



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA



2016

From Our Pastor...

FOR THE LOVE OF CHRIST URGES US ON

The Apostle Paul shared in his correspondence with the church in Corinth the concerns that arise at the juxtaposition where the faith that emerges in the possibility of life lived in Christ bumps against the fears and struggles that exist when facing the burdens and difficulties in the brokenness of this world. Paul assures his readers, that even as “we have this treasure in clay jars,” we are to have confidence in our hope in Christ because of the extraordinary power that belongs to God (2 Cor. 4:7). Paul gives encouragement to the faithful to maintain a posture of hope in the face of daily challenges: “We may be afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken...” (2 Cor. 4:8-9). Paul asserts that our present difficulties, whatever they may be, are transient and momentary when placed aside the possibility of “an eternal weight of glory” received through grace “for while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh” (2 Cor. 4:11,17). Paul claims that

by this grace received from God “which extends to more and more people,” we may live in the certainty “that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus...” (2 Cor. 4:14, 15).

For Paul, our perspective of life and its challenges is to be a matter of how we “see.” Touched by grace and the possibility of eternal life in and with Christ, Paul encourages his readers to “look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18). Burdens and difficulties as they are manifested in anxious minds, broken bodies and estranged relationships do exist in the present but can and will only be experienced as that which is understood as “mortal” which will be “swallowed up by life,” that is, the life we have in Christ (2 Cor. 5:4). Paul challenges his readers to adopt a view of life that addresses the present and the future not as that which is weighed down by our daily struggles and burdens but by the possibility of “new life” in the presence of the risen Lord Jesus: “For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all, so that those

who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them” (2 Cor. 5:14). All this is possible because God “has reconciled us to himself through Christ” and continues “making his appeal through us” (2 Cor. 5:18, 20).

Because of God’s grace and actions in and through Christ, Paul encourages his readers to move beyond a limiting, mortal view of life in the present: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17). In Christ, our worldview gains both the perspective of God’s presence in our lives as well as a vision of the manner in which God operates through Christ in our lives daily, a vision of grace and mercy-filled promise.

May the love of Christ urge us on as a congregation to love and serve one another and honor God by living our faithful expectations not weighed down by our burdens but by the way of hope.

*Yours in Christ,
Pr. John*

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Interim Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Parish Administrator
- Tom Taylor, Facilities Manager
- Jeff Mensch, Council President
- Harry Boyer, Vice President
- Jeff Crossland, Council Secretary
- Cher Girtan, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Girtan, Council
- Liz Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Barb Randecker, Council
- Janet Shoemaker, Council
- Dave Weaver, Council
- Nick Hornig, Council Youth Rep.

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Annual Meeting—Sunday, November 20th

Immediately following worship/brunch

Worship will be in the downstairs Social Hall

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon

Sunday,

November 20th

Following a brunch worship

Brunch will be served during worship. Please bring a dish to share!

Agenda items for this meeting include: 2017 budget discussion and

adoption and 2017 council elections. Council nominees 3 year terms (vote for 3): Jane Moore, Tanna Stenger, Barb Randecker and Janet Shoemaker; 1 year term: Dave Weaver, Deanna Billow (vote for 2); Youth 2 year term (vote for 1): Logan Mensch, Denise Seebold; Young adult stilled needed.



Harvest Home

Sunday, November 20th, First Lutheran will celebrate Harvest Home. Donations of non-perishable food items are needed for the display in the church sanctuary.

Please bring items to the donation box outside the church office by Wednesday, November 16th.

After Thanksgiving, the items will be donated to the Mifflinburg Food Bank for their wintertime.

Youth Events

FOOD DRIVE:

Sunday, Nov. 6th @ Noon—"Tag the Homes"- Meet at the Methodist Parking Lot
Sunday, Nov. 13th @ Noon—"Gather the Food"- Meet at the Methodist Parking Lot
Drivers Needed!! Bring Friends!!

KUCHENBASAR (German Bake Sale)

The Youth Group is planning to have a Kuchenbasar at Christkindl Market on December 8th-10th at the Church Parsonage.

Donations of baked goods and time to man the stand will be accepted.

Please look for sign-up sheets on the church bulletin board.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Vicki Hackenburg @ 966-7971 or Jenn Harter @ 966-9163.

Apple Dumplings....

Dear Congregation,

As a church we serve our congregation, communities and our world with compassion and generosity. We want you to know how much all of your helping hands benefitted our apple dumpling fundraiser. Without all of your hours, dedication and selling, this fundraiser would not have been possible.

We met Thursday evenings and all day on Fridays to prepare our delicious dumplings. This year we had record breaking numbers. We made close to 5,000 dumplings which means: 2,500 pans, 129 crates of apples, 1,250 dough balls, 5-50# boxes of Crisco, numerous bags of flour, sugar and tubs of butter! Most importantly, there were many hours of church and non-church members coming together to establish great relationships. It was really amazing to see youth, youth parents, and the young and older generations coming together to work as a team.

