

From Our Pastor...

**RESURRECTION FAITH**

As Christians, we profess that we believe. What do we believe and what is the basis of our belief are the fundamental questions?

We say that we believe in God, and that we believe God; that is, we believe what God says regarding God's own identity and purpose as well as the ways in which God instructs us through commandments and promises. We believe that God is the creator of the heavens and the earth and all that lies therein. But we also believe that God is active and present in our lives today, continuing to unveil before us the reality of God's promises. Particularly as Christians, we believe that God's promises to and for us are revealed to us now through and by God's presence in Jesus Christ. And here lies the crux of the matter: the foundation of our faith is based on understanding how, where and why Jesus is present to and for us now.

It is necessary to assert that our faith, built and sustained upon the living presence of Jesus Christ in our lives, is not fundamentally an ascent to a set of doctrines or religious principles nor a rehearsed remembrance of certain historic realities, as important as they may be to the articulation of our beliefs. That the Bible records events such as the calling of Abraham to be a blessing to the nations, Israel's release from Pharaoh's captivity, the prophetic counsel of Isaiah, the witness of John the Baptist, and even the recollected reflections of Jesus' disciples who testified about Jesus' miraculous actions and influential words is not the foundational basis of faith for us as Christians.

These Biblical accounts help us gain both perspective and perception on the manner in which God related to God's people in our historic past. Even as these accounts revealed God's promise of what is to be, they were primarily reflections upon what once was. But the premise of our faith as Christians now does not rest upon an assertion that Jesus once was, no matter how great that life was in

terms of teachings, miracles and sacrifice. We believe as Christians because we believe we are in a living relationship with the Risen Jesus now. To be sure, Jesus' life, ministry and teachings as well as his laying down his life for us upon the cross as recorded in the Bible are integral for an understanding of the manner in which God has related to God's people through Jesus; nevertheless, our faith asserts that this same Jesus is alive, alive to and for us in the present. Simply put, we believe because Jesus lives!

We believe not only what Jesus once was and what his disciples told about him; we believe, more so, that we are in a living relationship with God through the presence of the Risen Jesus who continues to guide and direct us in the way of faith. This understanding is supported by the apostle Paul's counsel in his letter to the Corinthians, particularly where he states, "If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.... If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins," (1 Cor. 15:14,17).

Easter is the heart and soul of our faith. We live in faith and hope as we proclaim: "Christ is risen!" "He is risen, indeed!" Faith that rests short of this Easter proclamation merely rests upon remembering someone else's faith experiences from the past. And that is reminiscence, not faith. We don't believe because Peter and Andrew once upon a time followed Jesus and witnessed his life experiences. We don't believe because Jesus' disciples saw him hanging upon a cross. We don't believe because Mary saw that the tomb was empty. We don't believe because Paul had an experience with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

WE BELIEVE because we now are in relationship with this same Jesus as these other people were in their historical situations! To be sure, our faith is related to Peter's, Mary's and Paul's faith, though not merely because they had faith, but because our shared faith is in and with the same Jesus who was, who

**Parish Pastor**

**Rev. John D. Yost**

**Staff Members Of CULC**

- **Margie Dunkle**, Secretary/Asst. Treasurer
- **Dianne Shuck**, Treasurer
- **Cliff Valentine**, Financial Recording Secretary
- **Loretta Martin**, Housekeeping

**Council Members of CULC**

- **Lee Spangler**, President & Facilities & Administration
- **Jen Keister**, Vice-President Inreach
- **Barry Spangler**, Council & Recording Secretary, & Inreach
- **Kim Blyler**, Facilities & Admin
- **Sue Blyler**, Facilities & Admin
- **Joe Dressler**, Outreach
- **Pearl Gemberling**, Outreach
- **Doug Gemberling**, Outreach
- **Dave Murray**, Inreach  
Phone: 570-922-1860  
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**Parish Council Members**

- **Jim Schwartz**, (FELC) President
- **Lee Spangler**, (CULC) Vice Pres.
- **Sue Jows**, (FELC) Secretary
- **Jen Keister**, (CULC)
- **Kim Sawyer**, (FELC)
- **Barry Spangler**, (CULC)

**Staff Members of FELC**

- **Diane Scott**, Director of Music
- **Heather Klose**, Church Admin.
- **Hank Dorman**, Sexton
- **Loretta Martin**, Housekeeping

**Council Members of FELC**

- **Linda Skinner**, Council President
- **Linda Lewis**, Council VP
- **Gloria Mincemoyer**, Treasurer
- **Emily Seebold**, Secretary/Youth
- **Ann Beckley**, Council
- **Mike Culp**, Council
- **Shirley Heasley**, Council
- **Marianne Motto** - Council
- **Sherri Neece**, Council
- **Kim Sawyer**, Council
- **Jim Schwartz**, Council  
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### ***From the Pastor (con't.)***

is, and will continue to be.

