

BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2024

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

Grace and peace to you!

The season of Lent has begun, and we are part way through our journey to repent and return. If you have attended our Wednesday night services, you have been a part of my sermon series "Return to the Lord." On Ash Wednesday, we heard from the book of Joel: "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster." Each one of the sermons in this series will focus on a particular event in the Passion and will have a focus on the people who were involved in that event.

On Ash Wednesday, we heard "A Call to Return." We have also heard "Return to Prayer" and "Return from Betrayal." As we continue on our Lenten journey, we will travel to Holy Week listening to "Return from False Witness," "Return from Denial," and "Return to the Kingdom of God." On Maundy Thursday, we will "Return to the Table," and on Good Friday, we will "Return to Truth." On Easter morning, we will "Return and See." I invite you to join us as we make our way to the cross and the empty tomb as we "Return to the Lord." We have a time of food and fellowship before our Wednesday services at 6 pm, and our service begins at 7 pm. On Maundy Thursday, we will have a meal at 6 pm and a service at 7 pm with a stripping of the altar.

May your Lenten journey remind you of your baptism and the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

May we rejoice on Easter Sunday that our Lord's call to return was issued so that we might have abundant life through Jesus Christ, the one who lived among us, the one who died on the cross for our sins, and rose again to give us eternal life.

Peace in Christ,
The Rev. Curt Wingert



2/13 - A member of the parish recently shared a text message that they received from a 740 phone number claiming to be Pastor Curt. The message stated, "There is something I need you to do for me." They were more than likely going to ask this person to purchase gift cards.

Please note that I will never text or email you to do something for me or buy gift cards for me. If you ever have any doubts about whether something is legitimate, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. ~ Pastor Curt

2/23 - I received an email from a church member (but it was not their correct email address). This person was asking me to send our member directory in PDF. I believe this is how the scams are starting. Please DO NOT email anyone our member directory. ~ Pastor Curt

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#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

**JOINT PARISH WORSHIP DATES FOR LENT AND EASTER**

**February 21 – March 20**

Light Supper & Holden Prayers & Devotions  
Meal at **6:00 p.m.** Service at **7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, February 21** - First Lutheran  
**Wednesday, February 28** – Christ's United  
**Wednesday, March 6** - First Lutheran  
**Wednesday, March 13** – Christ's United  
**Wednesday, March 20** - First Lutheran

**Sunday, March 24**

Palm Sunday Services  
**8:30 a.m. CULC – 10:30 a.m. FELC**

**Thursday, March 28**

Maundy Thursday Service & Meal, First Lutheran  
**6:00 p.m. Meal - 7:00 p.m. Worship in Sanctuary**

**Friday, March 29**

Good Friday Service, Christ's United – **7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 30**

Easter Egg Hunt – CULC - **1:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 31**

Sunrise Service, Christ's United - **6:30 a.m.**  
Easter Breakfast, Christ's United – **7:30 p.m.**  
Mid-Morning Service, Christ's United – **8:30 a.m.**  
Festival of the Resurrection, First Lutheran - **10:30 a.m.**



## ***LENT & EASTER ACTIVITIES***

### **Lenten Sermon Series**

For our Midweek, Holy Week, and Easter Services I will be doing a sermon series called “Return to the Lord.”

In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel’s prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord: “Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13). God’s invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme “Return to the Lord” and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God’s grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God’s wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to “turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him” (Joel 2:14).

Each sermon in this series focuses on a particular event in the Passion, with a special focus on the people involved in the event. Studying the events and people helps to connect the hearers with their own sinful nature, to emphasize how we have turned away from the Lord, and to reinforce and rejoice in God’s call for us to return to Him with all our heart. ~ Pastor Curt

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Our parish will be holding a community Easter egg hunt on **Saturday, March 30**, for ages 0 to 12, starting at 1:00 p.m. Set up starts at **11:00 a.m.** We will need plastic eggs, candy, snacks, other items to fill the eggs, and volunteers to fill eggs. For more information, contact Jennifer Keister (570-966-3085) or Tammy Boop (570-966-1610).





## ***PARISH NEWS***

### **Bible Study**

The weekly Bible study will take place on Mondays at First Lutheran at **1:30 p.m.** Meeting dates are **March 4, 11, 18, 25**. All are welcome.

### **Praise Worship**

Alternative Praise Worship services will be held **every third Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.** at First Lutheran.

### **Parish Council**

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Sunday, March 17**, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mifflinburg, after its 10:30 a.m. worship service, which will be approximately 11:30 a.m.

### **Breaking Bread (formerly known as the Progressive Dinner)**

Breaking Bread is a time to get together with others in the Parish to have a meal/food and get to know others with whom you don't usually socialize. Invite 4-10 others to gather on a day that works for you. It can be in your home, at the park, at a favorite ice cream or breakfast or pizza shop. The importance is being together for an hour or two and sharing "bread" which could be in the form of pizza, appetizers, ice cream or a meal. Feel free to ask those joining you to bring something if hosting a meal at your home and be aware of any food allergies.