Our total income this year was \$11,409 which exceeded our goal of \$10,000. After everything was paid we have a profit to split of \$10,218. This profit will be split between our youth and the Chapman family.

So, that being said....Shayne, Deanna, our Youth group and the Chapmans feel so blessed to be part of such a wonderful church whose members put in so much hard work and time to make this so successful. Blessing to you ALL and a very sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU!

Community Meals

November's meal will be held on Saturday, the 5th. A Thanksgiving themed meal will be served.

Anyone willing to volunteer to help for part or all of the day would be greatly appreciated. Any questions, please contact Libby Loss @ 570-966-1606.

THANK YOU!



Saturday, November 26th

Please mark your calendars NOW - Sat. Nov. 26 at 9:00 AM we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season. WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP! Children, Youth and Adults, all are welcome! If you can give up 1 hour of your Sat. morning it would be greatly appreciated.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

As of October 31, 2016

Income YTD:	\$137,126.54
Budgeted Income YTD:	\$207,970.00
(Under Budget YTD:	(\$ 64,843.46)
Expenses YTD:	\$132,021.41
Budgeted Expenses YTD:	\$207,970.00
(Under Budget YTD):	(\$ 75,948.59)

General Fund Balance

January 1, 2016:	\$ 20,433.09
Income YTD:	+ \$137,126.54
Expenses YTD:	- \$132,021.41
Transfers:	\$ - 2,630.50
September 30, 2016	\$ 22,907.72

November Birthdays

November					
Don Hower	3rd	Linda Schnure	12th	Tanna Stenger	23rd
Betsy Fickes	3rd	Nicole Gessner	12th	Lori Bailey	24th
Edna Ammon	4th	Alexa Hackenburg	13th	Dwayne Page	25th
Harry Boyer	7th	Aria Gessner	14th	Jim Schwartz	30th
Doris Sheesley	8th	Kyle Galer	15th	Shut-Ins:	
Angela Mincemoyer	8th	Sybil Spotts	19th	Georgie Linke	30th
Jeannie Sawyer	10th	Keith Sawyer	21st	Riverwoods	
Alexandria Scott	10th	Deb Clouser	21st	3201 River Road	
		Logan Stenger	21st	E-wing, Room 433B	
				Lewisburg PA 17837	



3rd Annual Women's Advent by Candlelight Sunday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m.

With the busy holiday season approaching, reserve your seat to attend Advent by Candlelight. This is a wonderful opportunity to meditate with our sisters in Christ as we focus our hearts on the true meaning of Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth. The evening starts with fellowship and time to view the beautiful decorated holiday tables, followed by appetizers and desserts, music and a message.

Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you! This year there is no charge for tickets – we are asking guests bring non-perishable food donations - see Liz Loss, table hostesses, or the church office for tickets.

Thank You Corner

Members of First Lutheran & Pr. Yost,

Please accept our sincere gratitude for all of the lovely cards, delicious food, visit, thoughts and prayers and many acts of kindness following Janet's recent accident. Thanks to Pr. John for his caring visits both to the hospital and the nursing home.

We are feeling overwhelmed and so very blessed!

In Christ's Name,
Dennis & Janet Reed

Community Missions Group

Join in the work day for the Community Mission Group. It is on the 2nd Monday of each month. Help us do things for others. Bring new ideas. Any questions, contact Janet Shoemaker.



2017 Budget

Expenses

Benevolence	\$15,509
Parish Contribution	\$45,000
Salary & Benefits	\$59,570
Worship & Music	\$ 2300
Office Expenses	\$ 10,400
Service & Outreach	\$ 650
Christian Education	\$ 1800
Fellowship & Recreation	\$ 500
Stewardship	\$ 50
Church Property-	
Operating expenses	\$ 45,400
Misc. Expenses	\$ 500
Total	\$ 61,600
Total Expenses	\$181,679

Income

Offering, gifts, interest, Sunday School Offering, Building Use	\$181,679
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Budget Notes:

Benevolence:

Per constitution, benevolence is calculated as 10% of previous year's income. Final amount will not be known until the end of the year.

Parish Contribution:

Final details of the compensation package have not yet been completed.

Salary & Benefits:

Council is proposing a change in the office staffing. A church administrator and assistant church administrator would replace the current parish administrator. Both positions would work 2 days per week. This will allow

for 4 days of office coverage. Both positions would be cross-trained for the office work and for the Treasurer's work. The Treasurer would remain a non-paid position.

A 3% salary increase was included for salaried individuals. No increases have been granted in the last few years.

Property:

The wood trim on the church needs to be repainted. Funds from G&E should be available.

Copies of the approved detailed financial plan for 2016 and the proposed 2017 plan are available in the office.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

404 MARKET STREET
MIFFLINBURG, PA 17844
570-966-0266
E-Mail: firstlu@dejazzd.com
Office Hours: TUES-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/text)
or e-mail, pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com*

