



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA



From Our Pastor...

2017

CROSS-BEARING DISCIPLESHIP

This month, the church celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, initiated as Martin Luther tacked 95 theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany for the purpose of engaging theological debate, primarily redirecting the church to engage its ministry and mission by following not the precepts of human want and desire but the way revealed in the crucified and risen Jesus. For Luther, the church, if it is to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to bear witness to the manner in which Jesus lived in faithful obedience to the will of God, even to the point of dying on the cross (Philippians 2), and to bear the marks of Christ on the cross in ministry and mission before and to the world. Cross-bearing discipleship is about having the same mind as was in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2), and acting faithfully in the ways of conviction, commitment, and courage.

Douglas John Hall in *The Cross in Our Context* suggests, "Faith in the crucified one means courage to love the world and to seek one's place in it de-

spite both the world's indifference and one's own yearning for security and calm." He adds, "The risen Christ, in his eternal reign as in his historical sojourn, is always going toward this world, the world's rejection notwithstanding, and discipleship, when it is authentically so, is always a matter of being taken up into this world-directedness, despite one's own preference for security and peace."

God's claim upon our world and our destiny is most surely to be understood through the cross (and resurrection) of Jesus. As Hall states, "the cross of Jesus is the end-consequence of the divine determination to be 'with us' (Emmanuel)..." The cross marks the unconditional and irrevocable participation of God in the life of the world.

Christian discipleship is a call to engage the world via the cross of Jesus; it moves beyond merely reflecting the world's standards. Through the priority of nonjudgmental and unconditional love, Christian discipleship demands justice, equality, inclusivity, and fair opportunity. As such, discipleship demands continual awareness of present day realities, a contextual awareness. Again Hall

clarifies, "Engagement of the world occurs only where the bread of the gospel is cast on the waters of time and place—not carelessly, as pearls before swine, not just given away without any concern for its reception. Nevertheless, the evangelist is called to risk a real sharing of this precious thing, and that means to risk having it taken up into the souls and minds of others..."

The gospel of Jesus, bearing full witness to the meaning of the cross for the church and its witness, must always be discovered and rediscovered in relation to the specifics of the here and now. Our articulation of the good news need be formulated only as we experience and attempt to comprehend the bad news that is oppressive to many in God's beloved creation.

In short, discipleship demands a choice: "the love of power" or "the power of love." The cross reveals Jesus' choice.

*Blessings and peace,
Pastor John*

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Gorton, Asst. Church Adm.
- Harry Boyer, Council President
- Jeff Mensch, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Gorton, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Gorton, Council
- Liz Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
- Jane Moore, Council
- Jim Schwartz, Council
- Tanna Stenger, Council
- Logan Mensch, Council

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Basement Church!!

Please join us this Sunday, October 1st, for a brunch worship in the downstairs social hall. Worship will begin at 10:30AM. Please bring a brunch dish to share. Table service will be provided.

Hope to see you all there!



Council Corner

The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 19th, immediately following worship. On the agenda will be: Council elections, budget discussion and any other pre-determined topics.

Congregational Meeting



Blanket Sunday



A reminder that Sunday, October 1st 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 morning. Place the envelope in the offering plate or drop it at the office.



4rd Annual Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 3rd

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@ymail.com.

Community Meals

The Community Meal Committee is looking for a few good folks to help serve meals on the first Saturday of each month. We begin preparing the meal at 9:00 and are usually done by 1:30. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 50 and 60 people each month. This is a great way to help reach out to our community. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please Contact Libby Loss @966-1606 or Sue Jows @ 966-3644 if you can help.

Meal serving time: 11AM-12:30PM.

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish Happenings.....



Chicken & Waffle Dinner Fundraiser For Doug Gemberling



Christ United Lutheran Church (4-Bells), will be hosting a Chicken & Waffle Dinner Fundraiser on, Saturday, October 7th beginning at 4:00 PM.