There are no set rules! It's great to invite those in our church family that have never had social interaction with you in the past. Ask them to bring a friend! If an individual doesn't have transportation – offer to pick them up! Mix up ages and backgrounds – so interesting! Play cards or games, put a puzzle together while chatting...expect that when you say good-bye that it will not be the last time you see or talk to each other.

**Note!** Thank you to the Breaking Bread hosts on February 23! The next opportunity to join others for fellowship and food of any kind (remember it can be ice cream, pizza or a shared meal at a restaurant or home) is April 3. It's all about the fellowship and

getting to know each other outside the church walls! Sign-up sheets will be on church bulletin boards. Contact Pastor Curt, Kim Sawyer or Dianne Shuck with any questions.

**Weis/Wenger’s Gift Cards Offer**

Gift cards make wonderful gifts for college students, birthdays, weddings, ♥ day, holidays, birth of a new baby, a new neighbor....the list is endless....such a useful gift!

**First Lutheran** - Offers cards in denominations of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Simply make checks payable to “First Lutheran Church” and use them as cash or the grateful recipient can do the same. Don Seebold will even deliver! Give him a call at 570-412-1505. ***YOU receive the full value of the card and then Weis gives 5% & Wenger’s gives 10% of the purchase to the FELC mission fund!***

**Christ’s United** - Grocery cards can now be purchased from Idella Zimmerman (570-91340). Available grocery cards in denominations of \$25 or \$50 will be for Weis Markets, L & L Marketplace, and Wenger’s. If you would like to pay by check, it should be made payable to “Christ’s United Lutheran Church” and put “Grocery cards” on the memo line.

**Texting Program for the Parish**



Pastor Curt is using a new texting program for the parish called Text in Church. With this program, he is able to send out mass/individual text messages to church members reminding them that church services have changed, share upcoming events, notify that church has been cancelled due to weather, remind committees of meetings, prayer requests, etc. If you have not already signed up for this program, please complete the following, place it in the offering plate, or return it to the Pastor or the church office. Also, if you do sign up, the text messages that you receive will come from the following number **814-527-3720**.

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**TEXT IN CHURCH PROGRAM**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

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*It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold:
when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.”
~Charles Dickens, “Great Expectations”*



WHO WANTS TO SERVE WITH JERRY AMABILE AT CITY OF JOY – RWANDA?

I met with Jerry for the second time in regards to serving others through missions. Jerry goes to City of Joy at least three times each year. He knows the heart for serving that our church parish has and would love for us to join him on one of these trips

***He is suggesting right after Thanksgiving, early January or early February
(He avoids the summer as his business needs him during those months)
He is willing to go any and all of those dates – we do not all have to go at the
same time***

IF you have any interest in doing this – join us on Sunday, April 21 at First Lutheran basement at noon. We will have a light “pick up sandwich lunch”

- ❖ No commitment – join us to see if you are interested or if you want a comedy show 😊
- ❖ ALL ages! No one is too old for this type of service
- ❖ No skills needed! Do you love others? If yes, you qualify!

Kim Sawyer

kimssawyer@gmail.com or 570-713-4577



FELC NEWS

Monthly Coffee Hour – Sunday, March 17

We will be holding our next monthly coffee hour on **Sunday, March 17, following worship.** We have a monthly coffee hour on the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is held in the MPR following the service. We need 2 or 3 people to volunteer each month by making food items. The set-up and beverages are provided. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up.

Word in Season Devotionals

The Word in Season devotionals for Apr.-June 2024 are available in the back of the sanctuary and on the table in the hallway.

Altar Flowers

The cost of altar flowers is now \$50 for 2 vases, instead of \$40.

Empty Coffee Cans Needed

We are in need of empty #1 coffee cans for altar flowers. You may place them on the pew in the office hallway.

Ministerium Backpack Program

First Lutheran is in charge of the May/June backpack distribution for students in the Mifflinburg School District who may be lacking what they need on days away from school, such as weekends. The churches of the Mifflinburg Ministerium have been providing the backpacks of food since 2015. FIRST will be accepting monetary donations for the distribution.

Young Followers Activities

If you would like to be added to the group texts, please contact Liz at 570-412-5598.

Christian Ed. Info

We will only have a SPECIAL Young Followers Church on the SECOND Sunday of each month following the Young Followers message. We will be using the Sparks Story Bible that corresponds with the weekly scripture. These monthly lessons will include Sparks Story Reading, Coloring Page, and a Craft.

- ~ **March 10** Sparks Story [John 3:14-21](#) *The lifting up of the Son of Man*
(Lenten/Easter Special Idea, too)
- ~ **April 14** Sparks Story [Luke 24:36b-48](#) *Eating with the risen Christ*
- ~ **May 12** Sparks Story [Acts 1:15-17, 21-26](#) *Matthias added to the apostles*
- ~ **June, July, August – off**

Young Followers Church Volunteer Schedule

March 10 – Shirley Heasley
 April 14 – Christian and Buffy Boyer
 May 12 – Kortney McBryan

If you are unable to fulfill your month, please try to make an exchange with another month’s volunteer. If that is not possible, contact one of the following substitutes: Sally Rothermel, Liz Loss, Sherri Neece, Mandy Rothermel, Libby Loss. If you are still unable to get a replacement, contact Ann Beckley. Lesson plans will be e-mailed to you two weeks prior to your assigned month.

