



BUFFALO VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS

JULY 2025

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

Grace and peace to you!

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves."—Luke 10:1-3

This is part of the gospel text for this Sunday, July 6th. Most of our days revolve around numbers. There are 168 hours in a week. Of those 168 hours, 40-50 hours are spent at a full-time job. As a pastor, much of my time is spent on numbers and strategies for increasing them. How do we increase our attendance? How do we increase our giving? How many meetings do I have to attend this week? How do we stay on budget? You see what I mean! This gospel text is about numbers. Jesus sends out 72 disciples. Not 700 or 7,000 but 72. And think about what they accomplished. Not just in this story, but think about the day, months, and years ahead of them. This is probably the core group who will go out and preach and teach the gospel after Pentecost. In later years, their descendants will go on and do great and amazing things for the church. Just 72 people at the beginning, and they had the faith and courage to change the world. And think, they did this without a purse, no bag, and no sandals. There were no guarantees on how they would be received in communities, but what they had was the promise that Jesus would go with them and do great things through them!

This story is also about community. According to the 2023 Faith Communities Today national survey, the average church in the U.S. has a median of 60 regular worship participants. So, why are you here? One of the main reasons we come to church is to know that this is our group of 72! We are not in this alone; we are here for each other. God has an interesting habit of accomplishing incredible things with the most unlikely people. Some of the gifts that Jesus gives his disciples are teamwork and trusting obedience. Because when we work together, when we recall that God said it is not good for us to be alone, when we see our hope and welfare are linked to those around us, then we not only can accomplish so much more than we possibly could alone, but we discover that our names, along with those first disciples, are written in the book of heaven.

What might it mean if our parish were to remember Jesus' counsel and command and work and dream together of a more vibrant witness to the Christian faith? There are things we cannot accomplish alone, but we can do together. I invite you to practice relying on one another for HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT, and SUPPORT, and to turn to God in prayer for assistance with these things.

As always, I continue to lift you up in prayer! If you have any pastoral care needs, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Peace in Christ,
The Rev. Curt Wingert

PARISH EVENTS

Bible Study

The Parish Bible Study will take a Summer Break. A start-up date will be forthcoming.

Joint Service & Picnic

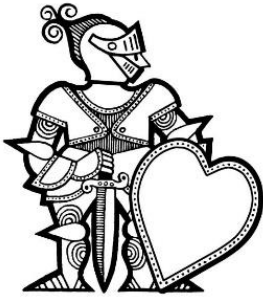
A joint worship service and picnic will be held on **Sunday, July 20**, at the Mifflinburg Community Park starting at **10:00 a.m.** Those attending are invited to bring a covered dish to share for the picnic, which will be held after worship. The Parish will supply paper goods, water and hot dogs. Both congregations will be notified if this information changes.



VBS SAVE THE DATE

Monday, July 7- Thursday, July 10

BVLP Community Vacation Bible School



**Join us as we become
Community Crusaders
and put on our
ARMOR for GOD**

Who: anyone going into Kindergarten to Sixth Grade

Where: we will gather at the Mifflinburg Town Park Pavillion

Time: 6:00 -8:15 PM

SCAN the QR code for information





CULC NEWS

Member News

- 1) Congratulations to **Amy Shuck**. On Sunday, July 6th, Amy was called to serve as the Pastor of First Lutheran in Watsontown! Amy received her Certificate of Theological Studies through the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. Amy's ordination and installation will take place on August 17th. Blessings to Amy and the members of First Lutheran in Watsontown as this new chapter of ministry begins!
- 2) **Natalie Harvey** is part of the 2025 Summer Staff at Camp Mount Luther. Please keep her and God's ministry at CML in your prayers. You can send mail or a care package to her until August 1 at Camp Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.
- 3) Thank you to those responsible for planting the geraniums from Pentecost. It was very much appreciated.

Helpers Needed

We continue to be in need of additional helpers to count offerings after worship services. If interested, contact Barry Spangler (570-966-0406).