Meals are \$10 per person

German Hymn Sing



The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish will be having a German Hymn Sing, Sunday, October 29th, at the Elias Church. It will begin at 6:30 PM. Bring the family for an evening of singing.



Halloween Fun Night

Saturday, October 28th @ 6PM
Christ's United Lutheran Church
See Pr. John for more details.

OCTOBER 2017

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC/ Brunch—DS Social Hall	2	3 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	4 6-6:30PM: Cherub Choir 7PM: Council	5 1PM: WELCA 6PM-Apple Dumpling Prep -DS 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	6 6AM-7?: Apple Dumplings 5-8PM: Wedding Rehearsal/Dinner—Sanctuary & MPR	7 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's 11AM-12:30PM: Communion Meal 3PM: Wedding
8 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC	9	10 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	11 6-6:30PM: Cherub Choir	12 6PM-Apple Dumpling Prep -DS	13 6AM-7?: Apple Dumplings	14 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Carriage Corner
15 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship/HC 2PM: Youth "Truck the Trail" -Ard's	16	17 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	18 6-6:30PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	19 6PM-Apple Dumpling Prep -DS 7:30PM: Men's Ministry-MPR	20 6AM-7?: Apple Dumplings	21 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike
22 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: Worship/HC	23	24 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR	25 6-6:30PM: Cherub Choir 7:15-8PM: Chancel Choir	26 6PM-Apple Dumpling Prep -DS	27 6AM-7?: Apple Dumplings	28 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Ard's
29-Reformation Sunday 10:30AM: Worship/HC @ Christ's United (4 Bells) Luncheon to follow worship 6PM: Youth "No Tricks, Just Treats"-Church Parking Lot	30	31 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:45-8PM: Bible Study-MPR				

Chief Usher: Jim Schwartz
Announcements: Liz Loss
Altar/Communion: Sue Lows & Libby Loss
Offering Envelopes: Nancy Snook & Trena Zeller

Acolytes:

1: Emily Seebold
 8: Logan Bartlett
 15: Paige Bartlett & Barb Randecker
 22: Victoria Harvey & Collin Kroust
 29: Worship @ Christ's United

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Lay Readers:

1: Karen Boyer
 8: Norm Conrad
 15: Andy Long
 22: Jane Moore

Children's Church:

1: Shirley Heasley
 8: Tom Orren
 15: Barb Randecker
 22: Ann Beckley

Ushers:

1: Jim & Karen Adams
 8: Mike & Ann Beckley
 15: Harvey & Brenda Ilgen
 22: Craig & Sally Rothemel
 1: Harry Boyer, Shirley Heasley
 8: Liz Loss, Kim Wagner
 15: Jeff Crossland, Linda Skinner
 22: Dave Weaver, Max Zeller

Meeting called to order at 1907 by Pr. John.

Present: Gary Girton, Cher Girton, Tanna Stenger, Deanna Billow, Harry Boyer, Jeff Mensch, Pr. John Yost, Bill Musser, Ed Libhart (for property) and guests Doug & Morgan Richards and Gloria Mincemoyer.

Absent: Jim Schwartz, Logan Mensch, Jane Moore, Liz Loss

Pr. John opened with devotions, reviewing a few of Jesus' sayings from the Gospel of Matthew.

Doug & Morgan Richard: Expressed gratitude for allowing them to use space at the church and gave an update of their general practice and intent of their couples/relational therapy.

Secretary's Report: submitted and approved as read

Treasurer's Report: submitted and needs correction and will be resubmitted at September meeting subject to audit

Pastor's report: Pr. John reported on various members health status and visits.

Communication: Received a note from Rocky Boy Reservation thanking us for the \$1000 donation for a copier.