Share Your Faith with Our Youth

If you wrote a devotional, what would it sound like? I am looking for some adults to share their faith journey, how they found faith, or where they have seen Jesus in their lives with our Young Followers (grades 6-12). Instead of having these youth read a devotional, I would like for them to hear a “live” devotional. Please reach out if you would be interested. Thank you! Liz: 570-412-5598

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### **THE CROCUS**

*The golden crocus reaches up  
 To catch a sunbeam in her cup.  
 ~Walter Crane*



## ***CULC NEWS***

### **CULC Money Counters**

We are still in need of additional offering counters after worship services. If interested, contact Barry Spangler (570-966-0406).

## **Fellowship Hall Use**

March 7 – Hubner Seed Meeting

March 16 - FFA – Pasta Supper

March 23 – Venture Crew – Chicken BBQ

## **Offering Envelopes**

In 2024, we are continuing to use our “homemade” offering envelopes. If you need some, contact Kim Blyler (570-716-5601).



## ***UPCOMING MEALS***

### **Lenten Meals**

**March 6** – Chicken corn & chicken noodle soups, ham & chicken salad sandwiches, and dessert (FELC)

**March 13** – Menu to be Determined (CULC)

**March 20** – Ham/green beans/potatoes, bread, applesauce, and dessert (FELC)

**March 28 – Maundy Thursday** – BBQ, macaroni and cheese, dessert (FELC)

### **Free Community Meal at FIRST**

First Lutheran will be serving a free community meal on **Saturday, April 6, from 11:00 – 12:30**. All are welcome! Please enter the door in the alley behind the church. Meals for the next quarter will be held on **May 4 & June 1**.

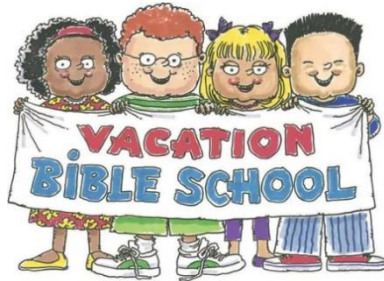
### **Chicken Barbecue**

Venture Crew 2536 is sponsoring a chicken barbeque on **Saturday, March 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** A chicken half platter consisting of baked potato, baked beans and applesauce sells for \$14.00, while a chicken half is \$8.00 each. Call 570-768-6582 or 570-768-5525 for tickets or more information.

## Upcoming Meals

Also mark your calendars for the following additional 2024 Meals at CULC:

**April 27** – Ham Loaf Dinner  
**May 25** – Turkey Dinner  
**September 28** – Turkey Dinner  
**November 2** – Pot Pie Quart Sale



**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY JULY 21 - THURSDAY JULY 25**

2024 Community VBS Sponsored by the: **Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish**

Who: anyone going into Kindergarten to Sixth Grade

WHERE: at the Mifflinburg Town Park Pavilion

TIME: 5:30 p.m. we will provide a meal and camp will begin @ 6pm to 8:15 pm

Registration forms will be online in the near future

[www.felcmifflinburg.org](http://www.felcmifflinburg.org)

[www.4bellschurch.com](http://www.4bellschurch.com)

Details will also be on our FB page

Please watch for details to be a part of Buffalo Valley Parish VBS...keep the dates open July 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

Keep in mind, any volunteers that will be working directly with the youth must have a volunteer clearance. The Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Certification) can now be submitted online through the Child Welfare Solution (CWIS) self-service portal. Plan ahead and get this taken care of:..

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/PA-Child-Abuse-History-Clearance.aspx>

This certification is **FREE for volunteers!!!**



## Donationis Needed

First Round of donations needed for VBS Crafts and Games:

**Start saving these items, a box will be placed in each church after EASTER!!**

- \$\$ donations for supplies
- empty toilet paper rolls
- empty cleaned Campbell's soup cans
- small bags of bird seed 4/per church
- someone or a group of people to make a Backyard Jenga Set

-- <https://www.diypete.com/how-to-make-a-diy-giant-jenga-game>

Step 1: Build the Giant Jenga Game Platform. Cut the 3/4" plywood to 18"x18" using a circular saw or even a table saw.

Step 2: Gather 2x4s and Cut out the 54 Jenga Pieces. With the 2"x4" boards we cut 54 Jenga pieces at 10 1/2" each. ...

Step 3: Sand the Jenga Pieces. ...

Step 4: Stack the Jenga Pieces up. ...

Step 5: Play Jenga!

- we will also be looking for 4-5 corn hole games to be available for the week of VBS

Watch for future details for more items...

