington Fisher	06/17
	Adam Lynch	06/03	Dennis Wagner	06/18
	Vernon Gessner	06/04	Megan Mensch	06/20
	Daniel Crossland	06/05	Karen Boyer	06/21
	Spencer Dunkle	06/05	Logan Kuba	06/23
	Andy Stahl	06/07	Carol Klose	06/24
	Karen Adams	06/08	Michael Sweet	06/24
	Sherri Uehling	06/08	Richard Stees	06/25
	Trena Zeller	06/09	Jed Loss	06/29
	Benjamin Hornig	06/13	Pat Smith	06/29
	Irene Shirk	06/14		

Irene Munson Scholarship

Applications for the Irene Munson Scholarship will be received until August 1st. The scholarship is designated for students desiring to assist, promote and stimulate knowledge and understanding to increase the well-being of individuals, families and communities. Applicants should have completed at least three semesters of full-time study and be active members of First Evangelical Lutheran, Mifflinburg. Details and applications are in the church office.



June Bible Study Schedule

Pastor John’s Bible Study will only be held the first week for the month of June. Monday, June 4th, 10:30 a.m. CULC and 1:00 p.m. FELC, and Wednesday June 5th, 7:30 p.m. at CULC.



The Men’s Ministry Bible Study has ended for the season. Classes will resume again in September.



Camp Mount Luther

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

Summer Kickoff and Circle of Faith Dinner

On Sunday, June 10, 2018, we will have a worship service at 7:00 p.m. at which time they will kick-off the 2018 Summer Camping Season. The worship service is open to anyone who would like to attend to support our synod's outdoor ministry and this year's summer staff. The service will be held outdoors, if the weather permits, so please bring a lawn chair. Immediately before the worship service, we'll hold our Second Annual Circle of Faith Giving Club Dinner. Members of our giving club were sent invitations about details for this event, which will include a delicious dinner and a relaxed evening of fun and fellowship. After the dinner, we will have a short program of stories and the staff will provide some lively entertainment singing camp songs and maybe even do a skit or two. We'll also award our second ever Cloud of Witnesses Award as we recognize the giving spirit of Mount Luther supporters. If you would like information on the Circle of Faith Giving Club, contact chad@campmountluther.org.

Celebrate Our 55th Birthday

The camp staff invites everyone to come to camp on Tuesday evening, July 3, 2018, to celebrate the camp's 55th birthday. As part of our annual Family Camp, we'll be having a campfire and worship service to commemorate the birthday. K.J. Reimensnyder-Wagner will be here to provide some special music as well. It all gets underway at 6:30 p.m. The program will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so bring a lawn chair. To help us plan, it would be helpful to have an RSVP to chad@campmountluther.org or call 570-922-1587.

Workcamp

PRAYER PARTNERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR WORKCAMP!! PLEASE SEE CINDY HARVEY IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO BE A PRAYER PARTNER.

ALSO

PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR WORKCAMP NEEDS.

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.

When asking prayer requests for others, please be sure to contact that individual first for approval.

Thank You

I would like to thank all who participated in my wonderful sunshine basket, it was very humbling to see such blessings poured upon me! Also, many thanks to everyone who stopped by with hugs and words of encouragement as church was dismissing Sunday May 20, like I said I'm truly blessed to be part of a wonderful caring church family. God's Peace!

Ann C. Beckley

I would like to thank my church family for all the cards, prayers and support during my mother's final weeks and her passing. She was an amazing woman who endured much but can now see, hear and walk in our Lord's kingdom.

Thank you,
Karen Boyer

Thank you for all the help, donations and prayers, throughout my illness. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Love,
John and Kim Snook

Parish Happenings

June 3rd: Last Dinner and Devos for this school year will be at Harter's on Sunday, June 3 from 6-8PM...swimming and being together. Short discussions on Workcamp and Harvey Cedars.



