



First News



First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

From Our Pastor...

A THANKSGIVING OF DOING THE "WHAT IF'S"

We often associate November as a month for thanksgiving, mindful of the recent harvests as well as our national holiday of Thanksgiving. And as Christians, we are also mindful of the thanksgiving we are to direct to God for our lives, our faith, our relationships, our provisions, and our hope in God's eternal promise to and for us in Jesus Christ. As such, all that we say and do should be an expression of thanksgiving to God because of the many and various ways God blesses us with his gifts of His presence, His love, His guidance and protection, His forgiveness, and His everlasting peace. St. Paul expressed a connection between our thoughts and actions and a life lived in thanksgiving to God: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...And be thankful...And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3)

If we take St. Paul's counsel to heart, we shall notice that our thanksgiving to God is to be directly related to our thoughts and actions as they model that of Jesus and are consistent with God's will. As such, proper thanksgiving to God is expressed only as we live our lives fully trusting God's ways and promises revealed in and by Jesus as we welcome, love, care for, forgive, and serve others in the same manner

as Jesus comes to us. Therefore, thanksgiving to God is nothing other than living the way God wants us to live—in this world, in the here and now, knowing that in the presence of the Risen Jesus, the kingdom of God is at hand.

We ought to give thanks to God for the gifts we receive from God. But more so, how we use these gifts in faithfulness to God's Kingdom may be a more fitting and proper way to give thanks to God. Thanking God for the gifts we receive is to acknowledge to God that we shall use these gifts according to God's will and as means to share God's good news of love and forgiveness with all. In short, thanking God is simply a matter of living the way God wants us to live, to honor God by loving others as Jesus loves us.

And so, we ought to be asking ourselves: do our words of thanksgiving to God match the manner in which we use the gifts from God to help all realize that "the Kingdom of God is at hand" in the presence of our Lord Jesus? Do our words of thanksgiving ring true as we look out upon the shape of our lives, our relationships and the world in which we live? But what if...?

What if we become more intentional about understanding a proper thanksgiving to God as that which happens when we use God's gifts to honor God by following the way of Jesus? What would our world look like if we

fully trusted God's way as revealed in Jesus? What if we all would begin to love each other, even our enemies, as Jesus loves us? What if we all would be forgiving of each other as God forgives us in Jesus? What if, in the face of opposition and danger, we would speak peace and justice, as did Jesus, instead of violence and revenge? What if we all would heed Jesus' counsel to bless others, even those who persecute us, and to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the poor without any expectation of return? What if we would follow Jesus' admonition not to judge others lest we ourselves be judged? What if we all would begin to live, not according to our ambitions born of want and pride, but by what God might expect of us, given that we are in the presence of Jesus and have received the power and the guidance of the Holy Spirit? What if we all would set aside our idolatries and live solely for God and within the family of God as sisters and brothers in Christ?

If we did these "what ifs," God would receive the best thanksgiving possible and the shape of our world would reflect God's eternal promise. In the end, thanksgiving is all about who and what is to be trusted. Will our thanksgivings bear witness to the trust we have in the way Jesus taught and showed us how to live?

*Blessings,
Pr. John*

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Giron, Asst. Church Adm.
- Hank Dorman, Sexton
- Harry Boyer, Council President
- Jeff Mensch, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Giron, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Giron, 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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Starting January 2019, newsletters will no longer be mailed out each month. In an effort to try and reduce expenses, newsletters will be emailed or placed in your church mailboxes. If you choose to have your newsletter emailed to you, please provide the office with your current email address. Thank you.



Semi-Annual Meeting

The Semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, November 11th immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2019 budget (outlined on pg. 7) and hold the 2019 council elections. A detailed copy of the proposed 2019 budget is available in the church office. Please plan to attend!

Devotionals

Devotional books will now be placed in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. There will also be a place to make donations, to help defray the cost, next to the devotionals.

Calling All Bakers...

On November 3rd, we will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at Community Meal. For dessert we would like to serve pumpkin pie. If you would be willing to bake a pie or two, please sign your name on the sheet on the bulletin board or call Libby Loss at 570-966-1606. The church will be open from 1:00PM to 3:00PM on Friday, November 2nd, if you would like to drop off your pie. Please put it in the refrigerator in the kitchen. Otherwise, you can bring it to the kitchen on Saturday morning, November 3rd, between 9:00AM and 10:30AM. Thank you so much!