Thank you, Ann Beckley VBS Coordinator



## Daffy Definitions

- **AMUSEMENT PARK:** A walled city populated mainly by teenagers, who willingly pay to have their bodies and brains agitated on a variety of fiendish contraptions designed to induce vomiting.
- **ANTIQUE:** An item your grandparents bought, your parents got rid of, and you're buying again.
- **BACON:** The main reason you're not a vegetarian.
- **BUFFET:** A French word that means get up and get it yourself.
- **BULLETIN:** A fan used in churches without air conditioning
- **CACTUS:** Mother Nature's pincushion
- **CAMPERS:** Nature's way of feeding mosquitoes.
- **CHICKENS:** The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.
- **EMERGENCY NUMBERS:** Police station, Fire Department and Places that deliver.
- **ETERNITY:** The last two minutes of a football game.
- **EVENING NEWS:** Where they begin with "good evening" and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- **FEEDBACK:** The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.
- **FEET:** A device for finding Legos in the dark.
- **GARDEN:** One of a vast number of free outdoor restaurants operated by charity-minded amateurs in an effort to provide healthful, balanced meals for insects, birds and animals.
- **GRADUATION:** A ceremony that marks the end of study and the beginning of education.
- **GRANDCHILDREN:** The only people who can get more out of you than the IRS.
- **GREETING CARD:** When you care enough to send the very best, but not enough to write something.
- **GROCERY LIST:** What you spend half an hour writing, then forget to take with you to the store.
- **HOSPITAL:** A place where they wake you up to give you a sleeping pill.
- **IRS:** An organization that has what it takes to take what you've got.
- **JITTERBUG:** Tense insect
- **JURY:** Twelve people who determine which client has the better attorney.
- **KINDNESS:** a language the deaf can hear, the blind can see, and the mute can speak.
- **SMILE:** A curve that can set a lot of things straight.



IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**CHRIST'S UNITED**

Paul Brann  
Becky Dunkle  
Roger Dunkle  
Darlene Endy  
Amy Evers  
Annette Feltman  
Gary Gemberling  
Pearl Gemberling  
George (Mick) Guffey  
Gary & Janet Hackenberg  
Roy Laudermilch  
Tonia Longer  
Harry Moyer  
Dave Oberlin  
Donnie Poeth  
Eve Rantz  
Louise Ritter  
Larry Sampsell  
Sam & Ethel Schnure  
Bill Smith  
Lee & Kathy Spangler  
Tom Watters  
Jessica Wheeler  
Glenn Wiand

**The Shut-Ins:**

Betty Goss, Helen Pirone,  
Dottie Rathfon

**Also:**

The family of Winnie Aikey &  
Doug Denisen

*In an effort to keep the prayer list current, Christ's United will clear their current list on a quarterly basis. A new list will begin in January, April, July, and October. If you want to continue an existing prayer request or have a new prayer concern, please contact Margie.*

**FIRST LUTHERAN**

Cathy Hower Brungard  
Amanda Galer  
Logan Roush

**The Shut-Ins**

Mary Lib Dunkle  
Lois Elliott  
Doris Moll  
Ethel Musser  
June Ocker  
Barb Reed  
Dotty Seebold  
James Shipton  
Ken & Pat Smith  
Nancy Ulrich  
Trena Zeller

**The Troops**

Thaddeus Miller (deployed overseas)  
Zachary Miller (deployed overseas)







With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*



**Winifred Aikey**

The Christ's United family is grieving the loss of **Winifred Aikey**, 88, who joined the Saints Triumphant on February 12.

Winnie, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at her home.

She was born May 6, 1935, in Troxelville, a daughter of the late John and Sara (Bingaman) Swartz. She was a 1953 graduate of the Beaver Vocational High School. On June 19, 1953, she married Gordon L. Aikey who preceded her in death on Jan. 3, 2011.

Winifred had served as the postmaster for more than 30 years in Troxelville. She loved to cook and found her greatest joy in her family.

Surviving are two daughters, Christy Poston and Bonnie (Thomas) Greeney; two sons, Gordon "Butch" Aikey Jr. and Gail, and Karl Aikey and Melody; 12 grandchildren, Jodi Marshall, Steven Musser, Alison Bowlan-Kurland, Adam Turner, Eric Poston, Matthew Aikey, Sara Aikey, Brandon Ulrich, Samantha Cona, Scott Greeney, Jason Greeney, and Michelle Lloyd; 18 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Jon in infancy; a granddaughter, Rebecca Aikey; and a son-in-law, Cecil Poston.

A visitation will was held from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Hummel Funeral Home, 574 Hill St., Middleburg, followed by a celebration of her life at 7 with the Rev. John Yost officiating.

Private burial will be in the Troxelville Union Cemetery.

Contributions to honor Winifred's memory can be made to Christ United Lutheran Church, 13768 Old Turnpike Road, Millmont, PA 17845 or the Mifflinburg Community Ambulance Association, 104 Chestnut St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844.



## Doug Denisen

Douglas G. Denisen, 79, passed away on the early morning of Saturday, March 2, 2024 in the Geisinger Medical Center after a short time with cancer.

He was born on August 20, 1944 in Austin, MN. At a young age and mirroring the rest of his family, Doug developed a fascination and love for music that lasted his entire life. He graduated from Austin High School, Austin, MN, in 1962 where he was an active participant in both high school choir and marching band.