Council

The next regular scheduled council meeting for Christ's United will be held on **Tuesday, July 15, starting at 7:00 p.m.**

~~~~~

*Summer is the time to get out as much as you can for as long as you can.  
Tend the garden, climb the trees, swim in the waves,  
eat outdoors, take a walk at dusk and sleep under the stars.*



## ***FELC NEWS***

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

First Lutheran will be serving a free community meal on Saturday, **July 12\***, from 11:00 –12:30. All are welcome! Please enter the door in the alley behind the church. Meals for the remainder of the quarter will be held on August 2 and September 6.

***\*Please note change in schedule.***

### **Summer Music**

Summer music at First includes Emily Seebold, two other singers from Lewisburg, violinists, a cellist, and piano/organ duets.

Special music for July includes:

Paula Christy and Diane Scott, piano/organ duets

July 20 - Music in the park - Emily Seebold

July 27 - Jonah Carney, tenor from Lewisburg

### **Food Donations**

The Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club provides food boxes each December to needy families within our school district. This past year 75 boxes were distributed. As you can imagine, it takes a tremendous amount of food to fill these boxes. In an attempt to fill these boxes, we are asking church members to help. Each month there will be a designated food item you can donate. A box will be in the hallway for donations. Please be sure your item will not go out of date before February 2026. Thank you for helping to feed those in need. For the month of July, we will be collecting peanut butter.

### **FELC Scholarships**

Applications for the Wehr & Munson Memorial Scholarships are available in the office to students who have completed three semesters of college courses. The deadline for submission is August 1st.

## **Word in Season Devotionals**

The Word in Season devotionals for July - September 2025 are available in the back of the sanctuary.

## **Altar Flowers**

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

## **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.

## **Weis/Wenger's Gift Cards**

Gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100 and make wonderful gifts for any occasion. Kim Sawyer is selling the cards. The cards will be available on Sundays, before or after church; at her home; in the church office when the secretary is in; and Kim will also deliver; contact her at 570-713-4577. Make checks payable to "First Lutheran Church" and use them as cash or the recipient can do the same. YOU receive the card's full value, and Weis gives 5% and Wenger's 10% of purchase to our mission fund! Many thanks to all who support this mission.

~~~~~

*Shifting away from June's bud
to leave dandelions scattered in the yard
this dawn of July
marks the end of a lie
a lie from past season
for a strong reason*

*In July
robin will make herself shy
and cover her reddish breast
with her celestial hued crest
then flap her wings to fly
close against the sky*

*I want to kiss July
and make July
lasting forever
in beauty but not ephemeral*

*I will preserve July
on my canvas and with magic brush
so that she will be enthralled and blush*

*I will paint July
with charming colour
so that she will be captured in delight
and her soul enraptured
Because my heart is in July.*



UPCOMING MEALS

Upcoming

Mark your calendars for the following 2025 Meals at CULC:

September 27 – Turkey Dinner
November 1 – Pot Pie Quart Sale



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2025 Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Applications for the 2025 Farmers Market Nutrition Program for individuals age 60+ (or 60 by 12/31/25) who meet the financial guidelines, are available at both CULC and FELC. Vouchers are worth \$5 each and individuals will receive 5 vouchers, for a total **benefit of \$25.00 in free produce vouchers.**

The 2025 household income eligibility is:

1 person – \$28,953	2 people – \$39,128
3 people – \$49,303	4 people – \$59,478

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

CHRIST'S UNITED

Laurie Adams
Paul Brann
Roger Dunkle
Rick & Darlene Endy
Dorothy Furgison
Gary Gemberling
Pearl Gemberling
Gary & Janet Hackenberg
Keith Hackenberg
Paul & Sherri Klauger
Nancy Klinepeter
Roy Laudermilch
Tonia Longer
Kay Martin
John & Kathy Morrison
Harry Moyer
Steve & Judy Moyer
Melinda Noll
Dave Oberlin
Kevin & Ashley Reber
Larry Sampsell
Lee & Kathy Spangler
Chuck Spurr
Dave & Linda Swartz
Kerm Wagner
Gary & Marlene Walters
Tom Watters
Donald Weller
Alica Zimmerman

The Shut-Ins:

Betty Goss, Helen Pirone, Dottie Rathfon, Louise Ritter, Sam Schnure.

