



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA



From Our Pastor...

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

We are the church. We believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. We trust in the righteousness and justice of God's ways. We hope in the assurance of God's promises. In spite of our shortcomings and failings, we live and strive by the means of God's grace and mercy. In the midst of suffering and tragedy, fear and terror, we cling to the faithfulness of Jesus and His abiding presence. And we are called to lean on each other as Jesus draws us together as one body. As such, we are the church with purpose, equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to God's truth and to serve one another according to the will of God.

Through Jesus, God has given us the gift of faith. This gift pertains to trust, obedience and commitment, that we will live our lives according to God's ways revealed in and through Jesus. And we are able to live such lives because God has given us the direction and the ability to actualize God's will for us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gospel of Jesus lives through us by the working of the Spirit in order that we become able to share this same gospel in

word and deed with the world around us so that all may come to know God and live by this gift of faith.

St. Paul writes: "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13)

From the perspective of St. Paul, the Holy Spirit renders us capable to carry out the purposes and promises of God by drawing us together as one body in Christ and by giving us the gifts necessary to accomplish the fulfillment of the gospel of Jesus for all. The Spirit acquaints us actively to God's will for us revealed in and through Jesus and strengthens us to follow the ways of Jesus with common purpose and hope. In 1 Corinthians 12:7, St. Paul asserts: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Each and every one of us has received gifts from the Holy Spirit to draw us together and for the gifts to be utilized in communion to carry out the purposes and promises of God. As such, St. Paul would have us realize that to know and understand God's plan and purpose for us is to put into action the gifts we

have each been given by the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul asserts that as much as we understand our need for God and God's direction for us through Jesus, we also are to realize how much we need each other because it is in and through us that the Holy Spirit works and has given us the gifts to be utilized in communion for the actualization of God's plans and promises. These gifts of and from the Spirit are the means by which God creates and sustains community as well as bearing witness to God's ultimate plans for us and our future.

We have a bright and promising future as the church because each of us have received gifts from the Spirit which empowers us to serve God by serving one another through proclamation, teaching, caring, helping, etc. We as the community of faith will continue to bear witness to God's promises for us but only insofar as we exercise together the gifts that have been given to us (that's each and every one of us) by the Spirit.

*Blessings and peace,
Pastor 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 Girton, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Girton, Council
- Liz Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Barb Randecker, Council
- Janet Shoemaker, Council
- Dave Weaver, Council
- Nick Hornig, Council Youth Rep.

Inside this issue:

Council Corner	2
Advent by Candlelight	2
Kare Kanteen	2
Youth Events	2
Financial	3
Fundraising Events	3
New SS Class	4

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 9th,

Immediately following worship

Details inside0



Council Corner

Things to consider.....

The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 20th, immediately following worship. On the agenda will be: Council elections, budget discussion and any other pre-determined topics.

Congregational Meeting



Every day there seems to be another news report about violence, turmoil and upheaval in our world. Groups in our country and around the world are working against each other. How do we resolve these issues? We come together and work towards a common goal of a life following God and the teachings of Jesus.

One way to do this is to work with others who share those goals and values. For some months we have told you that we have been in discussions with Christ's United Lutheran Church about forming a parish. Those discussions have reached a conclusion. Both congregational councils have approved an agreement to form the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish.

A parish is the coming together of our congregations to share in common ministries and to share some expenses. It is not a merger of the congregations. No church will be closed; no identities will be lost; no staff will lose their jobs. The new parish will share the costs of Pastor John. This has the added benefit of making more money available to spend on ministry projects. By working together, the parish will have more people and resources available to provide outreach to the community and spreading the Word of God.

Think about your neighbors, friends, co-workers and the people you see in your day to day life. Many of them are probably members of either First Lutheran or 4 Bells. In my small neighborhood there are 9 members of the proposed new parish. We live in a community where we interact many times with members of each congregation. It makes perfect sense to share our spiritual life as well.



3rd Annual Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 4th

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 Liz or Libby Loss at 570-966-1606 or eloss31@gmail.com.

Council Corner, con't.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a copy of the proposed parish agreement. We will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday October 9th immediately following our worship service. At that time we will answer any questions you might have about the parish or the agreement. We will also vote on the formation of the new parish. If both congregations approve the parish it will take effect on January 1st. If you have questions prior to the meeting please talk to a member of the council executive committee.

This is an exciting opportunity for us. Together we are stronger and can do more than we can do alone. As the words of a hymn we have sung a few times in recent months say: "We all are one in mission; We all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single great commission compels us from above, to plan the work together That all may know Christ's love." May these words help to guide the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish.