Doug moved to Naples, FL and worked in various roles in construction until finally co-owning his own company. While there he also served as the choir director at both Shepherd of the Glades and Emmanuel Lutheran churches.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents Glenn and Dorothy Denisen, and his sister Susan Moxter. He is survived by his wife Sharon (Sampsell) Denisen, children from a previous marriage Tera, Matthew, and Michael, sister Lynne Miller (Terry Brown) and brother Don Denisen (Terrie), grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his musical pursuits and in his leisure time, he enjoyed fishing at the family cabin, working in his garden and yard, grilling and cooking for his friends and family, attending jazz and classical music concerts, and spending time with his beloved Golden Retrievers, first being Herbie Hancock, and then later in life, his special girl Ambrosky. Doug's easy going, gentle, and affable nature will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service to celebrate Doug's life will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to: Canine Companions, [www.canine.org](http://www.canine.org), PO Box 446, Santa Rosa, CA. 95402 or Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz, [www.friendsofjazz.org](http://www.friendsofjazz.org), 5721 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112.

To share in Doug's online memorial, please visit [www.adamofh.com](http://www.adamofh.com)

***Please keep the Aikey & Denisen families in your prayers.***



## ***MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES***

### **CULC BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 – Cliff Valentine
- 2 – Kristi Haedich
- 3 - Brianna Zimmerman
- 4 – Donald Ruhl, Jr.
- 7 – Cain Showalter
- 9 – Tammy Boop
- 12 – Jim Zimmerman
- 14 – Carter Beiler, Calvin Showalter
- 15 – Eve Rantz
- 16 – Jeff Ruhl
- 17 – Denise Hosterman
- 19 – Roger Dunkle, Tina Erdley,  
Ben Wenrich, Pastor Curt Wingert
- 20 – Louise Ritter
- 21 – Kaitlyn Erdley, Cortney Klose
- 22 – Hailey Foresman, Tiffany Schnure
- 26 – Don Fornwalt, Carla Ruhl,  
Nathan Sanders
- 27 – Duane Lapp
- 30 – Trevor Clouser
- 31 - Judy Mecouch

### **CULC ANNIVERSARIES**

- 22 – Colby & Corrin Zechman (2014)
- 23 - Joel & Pauline Templin (2013)
- 25 – Steve & Judy Moyer (1994)

### **FELC BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 – Barb Randecker
- 5 – Hattie Page
- 6 – Janet Reed
- 8 – Paula Christy, Frederick Dale,  
Thomas Shirk
- 10 – Halley Watson
- 11 - William Miller
- 12 – Jaydon Girton, Emily Seebold
- 13 – Dennis Reed
- 14 – Gail Erdley, Earl Michael, Jr.,  
William Musser
- 17 – Bruce Graham, Debra Harvey,  
Joshua Klose
- 18 – Diane Scott
- 19 – Maverick Stenger
- 20 – Michael Lynch
- 23 – Conner Hicks
- 25 – Kortney McBryan
- 26 – Brooke Harvey,  
Jennie Servinsky
- 28 – Dale Spotts

### **FELC ANNIVERSARIES**

- 24 – Scott & Tracy Baylor (41 yrs)  
Dennis & Kim Wagner (40 yrs)
- 27 – Earl & Donna Michael, Jr. (69 yrs)  
Denny & Sherri Neece (20 yrs)



**VOLUNTEERS**

**CULC**

| <b>Date:</b> | <b>Greeters:</b>    | <b>Lay Reader:</b> | <b>Communion Asst:</b> |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 3/3          | Becky Dunkle        | Greg Shuck         | Judy Moyer             |
| 3/10         | Gina Buttorff       | Lisa Lapp          | Dianne Shuck           |
| 3/13         |                     | Maurice Clouser    | Janice Wagner          |
| 3/17         | Jim & Karen Adams   | Maurice Clouser    | Dianne Shuck           |
| 3/24         | Dennis & Tammy Boop | Glenn Spangler     | Janice Wagner          |
| 3/29         |                     | Lisa Lapp          |                        |
| 3/31 (6:30)  |                     | Greg Shuck         | Greg Shuck             |
| 3/31 (8:30)  | Deken Kline Family  | Barry Spangler     | Barry Spangler         |

**Sound System:** Barry Spangler

**Altar Guild:** Bev Catherman & Barry Spangler

**Ushers:** Boop Family

**REMINDER!** You are responsible for finding a substitute if you are unable to be here when scheduled. Altar Guild Members, Sound System Operators & Ushers are responsible for any special services scheduled during the month.



**FELC**

| <b>Date:</b> | <b>Lay Reader:</b> | <b>Ushers:</b>               | <b>Young Followers:</b> |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/3          | Jeff Mensch        | Carol Klose/Liz Loss         |                         |
| 3/10         | Karen Boyer        | Christian Boyer/Jim Schwartz | Shirley Heasley         |
| 3/17         | Barb Randecker     | Harry Boyer/Dewey Reed       |                         |
| 3/24         | Shirley Heasley    | Nicole Klose/Marianne Motto  |                         |
| 3/31         | Linda Skinner      | Jeannie Sawyer/Kim Sawyer    |                         |

**Acolytes:**

3/3 – Harry Boyer    3/10 – Erica Boyer    3/17 – Hannah Boyer  
3/24 – Ava McBryan    3/31 – Brynn Umholtz

**Chief Usher: Don Seebold II**

**Money Counters:** Sue Jows/Jim Schwartz    **Altar Guild:** Lori Bailey/Kim Sawyer

*If you are scheduled to help with the service and are unable to fulfill your responsibility, please contact the Chief Usher. If you are scheduled to count money and are unable to do so, please find a substitute.*

