



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

MAY

2018

From Our Pastor...

COME, LORD JESUS! COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

As we continue in the liturgical season of Easter and approach the Day of Pentecost (May 20th), we are called to respond in faith to the presence of the Risen Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our communities. The Holy Spirit is, theologically speaking, one person or aspect of the Trinity—God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Biblically, the Holy Spirit has been understood as both God's Spirit and the Spirit of the Risen Christ. In both Hebrew and koine Greek, the word for spirit is the same as the word for wind and breath (pneuma/ruah). New Testament writers understood both the power and the evasiveness of God's Spirit as they understood the wind. In the Book of Acts reading assigned for the Day of Pentecost, we read that the Holy Spirit descends upon the church like that of a dove, quite possibly evoking a symbolism of heavenly grace and peace.

The writer of Luke/Acts understands the Holy Spirit as the powerful presence of God who assisted, guided and protected Jesus in His earthly ministry, and following Jesus' resurrection and ascension, serves the will of God by empowering and equipping people with faith. For the writer, the Holy Spirit draws people to believe that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ who suffered and died for the sins of humanity and,

now, as the active presence of the Risen Lord, enables believers to trust in God's forgiveness and follow the way of life established by Jesus himself in the world. In short, the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith, to honor God by becoming servants who live their lives by acting like Jesus.

For the apostle Paul, the Holy Spirit is the authoritative power of the Risen Christ that continuously and continually reveals God's way of grace and hope within the world. The Holy Spirit evokes faith, witnesses to the effectiveness of a selfless sacrificial love exemplified in Christ, and reveals the hope of entering God's promised future of peace and salvation. For Paul, the Holy Spirit is the powerful presence of the Risen Christ which guides, directs and protects followers of Christ that they may be obedient to His Lordship while, at the same time, aiding them in their understanding of their new freedom won by Christ's actions on their behalf and received by God's grace. The Holy Spirit enables believers to honor and worship God apart from those futile attempts which seeks to gain God's favor through particular "works," religious, moral or otherwise. This Spirit also intercedes for the faithful in times of trial, testing and persecution at the hands of evil. For Paul, only by the Holy Spirit can believers resist evil

and therefore walk in and by God's grace.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus refers to the Spirit as the "paraclete." In the Greek known to John, the meaning of "paraclete" could variously mean advisor, counselor, comforter, consoler, or helper/mate/guide. All these meanings would apply to the way Jesus saw the Spirit acting in the world on His behalf. In John, the Holy Spirit reveals the light of Christ over against the darkness of the world and draws people to the truth of God. The Spirit enables believers to be "born from above/born again" and enter into the presence of eternal life by believing that Jesus is the "truth and the life." The Holy Spirit elicits faith in Jesus and guides the faithful to do the very works (indeed even greater works) of Jesus. In John, the Spirit acts in and within both Jesus'; perceived absence and nearness in order to educate, inform and guide believers to live by faith in the here-and-now as the Risen Jesus continually prepares and establishes a future for all whom are drawn into God's eternal promise.

For all the biblical and theological references of the Holy Spirit, do we feel that we are in a good and sound faith position today to talk about how and when the Holy Spirit is active in our lives? Are we

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Girtton, Asst. Church Adm.
- Paul Houtz, Sexton
- Harry Boyer, Council President
- Jeff Mensch, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Girtton, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Girtton, 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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able to articulate what the Holy Spirit is doing in and through us, within our communities, and throughout the world? Are we able to make the connection between the work and activity of the Holy Spirit, the presence of the Risen Christ and our lives of Christian faith? Are we cognizant of and do we understand the grace-given interconnections of faith, baptism, and being sealed by the Spirit? Are we able to "see" the work of the Holy Spirit as something beyond practical reasoning, moral

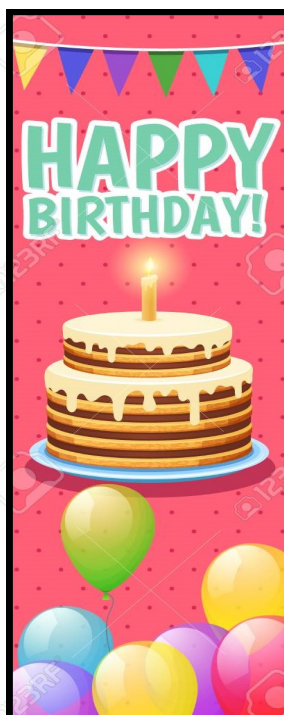
reflection and centeredness, and having a good conscience? Are we aware of when, where, and how the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we are at a loss for words and actions (Romans 8)? How are we to understand the connection between our "spirituality" and the active presence of the Holy Spirit?