Executive: None

Gifts & Endowments – None

Worship & Music – Bill Musser – no report

Property – Ed Libhart reported on Jim Schwartz's behalf. New sign on Chestnut St. has been installed. Weeds around property were sprayed by Jeff Mensch & Jim Schwartz. Painting contract has been signed. Ed has met with Tony Sweigert to discuss replacing coal furnace. Security system has changed our phone reception to a Verizon dialer. There are spots on walls in sanctuary that need paint touch ups. Shrubs on Chestnut need trimmed. New thermostat in sanctuary for A/C has been installed. The A/C in sanctuary is not usable. There is a leak in the coil in the air handler. Will need replaced; coil is \$8400 for just the coil and does not include refrigerant, installation and freight. Need to get price quotes on all new units. Also discussed old freezer in the basement that houses old records that are getting mildewed. Pr. John, Jeff Mensch and Gloria Mincemoyer are going to review the records and determine how to proceed. Received an estimate from Tony Sweigert to replace coal furnace and that will be tabled for now.

Christian Education – Harry Boyer reported that Sunday School will start soon and Christian Ed. will meet this month.

Fellowship & Recreation – no report

Service & Outreach – Deanna Billow reported that postcards went out to all members for the upcoming pictures. Birthday cards went out for August.

Finance – need to schedule 2nd quarter meeting and start planning 2018 budget.

Youth – Gary Girton reported that the Montana and Harvey Cedars trips went well. A slide show was shown to everyone last Sunday. Discussion was had to show it again some Sunday before church as well for those who were unable to see it – possibly September 10th.

Staff Support – Barb Randecker reported that they met with Tom Taylor last week. Discussion was had with lawn mowing and snow removal being outsourced. Further discussion on the performance of the Facilities manager position. Motion made and seconded to issue a 30 day notice to terminate Tom. Further discussion before vote included splitting the position back to two separate entities. Motion passed unanimously.

Parish Council: Reformation Sunday, October 29th, will be a joint service at Four Bell's followed by a luncheon. Thanksgiving Eve will be here Wednesday, November 22nd @ 7PM. Christmas Eve Day (Sunday) schedule: 10:00AM @ Four Bells, 5:00PM Family service @ First Lutheran and 10:30PM service @ Four Bells. New Year's Eve Day – regular services – 9:00AM @ Four Bells, 10:30AM @ First Lutheran. Mutual Ministry reps are Shirley Heasley and Sheryl Fetter from First and Janet Spurr and Janice Wagner from Four Bells.

Business:

Purchase Requisitions: Much discussion was had regarding completing purchase req's correctly and completely ensuring that items are being requested before time of purchase and limits to spending. Council requested we enclose detailed youth report with monthly reports. Using personal credit cards and then requesting reimbursement should only occur as a last result; the church credit card should be used as a priority. Harry Boyer requested Heather Klose go to the bank tomorrow and obtain a new signature card for General Fund checking account to remove Andy Long and Jeff Crossland as signors and add Harry Boyer and Barb Randecker.

Bulletins: Harry Boyer has had requests for more large print bulletins. The cost to do all large bulletins is approximately \$3.38. Motion made and seconded to change to all large print bulletins. Motion passed unanimously.

Fobs: Heather Klose requested approval to order additional fobs due to greater need and lost items. Motion made and seconded to purchase 20 fobs; passed unanimously.

Chief Ushers switch: Gary Girton will do September and Tanna Stenger will do December, less Christmas Eve @ 5PM.

Meeting closed with prayer by Harry Boyer and adjourned @ 2138.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Klose, Recording secretary

Apple Dumpling Fundraiser



Member Name

Order Date (Circle One)

October 6 13 20 27

Member Phone

Homemade Apple Dumplings—Available in 2/pan for \$6.00

NAME	PHONE	QTY ORDR'D	TOTAL \$
TOTALS			

Orders are due by the Tuesday morning prior to the order date.

Orders received after the deadline will be put on a waiting list and you will be notified

Friday after 1 p.m. if there are dumplings available.