This is why evangelism is not simply about putting a Bible in someone else's hands or trying to convince that person to believe in our faith experiences. The Bible as well as our faith experiences may help shape a perspective of Jesus for another but evangelism which witnesses to and promotes Christian faith rests solely upon helping others experience for themselves the saving presence of the Risen Jesus in their own lives. To believe in Jesus is to experience his presence, his love, his peace and his guiding grace in our lives now. Incumbent to our faith is, by grace-imbued ability, to recognize continuously the presence of the Risen Jesus in our lives, and to help others to "see" this same Jesus in their lives as well. Jesus lives that our lives may be filled with God's abundant love and that we may hope, not merely in a future, but within the embrace of God's eternity.

We believe not merely because of someone else's account of witnessing the Risen Jesus. How could we be sure that that person's account is reliable or that the Risen Jesus would necessarily be available to us. We can only come to say that we believe Jesus is risen from the dead and is alive and present now only as we are able to experience his real and lively presence in our own lives. As such, resurrection or Easter faith is not a proposition but a living relationship that exists within the dimensions bounded by our conception and death but not forever contained by these limitations. As the apostle Paul asserts, "Death has been swallowed up in victory," (1 Cor. 15:54).

We live and believe because Jesus lives. Jesus lives to provide both direction and hope for our lives and relationships. Jesus lives to reveal that brokenness, estrangement and death itself are not the final chapters of human existence or of God's intended will. Jesus lives to enable us to "see" his presence even in our own suffering and brokenness so that we may not fall into despair or discouragement. Jesus lives to help each and all of us to experience the fullness of God's eternal love beyond the constraining dimensions of sin and death. The blessing of faith is in the way we are able to "see" Jesus in our own lives and experiences, in others who bring the presence of Jesus to us, and in those whom God brings before us that they may "see" Jesus in us.

*Pr. John*

## **WORSHIP & SS SCHEDULES**

**Christ's United:**

**Worship: Sunday, 8:30AM**

**Sunday School: Sunday following worship**

**First Lutheran:**

**Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM**

### **Bible Study Schedule**

<b>MON-CULC</b>	<b>TUES-FELC</b>	<b>THURS-CULC</b>
<b><u>10:30 AM</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 AM</u></b>	<b><u>6:00 PM</u></b>
5/3	5/4	5/6
5/10	5/11	5/13
5/17	5/18	5/20
5/24	5/25	5/27

### **CULC Council Communication:**

Council thanks the Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club for their financial donation to our church to help Hope's Haven Food Ministry to purchase a new refrigerator.

### **CULC Food Drive**

During the month of May, Christ's United's Hope's Haven Ministry is asking parish members to help provide food items that will supplement grocery donations from community businesses and cash donations from members and non-members. This program, SHARE YOUR FOOD WITH THE HUNGRY (Isaiah 58:7), can prevent a child, an adult or a senior from going to bed hungry. We are collecting the following specific and in-date items as follows: POP TARTS, INSTANT OATMEAL (boxes of single serve packets), COMPLETE PANCAKE MIX, PANCAKE SYRUP. Brothers and sisters of Christ's United and First Evangelical, please accept our invitation to support this vital ministry. Be actively involved by placing your donations in the designated collection box in your churches.



David Bickhart	5/1	Erma Hower	5/10
Mike Mensch	5/1	Sheila Jean Levits	5/10
Marianne Motto	5/1	Tom Greeney	5/12
Daphne Clouser	5/2	Glenn Fogel	5/15
Pearl Culp	5/2	Charlie Behrent	5/16
Patrick Crossland	5/3	John Dunkle	5/17
Kathy Spangler	5/3	Lucas Harvey	5/19
Joel Blyler	5/4	Greg Mensch	5/20
Wayne Feaster	5/4	Frances Wenrich	5/21
Winnie Aikey	5/6	Kim Sawyer	5/22
Julie Alexander	5/6	Sam Schnure	5/22
Laurie Harvey	5/6	Elizabeth Shuck	5/22
Jere Motto	5/6	Brantley Baker	5/23
Matthew Sanders	5/6	Linda Skinner	5/25
Linda Swartz	5/6	Dottie Rathfon	5/27
Bev Catherman	5/7	Ken Smith	5/27
Leann Fogel	5/7	Bret Girton	5/28
Gary Hackenberg	5/9	Mandy Roethermel	5/31
Donna Michael	5/9		



Roger & Margie Dunkle	5/4	33 yrs.
Chris & Lindsey Snyder	5/12	14 yrs.
Jim & Carol Schwartz	5/16	62 yrs.
Forrest & Torey Showalter	5/16	40 yrs.
Kevin & Autumn Shuck	5/19	20 yrs.
Lucas & Mandie Flickinger	5/27	11 yrs.

## CULC & FELC Altar Flowers

The 2021 Altar Flower charts at CULC & FELC are on the bulletin boards outside of the sanctuary. The cost of weekly flowers, which is payable to the church, is \$40.00 for CULC and \$40 for FELC. For FELC sponsors: please complete a form outlining your request.