Are we able to notice the ways in which the Holy Spirit is continuously drawing us into God's truth? Are we able to "see" the manner in which the Spirit helps us to resist evil and the ways of idolatry and mark the many and various

ways the Spirit protects us from harm and danger? Do we "feel" the Spirit's comforting presence in times of suffering and hurt? Can we attest to the Spirit leading us to the unity that Jesus prayed for (John 17)? Are we aware of the manner in which the spirit directs and guides our prayers when we are unsure and uncertain of what to say?

May we proclaim together: Come Holy Spirit!

--Pastor John



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

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.

Adult Sunday School Class

May Sunday School Schedule for Adult Class
9:15 in the Multi-purpose room:

Sunday May 6 --
DVD series part IV



May Bible Study Schedule

Monday 10:30 a.m. CULC	Tuesday 10:30 a.m. FELC	Wednesday 7:30 p.m. CULC
April 30th	May 1st	May 2nd
May 7th	May 8th	May 9th
May 14th	May 15th	May 16th
May 21st	May 22nd	May 23rd

Thank You



Thank you to all who donated to, helped out at and attended the 2nd Annual Youth Hosted Spaghetti Dinner. We really appreciate you and your support to raise money for our youth programs and mission trips. A GREAT time was had by all!!

Volunteers Needed

The 2018 Workcamp is seeking at least one, or more, adult male and adult female, 21 years of age or older to serve as a chaperone during the week of workcamp, June 16-23, 2018. Please share if you might know of someone who would want to serve this week.

Church Organizations

Would you like to be more involved in church, but don't know how to or what there is for you? You will have the opportunity to find out all this information following the church service on Sunday, May 20th. The Multi-Purpose Room will feature representatives from many of the Church's organizations who will be willing to explain their organization and answer any questions. Light refreshments will be served. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to stop by.

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.



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

Now is the time to think about being part of the Camp Mount Luther's summer programs in the coming year. The brochure for Summer 2018 has just been published to the camp's website (www.campmountluther.org) in the summer camp section.

This year's summer camp season will begin on June 17 and run until August 16. There are programs for all ages from preschool to senior high, and for adults and families.

- Spring Workday: Saturday, May 12, 8:00a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 13th Annual Bishop's Open Golf Classic:
Monday, May 14, 11:00 a.m. - Registration starts; 11:30 a.m. - lunch; 12:30p.m. - Golfing Shotgun Start Susquehanna Valley Country Club, Routes 11 & 15, Hummel's Wharf
- Join a Camel Crew



Parish Happenings

May 12th: Mother's Day Mother/Daughter & Son Banquet at Christ's United beginning @ 6PM. Program: well known magician, Children 12 and under—free, Children over 12 to adult—\$4 per person. Deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, May 6th. See Barb Randecker, Jim Schwartz or the church office for tickets.



May 19th: Our Parish will be holding a chicken & waffle benefit dinner on Saturday, May 19, at Christ's United, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Proceeds will go help John Snook, a local farmer and First Lutheran member who has health issues. The cost is \$10.00 per person over age 10 and \$5.00 for those age 10 and under. Help is needed with the cooking and serving. They are also looking for people willing to bake brownies and cookies for dessert. Contact Greg & Teresa Shuck for more information.



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.



The 2018 Workcamp is seeking at least one, or more, adult male and adult female, 21 years of age or older to serve as a chaperone during the week of Workcamp, June 16-23, 2018. Please share if you might know of someone who would want to serve this week.



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: \$ 15,430

Difference: \$ -1,187

General Fund Balance: \$-1,170.10 (EOM 4/18)

Thank you to the WELCA ladies for
transferring \$7,000 to the General Fund
from their fund!

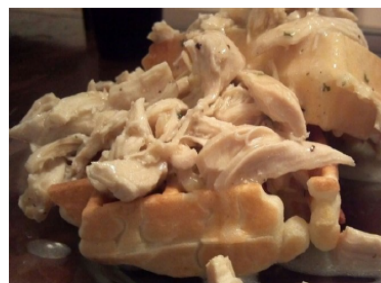


PARISHIONERS HELPING PARISHIONERS

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.



Enjoy a Chicken and
Waffle Dinner
and
Help a Local Farmer
in Need at the Same
Time!

Chicken & Waffle Dinner Benefiting **John Snook**

All proceeds will go to
John to help out with his
medical expenses.

A ministry of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish
Christ's United Lutheran Church, Millmont
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg

**CHRIST'S UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
a.k.a. "4 Bells Church"
13765 Old Turnpike RD,
Millmont, PA 17845
3.5 miles west of Mifflinburg on
PA 45

570.922.1860
www.4bellschurch.com

**Saturday,
May 19, 2018**

3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

\$10.00/person
\$5.00/age 10 & under

April 4, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1906 by Harry Boyer.

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

Absent: Libby Loss

Pr. John led devotions studying John 14.