Harvest Home at First Lutheran, Sunday, Nov. 18th

Please bring "in dated" food items through the week of Nov. 11th. They can be placed on the front pew in the Sanctuary, no later than Fri. noon. The food will be donated to the Kiwanis Christmas Food Baskets. Thank you.

Food For The Needy Program

The Kiwanis Club of Mifflinburg would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping needy families in the Mifflinburg School District this Christmas season. We ask that you bring canned or boxed foods to the church and place in a box in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Kiwanians will be collecting the food on Sunday, the 16th of December in preparation for our food distribution on the 21st. We thank you for your support of this program.

-Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club



November Birthdays

Betsy Fickes	11/03	Zoey Long	11/13
Don Hower	11/03	Aria Gessner	11/14
Edna Ammon	11/04	Kyle Galer	11/15
Harry Boyer	11/07	Sybil Spotts	11/19
Angela Mincemoyer	11/08	Keith Sawyer	11/21
Jeannie Sawyer	11/10	Logan Stenger	11/21
Alexandria Scott	11/10	Tanna Stenger	11/23
Nicole Gessner	11/12	Lori Bailey	11/24
Linda Schnure	11/12	Dwayne Page	11/25
Alexa Hackenburg	11/13	Jim Schwartz	11/30

Community Meal Cookies



We will again be giving each family that attends our December Community Meal a plate of Christmas cookies. We are looking for donations of 3 dozen cookies. (Please do not arrange them on a plate as we will be making assorted plates.) We will need them by noon on Friday, November 30th. Please put them in the kitchen. There is a sign-up sheet on the hall bulletin board. Thank you.



Christkindl Cookies



The youth group is asking for volunteers to donate Christmas cookies for their stand at the Christkindl Market. They are accepting any kind of homemade cookies and as many as you would like to donate. Last year your donations were so popular they ran out of cookies early Friday afternoon! Many people plan to return this year to purchase more cookies! Bake now and freeze them until Christkindl. In November, sign up sheets for cookie donations, packing cookies and stand volunteers, will be posted in the church hallway. Money raised will benefit youth group activities and trips.



Adult Sunday School Schedule

November 4 -- Lesson 7 Parable Series with Ann
November 11 -- Lesson 8 Parable Series with Ann
November 18 -- Final Lesson (9) of Parable series with Ann
November 25 -- New video series
Goliath Must Fall: Winning the Battle Against Your Giants by Louie Giglio -with Bill and Ann
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 continue with series



Christmas Decorating

Please reserve Saturday morning, Nov. 24! Beginning at 9 AM we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season.



5th Annual Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 2nd

Doors open at 6:00 PM & Event starts at 6:30 PM

We look forward to this wonderful opportunity to relax, meet new friends, enjoy a delicious dessert, and meditate with our sisters in Christ as we focus our hearts on the true meaning of Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this event.

I am looking for Table HOSTESSES for the evening. A hostess will be responsible for decorating a table for 8 and providing a dessert (or two). Tables can be as elegant or as simple as you wish, but should incorporate candles. If you would be interested in being a Table Hostess please contact Libby Loss at 570-966-1606 or Liz Loss at llosscota@gmail.com.

Christmas Choir

It's not too early to be thinking about singing with the Christmas Choir (10pm service)! Rehearsals are Wed Dec 12, &19, and Sunday 23rd 7:15-8:30pm. Please consider joining! A small commitment of 3 rehearsals may be more manageable with your busy schedule. See Diane Scott if you have any questions.

College Care Packages



As in previous years, at the end of November, we will be sending care packages to the college youth to aid them in their studies for final exams. Adults are needed to create a shoebox care package to be sent to our college youth. If you would like to help but do not want to put together a shoebox, a donation of \$20 towards a shoebox care package will also be accepted. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the hallway. The money will be due by November 4th. The packages will be shipped out on November 25th. See Kim Sawyer with any questions.