June 9th: Father's Day Father/Son & Daughter Banquet at First Lutheran. Program: well known singers, Children 12 and under—free, Children over 12 to adult—\$4 per person. Deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, June 3rd. See Barb Randecker, Jim Schwartz or the church office for tickets.

June 10th: Mark your calendars!! A lot will be happening at the Mifflinburg Community Park on Sunday, June 10, beginning with a combined congregational worship service. Please bring a lawn chair.

Afterwards, we will have a parish picnic in which we invite those attending to bring a covered dish to share. The parish will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and drink.

A community wide block party for all ages will take place in the afternoon. Details are not yet finalized, but there will be lots of fun for all ages.



Everyone is invited! Mark your calendars for the 10th and bring your family and friends and enjoy yourselves! If you would like to help out or would like more information, please contact Barry Spangler.

June 17-23: Group Workcamp in Wrightsville, PA

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



Are you aware that Amazon has a program called AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Your shopping matters to the Youth Program of First Lutheran. Shop for Father's Day or any day at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/24-0856042> and Amazon donates to First Evangelical Lutheran Church.



First Finances

Currently, the General Fund has a negative balance. The Finance Committee met on April 23rd to review the current financial situation. The majority of the expenses were daily operating and were consistent with budget projections. Spending has been frugal and mindful of the current situation. The greatest operating expense has been heating oil during this past winter season. 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: \$ 12,550

Difference: \$ -4,067

General Fund Balance: \$-5,899.15 (EOM 5/18)

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## ***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.

## *Going with the Gessners*

### **BBQ Chicken Sale**

Pick-Up: Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

11:00 am – 1:00 pm @ Mifflinburg Community Park

\$10 Dinner (Yellow Tickets)

Chicken Half, Baked Beans, Roll, Potato Salad & Dessert.

*Or*

\$5 Chicken Half Only (Pink Tickets)

*Chicken by Mount Nittany BBQ & Catering*

Ticket Pre-Sales Beginning 4/22 Through 5/30

To Purchase Tickets:

*Contact*

Erin Threet (570) 713-9482, Anthony Threet (570) 939-2147

*or Visit*

Carriage Corner, Chilly Willy's, Hometown Eatery,  
Old Turnpike, Rusty Rail, Scarlet D, or Trutt's Pharmacy

May 2, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1903 by Harry Boyer.

Present: Cher Girton, Gary Girton, Pr. John Yost, Harry Boyer, Jane Moore, Jim Schwartz, Sue Jows, Heather Klose, Logan Mensch, Jeff Mensch Linda Skinner, Barb Randecker, Libby Loss and Bill Musser

Absent: Deanna Billow

Pr. John opened with devotions relating to John, chapter 5 and prayer.

Secretary's Report: April minutes were submitted and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: April reports submitted and approved subject to audit.

Pastor's report: Pr. John reported that within the congregation that we will have a memorial service for Jean Sanden on May 19. Several parish wide activities approaching. In June we will have parish picnic and worship in the park. Last Sunday was conference meeting at Zion Lutheran. Serious issues we are facing include pastoral care; lacking pastors and congregation giving. ELCA as a whole will be facing this issues as well in the upcoming years. Pr. John will be attending family services conference and at the Lutheran Day at the capital in Harrisburg.

Communication: Harry Boyer received a thank you from USS synod for meeting our 2017 benevolence goals.

Executive: None

Gifts & Endowments – None

Worship & Music – None

Property – Jim Schwartz reported that he received a call from the painter. He will be here towards the end of May. Last night during property committee meeting the members went around turned all the thermostats down. The furnace room was not locked. When they got here this evening the door was locked and heat was turned all the way up. Not sure how any of that happened. Wooden edges to sidewalks along parking lot will be replaced.

Christian Education –no report

Fellowship & Recreation – no report

Service & Outreach – Libby Loss reported that her and Libby Loss will sponsor a Volunteer Sunday will be on May 20th. 15 groups from the congregation will have information available to everyone in the congregation about their groups.