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

The Shut-Ins:

Millard Boyer
Mary 'Lib' Dunkle
Lois Elliott
Doris Moll
Ethel Musser
June Ocker
Barb Reed
Dotty Seebold
James Shipton
Pat Smith
Nancy Ulrich

The Troops:

Thaddeus Miller
Zachary Miller





BIRTHDAYS

CULC

6 – Brandi Gemberling
 Rylan Shuck
 10 – Kim Woods
 14 – Kayla Forcheskie
 16 – Dayna Bickhart
 17 – Pat Spangler
 18 - James Gemberling
 29 – Steve Forcheskie
 Zachary Harvey
 27 – Donald Bowersox
 Ashley Wenrich
 30 – Gregory Shuck
 31 – Darlene Endy

FELC

2 – McKenna Magyar
 4 – Bonnie Conrad
 5 – Sally Rothermel
 10 – Gladys Jamison, Austin Spickler
 13 – Derek Gessner
 15 – Dylan Harvey, Paige Ulrich
 16 – Paige Jordan
 19 – DuFrane Reed, Sierra Rehm
 20 – Norman Conrad, Timothy
 Shoemaker, Tyrus Watson
 22 – Brian Dauberman
 23 – Ann Beckley
 26 – Sarah Fritz
 29 – Helen Donmoyer, Lee Schwartz-
 Miller
 31 – Scott Baylor
 Evan McBryan

ANNIVERSARIES

CULC

10 – Glenn & Pat Spangler (1982)
 22 – Dennis & Tammy Boop (1989)

FELC

1 – Norman & Bonnie Conrad (47 yrs)
 12 – Harvey & Brenda Ilgen (66 yrs)
 17 – Don & Dotty Seebold (**70 yrs**)
 28 – Michael & Melissa Lynch (41 yrs)
 31 – Emil & Tanna Stenger, Jr (32 yrs)



JULY VOLUNTEERS

CULC

Date:	Greeters	Lay Reader:	Communion Asst.:
7/6		Maurice Clouser	Judy Moyer
7/13		Greg Shuck	Dianne Shuck
7/20	Joint Service & Picnic @ Mifflinburg Park		
7/27			
		Glenn Spangler	Glenn Spangler

Sound System: Dave Bickhart **Altar Guild:** Katherine & Eugene Hassinger
Ushers: Janice Wagner & Bob Goss

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 servis scheduled during the month.



FELC

Date:	Lay Reader:	Ushers:
7/06	Don Seebold II	Jane Moore/Marianne Motto
7/13	Shirley Heasley	Hull Family
7/20	Linda Skinner	Jeff Crossland/Linda Skinner
7/27	Barb Randecker	Tom Orren/Barb Randecker

Acolytes:

7/06 – Brynn Umholtz	7/13 – Erica Boyer
7/20 – Hannah Boyer	7/27 – Harry Boyer

Chief Usher: Perri Hull

Money Counters: Sue Jows/Nancy Snook **Altar Guild:** Vicki Hackenburg

Volunteers, Please Note: If you are scheduled to help with the service and are unable to fulfill your responsibility, please contact the head 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

Parish Council Members: Terry Kline, Marianne Motto, Barb Randecker,
Kim Sauers, Teresa Shuck, Linda Smith

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

CULC e-mail: culc@4bellschurch.com
CULC Website: 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

David Swartz & Barry Spangler,

Digital Music Arrangers

Loretta Martin, Custodian

Margie Dunkle, Secretary/Asst. Tr.

Brandi Zimmerman, Council Secretary

Dianne Shuck, Treasurer,

Financial Recording Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joel Blyler – Dennis Boop

Gina Buttorff - Bev Catherman

Terry Kline - Lisa Lapp

Greg Shuck - Teresa Shuck

Linda Smith - Lee Spangler

Breonna Zimmerman - Idella Zimmerman

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

FELC e-mail:

felcmifflinburg@gmail.com

FELC Website: 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, Church Secretary

Katiann Lloyd, Financial Secretary

Gloria Mincemoyer, Treasurer

Diane Scott, Director of Music

Hank Dorman, Sexton

Kay Trick, Housekeeping

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jamie Bartlett - Christian Boyer

Drew Christy - Perri Hull

Linda Lewis - Jeff Mensch

Barb Randecker – Kim Sauers -

Don Seebold II





355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844
Telephone (570) 922-1587 F x (570) 922-1118
E-mail: cml@campmountluther.org

Summer Camp Season at Camp Mount Luther

You don't want to miss a chance this summer to get outside, make new friends, and feel God's love at camp. There are still openings for all **Camp Mount Luther** programs. Bring your family to Family Camp to reconnect with God and others and get away from routine life. Camp in the Bald Eagle State Forest during Buffalo Gap Adventure and explore waterfalls, rock formations, and beautiful foliage) starting June 29.