Dinner Theater Trip

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The Parish Social Committee is planning another dinner theater trip for Saturday, December 1, 2018. This year, we will be going to the Allenberry Dinner Theater at Boiling Springs. The show is titled "The Man Who Saved Christmas." We are securing twenty (20) tickets and are first come, first serve. We are charging each attendee \$40.00 to cover the show ticket and transportation costs. (Meal costs are separate and are each person's responsibility at lunchtime.)

On Saturday, December 1, we will meet and leave from First Lutheran's parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and travel by rental vans. When we arrive at Allenberry, we will first dine as a group from the menu. Each attendee is responsible for paying for their meal. Afterwards, we will go to Allenberry's theater where the show starts at 2:00 p.m. We hope to return to Mifflinburg by 8:00 p.m.

Please notify one of the Parish Social Committee members if you are interested as soon as possible. Money and checks, written to "Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish," are being collected by the committee. Committee members are Bev Catherman, Barb & Maurice Clouser, Barb Randecker, Jim Schwartz, Barry Spangler and Janice Wagner.



Sunday, November 4th @ Noon – Methodist Church side parking lot to grab tags and street assignments and then off to **TAG** homes for the Food Drive – Need drivers and runners and your friends!

Dinner & Devotions will be held after the tagging at Sawyer's house @ Approximately 2:00!

Sunday, November 11th @ Noon – Methodist Church side parking lot to get street assignments and then off to **GATHER** the food for the Food Bank – Need drivers and runners and your friends!

Sunday, November 18th – College Boxes due back to Church

Signup now on bulletin board or office to donate \$20 or do a box!

Friendsgiving Potluck & Devotions will be held at Sawyer's house @ 6:00 – Everyone bring something to share and eat

\$10 CHALLENGE Youth will be given \$10 at the Thanksgiving Potluck and challenged to help as many individuals as possible with that \$10 during the Christmas season and will report their efforts after Christmas. We have had many amazing results from this in the past and we are looking forward to more this season.

October 3, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1902 by Harry Boyer.

Present: Harry Boyer, Linda Skinner, Jim Schwartz, Cher Girton, Heather Klose, Jeff Mensch, Deanna Billow, Pr. John Yost, Gary Girton, Sue Jows, Jane Moore, Libby Loss, Barb Randecker and guests Gloria Mincemoyer, Cindy Harvey & Kim Sawyer

Absent: Bill Musser and Logan Mensch

Pr. John opened with a discussion on Psalm 96. Followed by a discussion of what are the things we like about our church and how we can better serve and need God's help with that through our covenant with him.

Cindy Harvey & Kim Sawyer were here on behalf of the Mission and Youth Committees. Written reports were received and are attached. Requests for the 2019 Workcamp and Harvey Cedars trips were submitted.

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

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

Pastor's report: Pr. John reported that it's October and upcoming worship throughout the month will be held at the Elias Center and asks the council to support this venture. Drivers are needed to shuttle from our parking lot to Elias. Services will be old order Lutheran.

Communication: None received

Executive: None

Gifts & Endowments – None

Worship & Music – No report

Property – Harry Boyer extended a thank you to the Schwartz family for paying to have the stump removal done to the trees that were cut down along the alley. Jim Schwartz reported that we received the heating report from Silvertip. Their report shows we should be using the coal as primary source of heat with oil burners running secondary. They stated the oil burners alone cannot sustain the heating of the church. Coal is going to need to be ordered. Stoker will not be started until the end of October. The ceiling fan switches were replaced and not functioning properly. Joe Zimmerman will be back to fix them. Several people met with the painter on August 23rd and pointed out areas that needed fixed. None of these things have been done yet. Jeff Mensch will send a letter on behalf of the church on legal letter-head.

Christian Education – They had a kickoff with puppets. There are currently only three kids attending. Sunday School will be pushed in November.

Fellowship & Recreation – no report

Service & Outreach – no report

Finance – budget review later

Youth – Gary Girton reported that he has all the bank statements for the youth and will have them summarized for next meeting.

Staff Support – no report

Parish Council: Jeff Mensch reported they've discussed how they could share more things such as finances. Gary Girton and Deanna Billow's terms both expire in December but can be re-upped.

