

# First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

## From Our Pastor...

Matthew 10 devotes much of its attention to the mission of the gospel and the calling and commissioning of disciples (or “apostles,” with the meaning of “sent out ones”). But the stage is set in Matthew 9:36f. Jesus sees the crowds who have followed him and who have witnessed his preaching and healing. “He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus addresses the needs of people who are socially oppressed and hurting. These are for whom the gospel is intended to reach in word and deed. Therefore, Jesus indicates, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord to send out laborers into his harvest.” The verb translated here as “send” actually is translated in other parts of the Gospel as “drive,” intimating a sense of power and force.

Matthew 10:1 indicates that the mission of the disciples/apostles is generated from the authority given by Jesus to confront the ills and evils in life. As such, mission is necessarily provocative as it is directed to “change” the way people are living with “disease.” Interestingly, from Matthew’s perspective, the mission is to be carried out only towards “the lost sheep of the house of Israel,” (10:5-6) and not among the Samaritans or the gentiles (the nations). The emphasis here may be on priority rather than exclusion.

The primary task of the mission is to proclaim the gospel (good news) that “the kingdom of heaven has come near” (10:7). The effective demonstration of this good news is found in the demonstration that “the sick will be healed, the dead will be raised, lepers will be cleansed and demons will be cast out” (10:7-8). Further, the disciples/apostles are to conduct their mission without charge to its beneficiaries. The disciples/apostles are also not to profit (materially) from their mission.

Characteristically, the mission will have both positive and negative impacts. Because the mission necessitates “decision” by those who hear the gospel, the disciples/apostles can come to expect division. The initial task is to “find out who...is worthy” (10:11). To the worthy (that is, those who welcome the disciples and the gospel they proclaim), peace will be received (10:13), but to those who choose not to welcome the gospel, they will be left without peace, indicated as the disciples abruptly leave by “shaking off the dust from their feet” (10:14). This symbolic act is itself provocative, suggesting harsh judgment as well as the discharging of the disciples’ responsibility. To reject the mission is miss out on the benefits of the gospel.

Further, Jesus warns those whom he sends out as to the dangers to be encountered by

engaging in the mission of proclaiming the gospel: “see, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves” (10:16). Disciples/apostles will inevitably face conflict, persecution and suffering. Christian discipleship happens in an often hostile environment. But in such an environment, disciples/apostles are to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” The implication is for disciples/apostles to be discerningly shrewd and crafty and still be pure and untainted by such serpent-like techniques.

How are we to understand our roles as disciples/apostles as we continue the mission of the church? Do we hold back because of the inherent dangers of the mission, such as rejection and persecution? Or will we proceed with the courage and faith to follow wherever it is that Jesus will lead us?

Additionally, we need to acknowledge that the presentation of the gospel will challenge the very fabric of familial and social relationships- “For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother.... One’s foes will be members of one’s own household” (10:35-36). Earlier, Jesus expressed this reality by indicating that “brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise



## Staff & Council Members

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

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up against parents and have them put to death" (10:21). This sounds extreme and frightening. Why did Jesus present the mission of the gospel in such devastating tones?

Jesus and the gospel proclamation challenge the presuppositions of the manner in which family and society are ordered. Does God (and God's will) come first in our lives? Or do we give priority to the comforts found in our existing relationships and practices? Did Jesus intend to indiscriminately breakdown the concept of family or was he simply indi-

cating that adherence to the gospel will necessarily drive a "sword" into idolatrous structures and habits?

Mission in Jesus' name is about priorities and unsurpassed loyalty. Jesus said, "whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (10:37). Do we invest ourselves in any relationships above our relationship with Jesus?

A disciple's choices and alliances – either for the gospel or the ways of the world- from this perspective of

Matthew 10 will have a bearing of judgment upon the individual.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven" (10:32-33).

Are the expectations for disciples any different today than they were for the first disciples? What are we and what can we expect when we share the gospel of Jesus with others?