Water Adventure (get wet with fishing, creek hikes, slip and slides, and canoeing) starting July 6.

Classic Camp (with special stuff themed around Dr. Seuss) starting July 27.

Servant And Leadership Training (SALT) camp for senior high who want to learn what it's like to be on staff during the weeks of July 6 and 27.

Our Promise To You:

You will be safe - You will be welcomed - You will be loved - You will have fun

1.1.1.1 Here's A Description of All the Great Special Camps We've Got Planned This Summer!

- **Buffalo Gap Adventure**—Camp in the Bald Eagle State Forest and explore waterfalls, rock formations, and beautiful foliage.
- **Classic with Dr. Seuss Theme**—Have the traditional CML experience plus special stuff themed around Dr. Seuss.
- **Day Camp**—Do camp with some special activities for your age group and go home each night.
- **Family**—Bring your family to reconnect with God and others and get away from routine life.
- **Mini Camp**—Get the CML experience for half a week!
- **Night Owl**—Stay up later each night and do nighttime activities like flashlight tag and stargazing.

- **Outdoor Quest**—Paddle in a canoe, climb the low ropes, study nature, hike trails, and cycle around (please bring a working bike!)
- **SALT**—Explore Service And Leadership Training, including learning what it's like to be on staff.
- **Tracks**—Enjoy extra time with crafts, sports, Lego, nature, sewing, singing, and drama.
- **Water Adventure**—Get wet with fishing, creek hikes, slip and slides, and canoeing. Bring an extra swimsuit!
- **X-Teen**—Explore your faith with your peers and do special activities reserved for senior high!

HERE'S A TYPICAL WEEK AT CAMP

SUNDAY

Evening: arrive, settle in, and enjoy all-camp opening and worship

MONDAY

Morning: breakfast, First Light, team building activities, games or crafts

Afternoon: lunch, swimming, games or crafts

Evening: dinner, Eventide, more games, hiking, or swimming, cabin worship

TUESDAY

Morning: breakfast, First Light, games or crafts

Afternoon: lunch, head out on overnights! (week-long campers only)

Evening: set up camp, dinner, eventide, cabin worship

WEDNESDAY

Morning: return from overnights, brunch, First Light

Afternoon: Electives!

Evening: dinner, games, Eventide, cabin worship

THURSDAY

Morning: All-Camp Activity, brunch, First Light

Afternoon: lunch, swimming, games or crafts

Evening: dinner, eventide, all-camp campfire and worship

FRIDAY

Morning: breakfast, First Light, games or crafts

Afternoon: swimming, packing, all-camp closing worship, and head home!

Cost

With donor support, we subsidize everyone's camp fees (estimated to be about \$2,000 per camper per week). Three-tiered pricing allows you to self-select what you can afford. **All campers receive the same camp experience regardless of the tier you choose.** Financial assistance is often available from your church or contact chad@campmountluther.org. Register and pay all fees by Wednesday at noon prior to your camping week.

<i>All campers get a t-shirt!</i>	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Day Camp (per day)	\$85	\$70	\$55
Mini Camp & Family Camp	\$530	\$410	\$305
Weeklong Camps	\$850	\$725	\$625



SYNOD NEWS

Recent Upper Susquehanna Synod Statistics

Congregations: 112

13 served by Synodically Authorized Minister
 3 served by TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) candidate
 37 with interim pastor
 10 with no appointed/called leader
 63 of 112 congregations (>56%) have no called pastor

Leaders: 93 pastors, 5 deacons, 37 authorized lay worship leaders

55 (59%) of pastors are retired
 6 pastors are in special calls
 1 pastor is disabled
 2 pastors are on leave
 Average age of pastors serving in a call or an interim is 60 years
 16 pastors aged above 65 years are serving 35 congregations.

Action Alert

No one in a state of agricultural abundance should go hungry! **With pending** federal cuts to hunger programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a stalled negotiation on an updated Farm Bill, and continued inflation of food and housing costs, more and more Pennsylvanians are experiencing food insecurity.