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

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

Pastor's report: Pr. John reported that his immediate concerns that we need to deal with are some issues relating to the congregation; his concern is if all voices are being heard or drowned out by the loud ones. He feels that perhaps there's too much information or that some information is being relayed strictly through social media. That excludes parts of the congregation and we need to be careful with this and engage more in face to face conversations. Emphasis will be put to share information in all ways, both old and new.

Communication: nothing received

Executive: None

Gifts & Endowments – None

Worship & Music – Bill Musser reported that we are need of a new Altar Guild director. Sheryl Fetter is stepping down. Cherubs are doing a great job.

Property – Jim Schwartz reported that we are still having problems with the handicap bathroom but believe it is now fixed. The 4x4's lining the sidewalk of the parking lot are rotting and need to be replaced. Paul will put new ones in. We are using a tremendous amount of oil. New furnaces and coal are not working adequately. No complaints have been heard about the new hires and all seems to be going well with them. If there are any concerns please bring them to the property committee.

Christian Education –no report

Fellowship & Recreation – no report

Service & Outreach – Deanna Billow reported that the directory should soon be coming. Last changes were submitted to them. May 20th there will be a presentation for all the congregation of all the various committees throughout the church. Jim Schwartz reported that there was little response to the parish egg hunt. He feels we need to push for the upcoming parent/child dinners. Deanna received a request to present to council that there be a board with dollar amounts asking for donations for a member in need. There was discussion and no action was taken on that at this time.

Finance – Meeting will be held in April.

Youth – Written report submitted listing activities and expenses. The annual spaghetti fund raiser is coming up on the 14th. Tickets are for sale and available in the office.

Staff Support – no report

Parish Council: Council met March 19th. Upcoming events: chicken & waffle dinner on May 19th benefiting John Snook, a worship/picnic in the park in June. Discussion to have a "back to school" service at Hidden Valley sometime in August.

Business:

Synod Assembly: Volunteers are needed to attend.

Finances: Jeff Mensch stated our current General Fund is negative \$9,000. We have currently already spent our total budget for the year for oil. The offering total is less than last year. We are not spending frivolously; just typical daily operating expenses. However, our income/offering is not covering them. Discussion was had regarding our current heating systems and the way they are operating (or not). It's discussed that we need a mechanical engineer to come in and analyze our whole system. Jim Schwartz will contact Silvertip, Zartman Construction and Tom Ross and get a quote for an in-depth analysis to be done and report back to council next month.

Meeting closed with prayer by Harry Boyer and adjourned @ 1818 .


Respectfully submitted,

Heather L Klose

Recording Secretary

MAY 2018

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>6 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC- Thrivent Temple Talk Coffee Hour after worship 11:45AM: Cherub Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 10:30AM: Bible Study 7-8PM: Bible Study-MPR</p>	<p>2 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir 7PM: Council</p>	<p>3 12 PM: WELCA luncheon- Carriage Corner 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's 11AM-12:30PM: Community Meal</p>
<p>13 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC –Youth Sunday 11:45AM: Cherub Choir</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>8 10:30AM: Bible Study 7-8PM: Bible Study-MPR</p>	<p>9 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner 6PM: Mother's Day Dinner—Christ's United</p>
<p>20 9:15AM: Sunday School –last day for summer 10:30AM: Worship/HC- Church Organization Q & A immediately following the service in the multi-purpose</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>15 10:30AM: Bible Study 7-8PM: Bible Study-MPR</p>	<p>16 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 88AM: Men's Breakfast- Old Turnpike 3-7PM: Chicken & Waffle Benefit Dinner—Christ's United 4PM: J. Sanden Memorial</p>
<p>27 10:30AM: Worship/HC- 11:45AM: Cherub Choir</p>	<p>28 <i>Office Closed</i> </p>	<p>22 10:30AM: Bible Study 7-8PM: Bible Study-MPR</p>	<p>23 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6PM: Cub Scouts</p>	<p>26 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's</p>

MAY VOLUNTEERS

Chief Usher: Barb Randecker

Announcements: Shirley Heasley

Altar/Communion: Karen Boyer

Offering Envelopes: Sue Jows & Jane Moore
(begins 5/8)

Acolytes:

6: Head Usher
13: Youth
20: Head Usher
27: Paige Bartlett

Lay Readers:

6: Karen Boyer
13: Youth
20: Earl Michael
27: Don Seebold II

Children's Church:

6: Mandy Rothermel
13: Youth
20: Sally Rothermel
27: Jamie Bartlett

Ushers:

6: Harry Boyer, Cindy Harvey
Carol Klose, Liz Loss
13: Youth
20: Jeff Hackenburg, Jeff Mensch,
Earl Michael, Jane Moore
27: Harvey & Brenda Ilgen
Dave Weaver, Max Zeller

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

Sunday School begins at
9:15AM.



Please visit 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/text)
or e-mail, prjohnyost@gmail.com.*