## **BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH**

**The Rev Curt Wingert, Pastor**

**Pastor Curt's e-mail:** [pastorbuffalovalleyparish@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbuffalovalleyparish@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Members:** Shirley Heasley, Jennifer Keister, Terry Kline,  
Linda Lewis, Marianne Motto, Barry Spangler

**CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
13765 Old Turnpike Rd., Millmont, PA  
17845 570-922-1860

**CULC e-mail:** [culc@4bellschurch.com](mailto:culc@4bellschurch.com)  
**CULC Website:** [www.4bellschurch.com](http://www.4bellschurch.com)  
**CULC Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/4bellchurch1>

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

### **STAFF MEMBERS**

**The Members of the Congregation,**

*The Ministers*

**Matthew Wagner,** Organist

**Diane Valentine & Karen**

*Zimmerman,* Pianists

**Barry Spangler,** Digital Music Arranger

**Loretta Martin,** Custodian

**Margie Dunkle,** Secretary/Asst. Tr.

**Dianne Shuck,** Treasurer

**Janet Hackenberg,** Asst. Treasurer

**Lisa Lapp,** Financial Recording  
Secretary

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Joel Blyler**–Worship & Music

**Kim Blyler**–Facilities & Administration

**Gina Buttorff**–Inreach & Outreach

**Bev Catherman**–Eucharist & Visitation

**Terry Kline**–Facilities & Administration

**Lisa Lapp**–Facilities & Administration

**Greg Shuck**–President/Christian Ed

**Teresa Shuck**–Inreach & Outreach

**Linda Smith**–Inreach & Outreach

**Barry Spangler**–Secretary/Worship & Music

**Lee Spangler**–V President/Christian Ed

**Idella Zimmerman**-Eucharist & Visitation

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
404 Market St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
570-966-0266

**FELC e-mail:**

[felcmifflinburg@gmail.com](mailto:felcmifflinburg@gmail.com)

**FELC Website:** [felcmifflinburg.org](http://felcmifflinburg.org)

**FELC Facebook:** First Evangelical  
Lutheran Church Mifflinburg Pa

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday –

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### **STAFF MEMBERS**

**Sue Nentwig,** Secretary

**Katiann Lloyd,** Financial Secretary

**Diane Scott,** Director of Music

**Hank Dorman,** Sexton

**Kay Trick,** Housekeeping

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Jeff Mensch,** Council President

**Kim Sauers,** Council Vice President

**Linda Lewis,** Secretary

**Gloria Mincemoyer,** Treasurer

**Jamie Bartlett,** Council

**Christian Boyer,** Council

**Shirley Heasley,** Council

**Sue Jows,** Council

**Jane Moore,** Council

**Barb Randecker,** Council

**Don Seebold II,** Council



## ***CAMP MOUNT LUTHER***

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: (570) 922-1587 E-mail: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)

ICYMI: Camp Mount Luther is gearing up for the 2024 summer camping season. Registrations are now being accepted for all programs until they are filled. Campers who register before midnight on April 15th will receive an exclusive T-shirt. Or, if you bring a friend to camp who's never been there, or sign up for multiple weeks, you can get a discount off your registration fee. Program information and registration is available at [www.campmountluther.org/summer](http://www.campmountluther.org/summer).

This year's camping season will begin on June 23, 2024. Resident and Day Camps run until August 2. There are programs for all ages from kindergarten to senior high, adults, and families. Most sessions run for one week, but there are also half-week and day-only sessions, including a Create-A-Camp option. For more information on this summer's programs, call the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or visit the camp's website at <http://www.campmountluther.org>.

The Mount Luther experience is a blend of small and large group activities. Campers spend most of their time in a cabin group with peer campers and their counselors. A Family Camp will be held during the week of June 30 and there is also a Servant and Leadership Training (SALT) camp for senior high. Theme weeks for Night Owl, Water Adventure, and Christmas in July are also being offered.

This year's theme at Mount Luther is "Created to be." We will explore how God gives us freedom to be our authentic selves and what it means to be siblings in Christ—humans who are brave enough to encourage and stand up for each other, sharing burdens as well as joys. We grow and learn more about ourselves while listening to and sharing with each other. Through the camp's method of studying the Bible, called "GROW Time," staff will help campers gather and reflect on the Word throughout their day, culminating in an evening worship service. Campers also get to do crafts, go swimming, play games, camp out, and sing songs during their time at Mount Luther.

## **CULC Camperson**

Barry Spangler, who is serving as Christ's United's camperson again this year, has information on programs for the summer. Brochures are available at the church or on the camp's website. Our church will pay up to \$150.00 per person for any CULC congregational member's child or grandchild this year. Anyone from our congregation can receive "Camel Bucks" from Barry for use at the camp store this summer.