Business:

Youth Account Insurance Coverage: Jeff Mensch reported that any overnight trips must have prior council sanction to be eligible for coverage. Jeff Mensch made a motion to approve the 2019 Puerto Rico and Harvey Cedars trips; seconded by Linda Skinner and approved unanimously.

Non-Member Weddings: We receive requests from outside members to use the church. Old fees were very low. People are attending churches elsewhere and these new worship centers don't look like churches any more and want to come here to have a "church" wedding. Jeff Mensch made motion that non-member weddings be a \$1500 fee; seconded by Jim Schwartz. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

Movie: Janet Shoemaker would like to show another movie. Council has no problems with her doing that.

Semi-Annual Meeting: Sunday, November 11th is the date for the semi-annual meeting. Nominating committee will need to have names for next council meeting.

Preschool: Kris Lamey is the preschool teacher and has 2 students with a possible third. She offered to take a \$100 per month salary. Pr. John suggested at least \$200 per month. Pr. John feels this is a ministry of the church. Gary Girton made motion to pay the \$200 per month; seconded by Sue Jows and passed unanimously.

Chief Ushers: Chief usher needs to let someone know who can get in the safe that the offering still needs to go in.

Holiday Offerings: Thanksgiving: ELCA Disaster Relief – Barb Randecker made motion for this; seconded by Libby Loss and passed unanimously. Christmas: 50/50 Community Meal and Backpack programs – Jim Schwartz made motion; seconded by Jane Moore and passed unanimously.

2019 Budget: Jeff Mensch reported that finance met and have a proposed 2019 budget (written copy attached). At this time staff left the meeting and Jeff Mensch began recording minutes. Presented budget decreases assistant administrator position to have off the months of June, July and August. This was modified to include vacation coverage during summer of church administrator. Motion made by Linda Skinner; seconded by Deanna Billow and passed unanimously with Gary Girton abstaining. Jeff Mensch made a motion to approve the budget with modifications; seconded by Sue Jows and passed unanimously with Gary Girton abstaining.

Meeting closed with prayer by Harry and adjourned @ 8:51 pm .

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L Klose

Recording Secretary

NOVEMBER 2018

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1PM: WELCA-DS 7:30PM Men's Ministry MP Room	2	3 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike 11AM-12:30PM: Community Meal
4 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	5	6 Election Day-MPR 10:30AM: Bible Study	7 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir	8	9	10 8AM: Men's Breakfast—Ard's
11 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	12	13 10:30AM: Bible Study	14 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 7:30PM Men's Ministry MP Room	16	17 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner
18 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	19	20 10:30AM: Bible Study	21 7PM: Thanksgiving Eve Worship—Christ's United	22 Thanksgiving 	23	24 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike
25 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC-	26	27 10:30AM: Bible Study	28 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir	29	30	

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Chief Usher: Libby Loss

Acolytes:

4: Head Usher

11: Quinton Bartlett

18: Emily Seebold

25: Head Usher

Announcements: Shirley Heasley

Lay Readers:

4: Karen Boyer

11: Norm Conrad

18: Jeff Crossland

25: Shirley Heasley

Children's Church:

4: Jamie Bartlett

11: Liz Loss

18: Mandy Rothmel

25: Jane Moore

Altar/Communion: Deb Johnson & Jane Moore

Offering Envelopes:

Craig & Sally Rothmel

Ushers:

4: Tom Orren, Jim Schwartz

Dave Weaver, Max Zeller

11: Harvey & Brenda Ilgen

Dewey & Barb Reed

18: Eric & Gwen Hull

Marianne Motto, Barb Randecker

25: Jeff Crossland & Linda Skinner

Craig & Sally Rothmel

What's Happening at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish...

November 1: A Pot Pie Work Day will start at 8:00 AM. Please come out on Thursday to help make pickled cabbage, cut meat, peel and cut potatoes, mix broth, etc. If you are able to help on WORKDAY, contact Kim Blyler at potpie@4bellschurch.com or call 570-716-5601.