Pastor John Yost

May Birthdays					
Michael Mensch	05/01	Ryan Sauers	05/09	Linda Skinner	05/25
Marianne Motto	05/01	Erma Hower	05/10	Colin Sweet	05/25
Pearl Culp	05/02	Betty Loudenslager	05/11	Kenneth Smith	05/27
Patrick Crossland	05/03	Colby Libhart	05/13	Cooper Wagner	05/27
Wayne Feaster	05/04	Glenn Fogel	05/15	Bret Girton	05/28
Julie Alexander	05/06	Charles Behrent	05/16	Kim Kuba	05/28
Jere Motto	05/06	John Dunkle	05/17	Karen Wagner	05/28
Leann Fogel	05/07	Wendy Wehr	05/18	Maggie Smith	05/30
Stanley Sauers	05/07	Gregory Mensch	05/20	Katy Fogel	05/31
Donna Michael	05/09	Kimberley Sawyer	05/22	Mandy Rothermel	05/31

**ROCKY BOY  
RESERVATION  
MISSION TRIP**  
June 8th- June 18th

1. Pastor John Yost
2. Mindy Yost
3. Bryanna Yost
4. Kim Sawyer
5. Keith Sawyer
6. Dylan Harvey
7. Victoria Harvey
8. Aubrey Wagner
9. Cindy Harvey
10. Cher Girton
11. Calista Girton
12. Elliana Girton
13. Hannah Fee
14. Jennifer Harter
15. Anna Harter
16. Sara Harter
17. Nicholas Hornig
18. Ben Hornig

19. Barbara Randecker
20. Logan Bartlett
21. Tanna Stenger
22. Maverick Stenger
23. Alexa Hackenburg
24. Aaron Hackenburg
25. Denise Seebold
26. Emily Seebold
27. Deanna Billow
28. Collin Krout
29. Sally Rothermel
30. Jadyen Rothermel
31. Brian Fee
32. Joely Watson
33. Lydia Klinefelter
34. Logan Mensch
35. Samantha Orren
36. Cora Reed
37. Derrick Wenrick
38. Cathy Hudock
39. Daniel Crossland
40. Luke Beaver

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

**Friday & Saturday, June 16-17, 2017**

If you would be interested in attending this year's assembly, please contact the office by May 15th. Two volunteers are needed to attend on behalf of First Lutheran.

Information about the assembly is available on the synod website: [uss-elca.org](http://uss-elca.org)

## Target Gift Cards

Purchase Target Gift Cards and bring them to church each Sunday, now through June 4th! These gift cards will go towards our special service project with the Rocky Boy Reservation.



## *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 1:00. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 30 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.

April meal will be held Saturday, April 1st.



## Rooted Relational Therapy

Doug Richard, MAMFT  
Morgan Richard, MAMFT  
(570)884-4662  
[www.RootedRT.com](http://www.RootedRT.com)



## Dinner/Devo's

### Sr. High Youth

Senior High Dinner & Devos is cancelled 5/21 due to Baccalaureate.

### Jr. High Youth 5-7PM

May 21st @ Sarah Harter's.  
Dinner provided by Collin.

## Future Dates/Events

May 14th

### YOUTH SUNDAY!!

We do the service! Please be at the church by 9:30 AM.

June 8th-18th

### Servant Trip to Rocky Boy Reservation, Montana.

Leaving the church parking lot at 12 noon.

## Mutual Ministry

## Christ's United

**May 7th @ 9:00 AM**  
Music Appreciation Day

**May 25th 2:00 PM-7:00 PM**  
Blood Drive



**Sunday, May 21st**-We will have a VERY special service and luncheon to follow. This will be a combined service of our Parish held here at First Lutheran. The service will contain:

- The dedication of the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish;
- The commissioning of the servants for the Rocky Boy Reservation Trip;
- Confirmation of our youth who have complete their confirmation classes; and
- The recognition of our graduating high school seniors with presentation of quilts.

A luncheon for all, will be held in the basement following the service. Come join in the fellowship and celebration of these exciting events!

**Sunday, May 28th**-Combined service at the Mifflinburg Park Pavilion.

- Service starts at 10:30AM.
- There will be a picnic to follow the service. The Parish will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share.
- There will be a Block Party held from 1PM-4PM, with Bouncy Houses and fun for all. Please join us in a great time of worship and fellowship.



# First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

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Office Hours: MON-THURS, 9:00-2:00

Address Service Requested



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

First Lutheran Sunday Worship  
Service beginning at 10:30 AM

Sunday School will begin at  
9:15AM



*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)*