## **Health Professionals & Counselors Needed for the 2024 Camp Season**

**Camp Mount Luther is looking for counselors and volunteer nurses. To apply: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org) or 570-922-1587.**

## **"Raise the Region"**

**March 13-14**

Camp Mount Luther is once again participating in **Raise the Region** and we need YOUR support! Your donations made through [raisetheregion.org](https://raisetheregion.org) will help Camp Mount Luther continue to provide quality spiritual formation, outdoor adventure, intentional community, and leadership development experiences for people of all ages. The more donors and donations we raise the better our chances of receiving incentives, stretch dollars, and awards! Please go to [raisetheregion.org](https://raisetheregion.org) from March 13 at 6:00 p.m. through March 14 at 11:59 p.m. to make your contribution. Thank you for your generosity! A bulletin insert to promote this is available here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-RTR-Bulletin-Insert.pdf>

## **Camp Raise the Region**

**March 13-14**

Camp Mount Luther is participating in The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA's "Raise the Region" on March 13-14, 2024. It is a 30-hour fundraising event starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending the next day at 11:59 p.m. Money donated by the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will help stretch donations made to organizations that day. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded, too. Proceeds raised for Camp Mount Luther will contribute to the Annual Fund unless a donor gets contacts the camp office to designate otherwise. To be part of Raise the Region, visit [www.raisetheregion.org](https://www.raisetheregion.org) during the event and make an online donation to camp. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region website. Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for eleven years and has garnered about \$206,345 in donations over the years. We hope you will help us to have another successful year!

## **GROW In the Snow**

**March 15-16**

All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat on March 15-16. This year's theme is "Break Forth in Song" based on Psalm 98. Experience your Creator, play winter games, and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. The cost is \$79 for



the whole program. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and the number of youth attending.

### **Bishop's Open Golf Classic**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Open Golf Classic to benefit Camp Mount Luther will take place on May 13 at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. Registration and sponsorship forms are available in the CULC church office. The deadline to register is May 1.

### **Summer Staff**

Every summer, Camp Mount Luther depends on responsible young people to serve as role models for our campers. Whether serving as a counselor, lifeguard, or kitchen personnel, a job at camp can be an amazing and rewarding work experience. Please spread the word and help us find quality candidates for Summer 2024. If you know someone who would be a good fit, direct them to [chad@campmountluther.org](mailto:chad@campmountluther.org)

### **Personality Retreat**

Who are you? Are you living as the person God created you to be? Do you know who that person is? Do you want to get to know that person better? Let's talk about you.

On Saturday, April 13, CML Associate Director and certified MBTI practitioner Rev. Jim Vitale will offer a retreat on the intersection between personality and spirituality. Participants will be invited to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) assessment before the retreat and then gather at Camp Mount Luther to learn more about the true selves God has created them to be. The retreat will begin with refreshments at 9:00 a.m. and close with dinner at 5:00 p.m. It will include time for prayer, reflection, rest, and discussion. It is open to everyone over the age of 18. The cost of the event is \$89 and includes the price of the MBTI assessment. Registration will open soon, so be on the lookout for a link!

Once you have registered, Jim will send you more information, including an exclusive link to the official MBTI assessment. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org).





## ***SYNOD NEWS***

### **Synod Office Hours Update**

We wanted to let you know that Synod Office hours will be inconsistent for the time being. Brenda Krouse, our administrative assistant, is managing some family medical issues which may lead to her working more from home. Please be sure to call the synod office (570-524-9778) before stopping by. Thanks for your understanding and prayers.

### **Workshops for Congregation Leaders**

Mark your calendar for a day of workshops for congregation leaders on May 4. The day will include worship, a keynote address on congregation leadership, and workshops on various topics relevant to serving on council, committees, and other positions.

### **The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly**

The assembly will be held on June 14-15 at Susquehanna University. In acknowledgement of the ELCA World Hunger's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the theme will be "Fed by Jesus to Feed the World." The ELCA Representative will be Norma Malfatti. Congregations are to elect voting members for this assembly and can pre-register them at [www.uss-elca.org/assembly](http://www.uss-elca.org/assembly). The assembly gives every congregation and member within our synod an opportunity to participate, whether you are a voting member from your congregation, a rostered leader, a Sunday School student, or just one of the folks who sits in the pew and wants to see what all the rest of the believers are up to! Serve your church by being part of this historical event! Talk to Pastor Curt about being the congregation's representative.

### **Two Mission/Work Trip Opportunities This Spring**

**March 10-16, Staunton, Virginia** – Repair of homes damaged by years of neglect – drywall repair, flooring, plumbing, ramp building - Working under the local guidance of "Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta" -. Cost: Sharing in the cost of travel and groceries - For information: Dan Stamey, 570-452-0069, [drstamey@ptd.net](mailto:drstamey@ptd.net)

**April 21-26, Closer to Home, Within Pennsylvania** – Repair of homes damaged by flash flooding of small creeks in several areas - Assignment may be to Lacawanna County, Berks county, Southeaster Pa – Cost: Sharing in the cost of travel and

groceries – because this is close to home, some people may attend for only 2 or 3 days. – For information: Doug Orbaker, 570-768-6436 [dougorbaker@yahoo.com](mailto:dougorbaker@yahoo.com)

Join either (or both) of these Mission/Work trips. All skill levels are needed to help our sisters and brother live in safe, secure homes.

**Young Adult Fellowship:** Looking for a community of young adults to connect with? Join the Upper Susquehanna Synod Young Adult Fellowship on the last Wednesday of every month on Zoom for a time of sharing and discussion. Right now, we're exploring how to be theologians of the cross. For a Zoom link and more information, contact Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org). We hope you can join us!