November 3: HELP IS NEEDED - Help is also needed the day of the pot pie supper. At 8:00 a.m., help is needed to roll potpie, cook potpie, dish out applesauce and pickled cabbage, prepare dining room, etc. Help is also needed as the day goes on for other duties including serving eat-ins and take-outs as well as clean up. If you are able to help on DAY OF SUPPER in the kitchen, contact Kim Blyler at potpie@4bellschurch.com or call 570-716-5601. If you are able to help in the Dining Room, contact Dave Bickhart at bickhart@dejazzd.com or call 570-966-1966.

November 3: Pot Pie Supper @ Christ's United beginning @ 3:30PM. Ham, Chicken/Turkey & Beef Pot Pie will be available. Meals include applesauce, pickled cabbage, roll, beverage and cake. Dinners and quarts of pot pie are available for take-out.

Adults - \$9.00
Children (6 – 12) - \$5.00
Children (5 and under) – No Charge
Take Out Meals - \$9.00
Quarts of Potpie - \$8.00

November 4: All Saints Sunday: We invite you to observe this occasion, and remember your loved ones, by bringing with you to the worship service, (both churches) a candle to light in memory of those we have lost.

November 4: Youth Food Drive, tagging of homes

November 11: Semi-Annual meeting, immediately following worship

November 11: Youth Food Drive, collection of food

November 18: College Care Packages due at church

November 18: On behalf of the Inreach Committee, we would like to invite you and a guest to attend the annual Senior Member Dinner at Christ's United. This year the dinner will be held on Sunday, November 18, at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are not necessary, but would be very helpful to us in planning the meal. Just call us at 570-922-1860 with the number who will be attending by November 1. Mark your calendars and plan to be present for a yummy meal and first-rate fellowship.

November 18: Harvest Home Sunday at First Lutheran. Please bring "in dated" food items through the week of Nov. 11th. They can be placed on the front pew in the Sanctuary, no later than Friday @ noon. The food will be donated to the Kiwanis Christmas Food Baskets. Thank you.

November 24: Christmas Hanging of the Greens at the church, beginning @ 9AM

November 30: Cookies for Community Meal due at the church

December 1: Parish Allenberry Dinner Theater trip

December 2: Advent by Candlelight, doors open @6PM, begins @ 6:30PM

December 13,14 & 15: Christkindl Market; youth will be selling baked goods. Cookie Donations are appreciated.



Proposed 2019 Budget Presentation

Account Name	2018 Approved Budget	2018 Projected Figures*	2019 Proposed Budget	Difference
Salary & Benefits Total	\$120,109	\$111,426	\$115,527	-\$4,582
Major changes include a \$3,600 increase to the parish contribution, 25% decrease to Asst. Church Admin position & decrease to expect sexton salary.				
Worship & Music Total	\$2,050	\$1,597	\$1,250	-\$800
Office Expenses Total	\$10,400	\$10,753	\$10,600	\$200
Service Expenses Total	\$350	\$100	\$200	-\$150
Christian Education Exp.	\$1,600	\$1,000	\$1,000	-\$600
Fellowship & Rec. Exp.	\$500	\$0	\$200	-\$300
Outreach Expenses	\$350	\$138	\$350	\$0
Church Property Expenses	\$48,100	\$41,166	\$40,050	-\$8,050
Major changes include a reduction in the church's liability insurance premium, decrease in budgeted amount for Church Improvements as well as Roof Maintenance.				
Misc. Expenses Total	\$500	\$487	\$500	\$0
Benevolence Exp. Total	\$15,450	\$15,450	\$15,920	\$470
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$199,409	\$182,117	\$185,597	-\$13,812
The Finance Committee met and reviewed in detail the 2018 expenses and decreased the allotted budget for many account/line items and increased a few accounts where necessary. A detailed 2019 budget proposal is available in the church office.				

Christmas Poinsettias

Orders for Christmas Poinsettias are due in the church office no later than
Sunday, November 11th. Sizes and colors available this year are as follows:



6 inch- \$10.00 (red, white, pink, marble, jingle bells, burgandy)
7 inch -\$18.00 (red, white or pink)

Name	Size	Color
<u>In Memory of:</u>		
<u>In Honor of:</u>		

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 Sunday Worship
Service beginning at 10:30 AM



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) or
pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com*