Finance – Committee met last week to review where we stood budget wise which is mostly inline at this point and to discuss the deficit. WELCA transferred \$7000 to the General Fund which was a huge help. Different ways were discussed to make the congregation more aware of our situation. Financial information will be published again in both the weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter. Spending will be kept to a minimum.

Youth – Gary Girton reported that Kim is looking for volunteers for workcamp. Youth Sunday is May 13th.

Staff Support – no report

Parish Council: Council was scheduled for April 30 but there was not a quorum. Discussed the June service in the park and the possibility of having a end of summer worship at Hidden Valley Campground. Next meeting is scheduled for July 9th.

Business:

Synod Assembly: Harry Boyer will go on Saturday only with Jane Moore.

Sexton: Received letter of resignation from Paul Houtz effective May 11th. Before the next employee is hired the job description needs updated to include small repairs. Jeff Mensch made motion to accept resignation; seconded by Jim Schwartz and passed unanimously. There is a person interested in the position. Staff support and property will follow up. Jeff Mensch made a motion that whoever staff support and property recommends they will be paid \$15 per hour with a revised job description; seconded by Jane Moore and passed unanimously.

Mechanical Engineer for Heating system: Jim Schwartz reported that they met with Silvertip to get a mechanical engineer to evaluate our heating system. Received a quote for \$2300 to received a detailed evaluation. Property committee reviewed it last night and recommends we proceed. There is money in G&E in capital improvement funds to finance this. Motion made by Jeff Mensch to accept property's recommendation and use G&E funds to proceed with evaluation; seconded by Linda Skinner and passed unanimously.

Door Locking Systems: Cher Girton reported that she had Phil from A-1 come and look at system to see why doors aren't unlocking at all times. He reviewed the locks and said new locks would be approximately \$750 to replace. We agreed to let it go for now.

Meeting closed with prayer by Harry Boyer and adjourned @ 1816 .

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L Klose

Recording Secretary

# JUNE 2018

*First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA*

| Sun                                                                       | Mon                                       | Tue                         | Wed               | Thu | Fri | Sat                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                           |                                           |                             |                   |     | 1   | 2<br>8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner<br>11AM-12:30PM: Community              |
| 3<br>10:30AM: Worship/HC-6-8 PM: Dinner/Devo's—Harter's                   | 4<br>1:00PM— Bible Study                  | 5<br>7-8PM: Bible Study-MPR | 6<br>7PM: Council | 7   | 8   | 9<br>8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike<br>6PM: Father's Day Dinner-First Lutheran |
| 10<br>10:00AM: Joint Worship/Picnic in the park                           | 11<br>Pr. John vacation through June 22nd | 12                          | 13                | 14  | 15  | 16<br>8AM: Men's Breakfast-Arc's                                                  |
| 17<br>10:30AM: Worship/HC-Group Workcamp in Wrightsville—through Saturday | 18                                        | 19                          | 20                | 21  | 22  | 23<br>8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner                                        |
| 24<br>10:30AM: Worship/HC-                                                | 25                                        | 26                          | 27                | 28  | 29  | 30<br>8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike                                           |

## JUNE VOLUNTEERS

Chief Usher: Jane Moore

Announcements: Andy Long

Altar/Communion: Janet Reed

Offering Envelopes: Gloria Wincemoyer & Sally Roethermel

### Acolytes:

3: Head Usher  
10: At the Park  
17: Head Usher  
24: Logan Bartlett

### Lay Readers:

3: Norm Conrad  
10: At the Park  
17: Andy Long  
24: Tom Oren

### Children's Church:

3: Liz Loss  
10: At the Park  
17: Barb Randecker  
24: Shirley Heasley

### Ushers:

3: Eric, Gwen & Perri Hull  
10: At the Park  
17: Tom & Sam Oren  
24: Craig & Sally Roethermel  
Crossland Family

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

Sunday School begins at  
9:15AM.



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.



## Parish Picnic

Sunday, June 10th

*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, [prjohnyost@gmail.com](mailto:prjohnyost@gmail.com).*