ALL REGULAR ORDERS MAY BE PICKED FRIDAY FROM 1-5 P.M. IN THE BASEMENT



Poinsettia Order Form

6" pot (4-5 blooms) - \$9.50 each ☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Pink ☐ Marble

7" pot (2 plants in pot - 8-10 blooms) - \$17.50 each

☐ Jingle Bells ☐ Burgundy

☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Pink

In Honor of: _____

Remembered by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Remembered by: _____

☐ I will pick up my poinsettia ☐ I will donate my poinsettia to a shut in

Total plants ordered: _____ Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Poinsettias will decorate the church sanctuary on Christmas Eve and may be picked up after the 10:30 PM service or on Christmas Day



GREATER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY UNITED WAY
community series -- THE VALLEY TOGETHER: NEVER ALONE



Meet Your Neighbors Roast Marshmallows
TREK TOGETHER SING ALONG

FREE S'MORES & COCOA for the first 100!

ARD'S FARM, Rt 45 - WWW.GSVUW.ORG - 570-988-0993

Sponsored by Mifflinburg Area Christian Youth, Congregation Beth-El, Sunbury Together, Interfaith Clergy, Thrivent Financial, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley

Dinner and Devotions for November will immediately follow the Trek For Trail For Tomorrow event, at 4PM, at Ard's.

**NO TRICKS
JUST TREATS**

Sunday, October 29th,
6PM

Meet in the church parking
lot All youth are welcome!

College & Military Care Packages



We have 24 college/military students! All of them will have finals the first week of December and we want to once again surprise them with a Care Package from our church family. Due to the number of packages we want to send, we are asking YOU to pitch in and HELP! This is a great way to get started on the holiday feeling of giving for an individual or a family activity. Be creative - get a box and fill it with goodies! Then return it to the church Multi Purpose Room on/before Sunday, November 26th and the Youth will seal them up and mail them out that week. We will be posting a listing of all the students on the bulletin board and asking you to jot your name to the right of the student name. Any questions? Ask Kim Sawyer

Some suggestions for items they will enjoy...only suggestions ☺

1. Fruit, such as apples and tangerines
2. Packaged almonds or nuts
3. Beef jerky or hard salami
4. Whole grain crackers, or peanut butter-filled crackers
5. A small jar of peanut butter and a box of graham crackers
6. Dried fruit such as apricots, cherries, apples, and more.
7. Instant hot cocoa mix, instant hot soup, instant oatmeal
8. A can of bean dip and a bag of chips
9. Microwave popcorn
10. A Starbucks gift card
11. Biscotti
12. A mini-loaf of homemade pumpkin (or other) bread
13. Throat lozenges, Vitamin C lozenges or Emergen-C packets
14. Socks
15. Gloves
16. Cards
17. Stress Ball
18. Toy (Mini BB Net, Squirt gun, \$ store toys)
19. LED Mini Christmas Lights to decorate the dorm room
20. Highlighters



Public Sale Food Stand

First Lutheran will be having a food stand at the Public Sale of Clair and Patricia Boop. The sale will be Friday, October 13th and Saturday, October 14th. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway for items and help needed these two days. If you would like to donate items, or time, please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway.



October Birthdays

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



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 6th, 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 Thursday evening from 6:30PM—?? and Friday from 6 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 be sold in pans of two for \$6.00. 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 Karen Kurtz and Logan Roush families.

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.

WE NEED YOU

to make our new All Church Photo Directory complete

SIGN UP TODAY!

Wednesday, October 11th

Last chance for pictures!

Deadline to sign-up is October 8th!!



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 5th.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

404 MARKET STREET
MIFFLINBURG, PA 17844
570-966-0266
E-Mail: firstlu@dejazzd.com
Office Hours: MON-THURS, 9:00-2:00

Address Service Requested



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Sunday School begins at
9:15AM.



The First Evangelical Lutheran
website is up and running!!

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

Submit any comments and or an-
nouncements you'd like to be posted
to the church office.

*When you are aware of situations requiring pastoral care,
such as births, deaths, hospital admission, serious illness, etc.,
please notify Pastor John Yost at: 570-837-9232 (cell/text)
or e-mail, pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com*