**The Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC)** has designed a survey to be shared throughout the ELCA. There are questions that apply to churchwide, synods and congregations. Participation is voluntary. Please share with your congregations as you see fit. Here's the link: Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church Survey (google.com). More information about the commission can be found here: Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org)

### **Coming Up**

**May 4:** Workshops for congregation leaders: Mark your calendar for a day of workshops for congregation leaders on May 4, 2024. The day will include worship, a keynote address on congregation leadership, and workshops on various topics relevant to serving on council, committees, and other positions.

### **Registration Will Be Live In March!**

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will be held on June 14-15, 2024, at Susquehanna University. In acknowledgement of the ELCA World Hunger's 50th anniversary, our theme will be "Fed by Jesus to Feed the World." Our ELCA Representative will be Marie Ann Sliwinski.

Congregations are to elect voting members for this assembly and can pre-register them at [www.uss-elca.org/assembly](http://www.uss-elca.org/assembly). Registration for the assembly will open in February. The assembly gives every congregation and member within our synod an opportunity to participate, whether you are a voting member from your congregation, a rostered leader, a Sunday School student, or just one of the folks who sits in the pew and wants to see what all the rest of the believers are up to!

Serve your church by being part of this historical event! Talk to your pastor about being your congregation's representative. Cost is \$80 before April 15, \$100 after that. Visitors cost \$15 and meals and housing are billed separately.

# Chicken Barbeque

sponsored by

**Scouts BSA Crew 2536**  
formerly Troop 536

**March 23rd ~ 11am-3pm**

**Platter**

**\$14.00**

Contains Chicken  
Half, Baked Potato,  
Baked Beans and  
Applesauce



**Half**  
**\$8.00**

at  
**Christ's United '4 Bells' Lutheran Church**  
3.5 miles West of Mifflinburg on Rt 45

**For more info or to get Tickets**  
**570-768-6582 or 570-768-5525**

# March 2024

| Sunday                                                                                                                                    | Monday                                                         | Tuesday                                            | Wednesday                                                                                 | Thursday                                                                            | Friday                                     | Saturday                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                           | <b>MARCH 10</b><br><b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</b>         | <b>MARCH 19</b><br><b>SPRING BEGINS</b>            | <b>MARCH 20</b><br><b>APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>                                   |                                                                                     | <b>1</b><br>9:00 Workday - CULC            | <b>2</b><br>8:00 Workday-CULC<br>11:00-12:30 Community Meal-FELC<br>3:30 Potpie Supper - CULC |
| <b>3</b><br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>9:30 Koinonia Kafe-CULC<br>10:30 Worship-FELC<br>Rehearsal-FELC                                          | <b>4</b><br>1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC<br>6:00 Kiwanis-FELC  | <b>5</b><br>6:30 Scouts-FELC                       | <b>6</b><br>10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC<br>6:00 Lenten Meal-FELC<br>7:00 Lenten Service-FELC  | <b>7</b><br>1:00 Hallmark Feed Meeting-CULC<br>1:00 WELCA-FELC<br>6:30 Council-FELC | <b>8</b>                                   | <b>9</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>10</b><br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>10:30 Worship-FELC<br>Rehearsal-FELC                                                                    | <b>11</b><br>1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC                      | <b>12</b><br>6:30 Scouts-FELC                      | <b>13</b><br>10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC<br>6:00 Lenten Meal-CULC<br>7:00 Lenten Service-CULC | <b>14</b>                                                                           | <b>15</b>                                  | <b>16</b><br>TBA FFA Pasta Dinner                                                             |
| <b>17</b><br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>10:30 Worship-FELC<br>11:30 Coffee Hour-FELC<br>11:30 Parish Council-CULC<br>6:30 Acoustic Worship-FELC | <b>18</b><br>1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC<br>6:00 Kiwanis-FELC | <b>19</b><br>6:30 Scouts-FELC<br>7:00 Council-CULC | <b>20</b><br>10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC<br>6:00 Lenten Meal-FELC<br>7:00 Lenten Service-CULC | <b>21</b>                                                                           | <b>22</b><br>4:00 Chicken BBQ Prep CULC    | <b>23</b><br>11-3:00 Venture Crew Chicken BBQ -CULC                                           |
| <b>24 PALM SUNDAY</b><br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>9:45 Rehearsal-FELC<br>10:30 Worship-FELC                                                   | <b>25</b><br>1:30 Parish Bible Study-FELC                      | <b>26</b><br>6:30 Scouts-FELC                      | <b>27</b><br>10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC<br>6:30 Rehearsal-FELC                               | <b>28 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b><br>6:00 Meal & Service-FELC                               | <b>29 GOOD FRIDAY</b><br>7:00 Service-CULC | <b>30</b><br>1:00 Easter Egg Hunt-CULC                                                        |
| <b>31 Easter</b><br>6:30 Sunrise-CULC<br>7:30 Brkfst-CULC<br>8:30 Worship-CULC<br>10:30 Worship-FELC                                      |                                                                |                                                    |                                                                                           |                                                                                     |                                            |                                                                                               |

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