Pennsylvania cannot make up the entire gap of funding left by congressional budget cuts, but we can make a significant investment in proven programs that help those in need and our Pennsylvania farmers and food system.

Most of our congregations help feed many thousands of Pennsylvanians through the direct service or support of hunger ministries. Many of our pantries rely on food made possible through two of the state's major anti-hunger programs, which are not keeping up with need. Some ministries report numbers three times pre-pandemic levels.

It is unacceptable that neighbors are going hungry in a state of such agricultural abundance. It is time to end shortfalls and adequately fund the State Food Purchase Program at a level of at least \$24.88 million in the State's 2025-2026 fiscal year budget. This needs to be IN ADDITION TO at least \$9 million for the Pa. Agricultural Surplus System, which allows PA farmers to direct high-quality surplus product that would otherwise go to waste, into the charitable food system.

Please alert your lawmakers to the need our ministries are witnessing first-hand and urge them to act. The church sees the needs of our neighbors

Youth Service Learning Camp

[Pastor Gary Schaeffer](#) (Milton Lutheran) and [Charlene Rineer](#) (Christ's, Lewisburg) are organizing a youth mission trip for this summer. They are inviting anyone who would like to be part of it to join them. Some information is below. Reminder: **Youth who want to go will need to pay a deposit of \$100.00 by Easter.**

Toledo, Ohio Service Learning Camp
July 20-26, 2025 Cost – \$425.00
For 6th through 12th graders
Contacts – Cassie Mugler and Don Marsh

Some of the possible projects

1. Let's Build Beds. This is a wonderful organization that builds beds for children ages 3-17. The goal is to provide safe sleeping space. This project involves building the beds and delivering them (if you choose) to the children. There is also an opportunity to get your congregation involved by collecting bedding and bringing it along.
2. Clean Your Streams. Toledo is on Lake Erie, and we have been affected by lack of clean water in our area over the years. This project usually involves trash pick-up or cleaning/painting storm drains.
3. Inner city community gardens
4. Building picnic tables
5. Working at the food bank packing boxes for senior citizens

A hunger workshop at the beginning to help Groups get in the mindset of serving people in poverty. One thing they will be doing this summer specifically is trying to get groups to interact with more people in the community.

Additionally, the area has a wonderful Park system. We can do things like hike, kayak/canoe, swim, participate in a class at the park (archery, fishing, Paddleboarding, Etc.) The zoo is world award-winning and has a high-ropes course (great for team building)! It is close to Cedar Point, so the plan is to go there on Friday.

We will be staying at a church and making most of our meals there. We will have a few dinners out. Youth who want to go will need to pay a deposit of \$100.00 by Easter.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Annual WELCA Convention

You are invited to attend the Thirty-seventh Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Upper Susquehanna Synod, **July 26, 2025** at Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. Please plan to attend this one-day convention, "For All the Faithful Women." It is an excellent opportunity for you to unite with our sisters from neighboring churches as we engage in the business of the Women of the ELCA.

This year we will be putting together Period Packs which will be sent to CWS for distribution. Each WELCA group attending the Convention is asked to bring either regular Tampons, Super absorbency Tampons or packs of 12 Pads (unscented, long super ultra-thin). The plan is to pack 200 kits. Any extra items will go to a local shelter. All other items needed for the kits will be supplied by the USSWO.

In light of all the natural disasters the In-gathering offering will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response. Checks should be made payable to USSWO.

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August Newsletter Articles Due July 20!		1	2 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC	3	4 Independence Day Offices Closed	5
6 8:30 Worship- CULC- 9:00 Adult SS- FELC 10:30 Worship- FELC	7 VBS – 6-8:15 pm	8	9	10	11	12 11-12:30 Community Meal-FELC
13 8:30 Worship- CULC- 9:00 Adult SS- FELC 10:30 Worship- FELC	14	15 7:00 Council- CULC	16 10:00 Hope's Haven-CULC	17	18	19
20 No Adult SS- FELC 10:00 Joint Worship/Picnic- Mifflinburg Park	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:30 Worship- CULC 9:00 Adult SS- FELC 10:30 Worship -FELC	28	29	30	31		