COMMUNITY DINNER

October's meal will be held on Saturday, the 1st.

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!**

Baptismal Napkins

First Lutheran has been proudly presenting newly baptized members with handcrafted napkins for many years. These napkins are created by members of our church congregation.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the library. For more information, please contact Gwen Hull @ 524-0289.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 5th.



Live & Silent Auction

**Saturday, November 19, 2016
Doors Open at 4:00pm**

A free will dinner will be available starting at 4pm and continue during the auction.

Live Auction Begins at 5:30pm. Silent Auction winners to be announced after live auction concludes.

Sign up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board for auction items, (must be new items), themed baskets, and food and meal supplies.

We will be serving hot dogs, barbeque, chicken noodle soup, chili, chips and pretzels and baked goods. Please sign up!!

Any questions, please see Cher Girton or Angie Harvey.



October Birthdays

Sarah Alexander	1st	Samantha Orren	12th	Gloria Mincemoyer	24th
Shayne Reed	2nd	Grace Bollinger	13th	Christian Boyer	24th
Nick Hornig	2nd	Charlotte Frederick	14th	Linda Dale	25th
Arlene Behrent	3rd	Victoria Harvey	14th	Greg Swensen	25th
Jen Galer	3rd	Joyce Bielski	15th	Cathy Brungard	26th
Parker Scott	4th	Mary Wehr	16th	Lois Elliott	27th
Alexis Sawyer	5th	Barb Reed	16th	Shelley Blue	27th
Judy Shirk	8th	Jan Beckley	17th		
Joan Herman	9th	Ava McBryan	17th		
Quinton Bartlett	9th	Doris Moll	19th		
Emil Stenger	10th	Polly Hornig	20th		
Michael Wagner	10th	Colten Page	22nd		
Don Seebold II	11th	Carol Kreisher	23rd		



Apple Dumpling Fundraiser



It's that time of year again when we are getting ready to roll into First Lutheran's kitchen for the EIGHTH Annual Apple Dumpling Bake!!

Please mark your calendars for every Friday in October starting October 7th, to be making and selling dumplings. Lots of volunteers are needed to make this huge undertaking a success.

There are jobs for everyone ~ peelers, dough makers, rollers, assemblers, oven watchers, clean-up crews, you name it.....

Volunteers are needed every Friday from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. If you can assist in rolling dough, please bring your own rolling pin. If you are paring apples, you may want to bring your favorite knife. All other items for this project will be available in the kitchen.

Success of this project depends on the participation of everyone in some way or another. If you are unable to assist us on Friday's, taking orders is most important in the success of this project.

Dumplings will only be sold in pans of two for \$6.00 this year. Have your orders in to the office by

Tuesday preceding each Friday's bake date to ensure we have ample supplies. **No special orders can be filled this year.**

This year's sales will benefit the Youth Group and the Chapman Family. Proceeds will be divided equally.

This is truly a project of fellowship together with all of God's family sharing their individual talents. Thank you all!!! We will be looking forward to another successful Apple Dumpling sale!!!!

An order blank has been included with this newsletter. Additional forms are available in the church office.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

As of August 31, 2016

Income YTD:	\$ 109,125.54
Budgeted Income YTD:	\$ 161,576.00
(Under Budget YTD:	\$ (52,450.46)
Expenses YTD:	\$ 102,684.35
Budgeted Expenses YTD:	\$ 161,576.00
(Under Budget YTD):	\$ (58,891.65)

General Fund Balance

January 1, 2016:	\$ 20,433.09
Income YTD:	+\$ 109,125.54
Expenses YTD:	-\$ 102,684.35
Transfers:	-\$ 2,630.50
August 31, 2016	\$ 24,243.78

Blanket Sunday



A reminder that Sunday, October 2nd is Blanket Sunday, sponsored jointly by The Women of the ELCA and The Committee for Global Missions, Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA.

Specially marked envelopes are available from an usher on Sunday mornings through the 5th. Place the envelope in the offering plate or drop it at the office.



Christmas Poinsettias

Although it seems very early to start thinking about Christmas, our poinsettia orders are due at the greenhouse by early November.

There is an order form enclosed in this newsletter. Orders are due at the office no later than Sunday, November 6th.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

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

Sunday School begins at 9:15AM.



The First Evangelical Lutheran website is up and running!!

Please visit FELCMifflinburg.org and see what's happening.

Submit any comments and or announcements 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, pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com