## *Note of Appreciation....*

*Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,  
We would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy shown to us upon the unexpected passing of our beloved father and grandfather, Myron Shuck. The cards, phone calls and prayers were greatly appreciated in knowing that so many of you had us in your thoughts. A special "Thank You" to Pastor John for his visits.*

*Fondly & with God's Blessings,  
Janice & Lance Wagner  
Dianne Shuck  
Greg & Teresa Shuck*

## *In Our Prayers*

Winifred Aikey  
Marie Anderson  
Kim Blyler  
John Bowersox  
John Dunkle  
Roger Dunkle  
Mike Flickinger  
Doug & Pearl Gemberling  
Gary & Barb Gemberling  
Dave Janaes  
Janet Meyer  
Harry Moyer  
Wendy Norton  
Diane Reamer  
Kim Roberts  
Gerry Shively  
Ken Smith  
Miranda & Caleb Stroik  
Rita Tinnes  
Ron & Darlene Ulrich & family  
Glen VanDyke  
Tom Watters  
Erika Coates  
Linda Gingrich  
Bev Kauffman  
Dave Sacco

### Shut Ins:

Jim & Jan Beckley  
Jim & Florence Boop  
Pearl Culp  
Barbara Grimmooris  
Georgie Linke  
Doris Moll  
Ethel Musser  
Helen Pirone  
Meda Struble  
Ronald Ulrich  
Connie Wagner  
In Our Military:  
Brandi Gemberling  
Thaddeus Miller  
Zachary Miller

*\*If an effort to keep the prayer list current, CULC is going to clear the current list on a quarterly basis. A new list will begin in January, April, July & October. If you want to continue an existing prayer request or have a new prayer concern, please contact Margie.*





## MACY News/Events

There will be a Chicken BBQ fundraiser; details to the right. Please help support the Youth!

For the latest events, meetings, devos, information, etc., please contact Kim Sawyer at 570-713-4577.

**May 15<sup>th</sup> - 11:00-2:00**

**@ New Berlin Fireman's Field**

***Drive through! (Follow signs)***

**(Delivery to Mifflinburg if requested)**

**Benefiting MACY**

**(Mifflinburg Area Christian Youth)**

**(Mission trips & community outreach)**

**\$10 includes Chicken Half, Macaroni Salad,  
Apple Sauce, Roll and Dessert**

**Contact: Kim @ 570-713-4577**

**Norm 570-713-7988/Courtney 570-238-4086**

**Youth members/parents**

**HUGE Thank You to New Berlin Fire Company**  
**They provide a delicious meal! 😊**

## CULC May Volunteers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Comm. Asst.</u>
5/2	Glenn Spangler	Glenn Spangler
5/9	Kathy Spangler	Lee Spangler
5/16	Maurice Clouser	Janice Wagner
5/23	Greg Shuck	Diane Shuck
5/30	Barry Spangler	Barry Spangler

**MONTHLY:**

**Sound System:**

Dave Bickhart

**Altar Guild:**

Eugene Hassinger

Katherine Hassinger

**Usher:**

Greg Shuck

Barry Spangler

## FELC May Volunteers

**Ushers:**

5/2: Sheryl Fetter & Nicole Gessner

5/16: Jeff Mensch & Tom Orren

5/30: Craig & Sally Rothermel

**Offering Envelopes:** Jim Schwartz

5/9: Eric & Gwen Hull

5/23: Andy Long & Jeannie Sawyer

# MAY 2021

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 AM: Worship/HC-CULC 9:45AM: SS-CULC 10:30AM: Worship/HC-FELC	3 10:30 AM Bible Study - CULC	4 FELC 9-2 10:30 AM Bible Study - FELC	5 FELC 9-2 10AM:Hope's Haven-CULC 7PM: FELC Council	6 6:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	7	8
9 <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30 AM: Worship/HC-CULC 9:45AM: SS-CULC 10:30AM: Worship/HC-FELC	10 10:30 AM Bible Study - CULC	11 FELC 9-2 10:30 AM Bible Study - FELC	12 10AM:Hope's Haven-CULC	13 FELC 9-2 6:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	14	15
16 8:30 AM: Worship/HC-CULC 9:45AM: SS-CULC 10:30AM: Worship/HC-FELC	17 FELC 9-2 10:30 AM Bible Study - CULC	18 10:30 AM Bible Study - FELC 7PM: CULC Council	19 FELC 9-2 10AM:Hope's Haven-CULC	20 6:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	21	22
23 8:30 AM: Worship/HC-CULC 9:45AM: SS-CULC 10:30AM: Worship/HC-FELC	24 10:30 AM Bible Study - CULC	25 FELC 9-2 10:30 AM Bible Study - FELC	26 10AM:Hope's Haven-CULC	27 FELC 9-2 6:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	28	29
30 8:30 AM: Worship/HC-CULC 9:45AM: SS-CULC 10:30AM: Worship/HC-FELC	31 Memorial Day 					