



First News

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA



From Our Pastor...

BY FAITH

In 2017 we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation begun by Martin Luther in Germany when he presented and nailed his 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church. As we focus to our Reformation heritage, honoring Martin Luther's significant contributions to the life of the church and his penetrating theological insights, we often give particular emphasis on Luther's understanding of "justification by faith apart from the works of the law." The identification of "Lutheran" has often been linked synonymously with and solely to the mantra, "justified by faith." This has often led to a callous reductionism that lends to a faulty distinction between belief and action as well as favoring theological statements over the demonstration of Christian love. Furthermore, "justification by faith" has too often been utilized from our faith perspective as a voucher for safe entrance into the afterlife rather than as a powerful prescription that enables a transformation of the present from that of being self-serving and self-gratifying into that of selfless-giving and unconditional love directed to others.

In Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he emphasizes the character (and not simply the notion) of "justification by faith" re-

vealed and actualized through the faithfulness of Jesus (in his life as well as in his redeeming death for all-see Gal. 3:13) in order to point out the deficiencies of any presumption that held on to a belief that by accomplishing the "works of the law" one would thereby assume an elevated posture before God (reward based on merit) as well as maintaining a valid separation from those perceived to be less worthy. For Paul, our justification/righteousness before God hinges solely by the way Jesus lived and died for us and is not attributed in any way by our contribution of ethnicity, behavior or thought processes. We receive our justification by the faithfulness of Jesus and we are able to perceive it through the gift of faith (our ability to believe in and trust what God has done in Christ), and we live out this "justification" by acknowledging, as did Paul, that "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal.2:20).

"Justification by faith" is Paul's rejoinder against any and all attempts to base our righteous relationship with God upon human effort. Only God in Christ is reliable; all human understanding, ambition, motivation and effort, apart from God's gracious intervention, fall short of keeping/maintaining/ accomplishing ("the works") what the "law" expects and desires. Paul notes, "Now before

faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:23-24). Here, Paul equates the arrival of faith with the arrival of Christ, suggesting that the reliability of our faith rests solely in the faithfulness of Jesus to carry out God's intended promise of justification and not on any inherent human ability to "believe in" something so strongly that it is bound to happen.

Paul acknowledges that "in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners" (Gal. 2:17). But because of the faithfulness of Jesus, we do not remain stuck "unjustified" in our efforts or due to any erroneous beliefs. And so, "we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faithfulness of Jesus" (Gal. 2:16). Our justification comes not as a result of our "faith" (the work of our believing in Jesus), but is rather the by-product of the way Jesus lived and died for us (his "faithfulness") that we receive in, by and through God's grace which allows us to "believe." Paul further

Con't. pg. 3

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:

Sunday School	2
Men's Ministry	2
Birthdays	3
Financial	3
Thank Yous	3



Men's Ministry

KICKOFF FOR OUR 2016 FALL SEASON IS SEPTEMBER 15!

Our first session will be a combination cook-out and get-acquainted event to be held on Thursday,

September 15th, 6:30 pm, at the home of Keith and Kim Sawyer, 904 Mountview Road, Mifflinburg. Please consider joining us for this fellowship, and learn more about your church family and your faith as well. Church is so more than one hour on Sunday mornings, and we have a great group of men to share time with. After some initial visiting and cookout food we will share a short video and discussion period, and also talk about our program for our 2016-2017 Men's Ministry gatherings. So guys, note the above date and time, at Keith and Kim's home. Share this information with your friends. If you have never attended our sessions, or it it's been a while since you attended, you owe it to yourself and your church family to set aside time for this opportunity to share and build up your faith and life as a follower and disciple of Christ. If you are unable to make it in time for

the cook-out please join us for our meeting at 7:30, which will also be our regular meeting time at church the first and third Thursdays of each month thereafter. We'd love to have you with us! Any questions, call Bill Musser at 941-405-8583.

(P.S. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the church bulletin board in the hallway after September 1st, so please sign up to give us an idea of how much food and drinks we will need!)



COMMUNITY DINNER

September's meal will be held on Saturday, the 3rd.

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!

Adult Sunday School

What did Jesus really tell us about how to live our lives on His Sermon on the Mount? How do we live out what He told us in this greatest of all Sermons?

Our adult Sunday School class facilitated by Bill Musser will begin our fall season on Sunday, September 25 (following rally day Sunday September 18th). We will continue our format of DVD sessions by leading Christian speakers/authors, and discussion of these lessons. We begin with 5 sessions discussing the true meaning of Christian Discipleship, entitled "The Divine Conspiracy", based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The DVD sessions are presented by two outstanding Christian Pastor/Teacher/Authors, Dallas Willard and John Ortberg. Sessions include "The Path to a Blessed Life", "Becoming a Good Person", "Treasuring What Matters Most", "Becoming a Community of Prayerful Love", and "Living as a Disciple of Jesus". This study presents a practical, everyday way to experience God, knowing Him as a part of our "here and now". Join us at 9:15am in the multi-purpose room for these sessions. You won't want to miss this! (NOTE: We will not meet as a class on Rally Day as that day is an all-church event. We will begin on September 25, will be off on October 2, but will resume regular weekly classes on October 9th.

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 Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the library. For more information, please contact Gwen Hull @ 524-0289.

The next meeting is Wednesday-day, September 7th.

If you like to do handiwork, please join the group for an evening of fun and crafting. New faces & hands are always welcome.

Christkindle Dinner

Chairperson Needed

Ann Beckley has graciously chaired the Christkindl dinner for the last five years. She has a rather extensive portfolio of information that will help create a smooth change over. She will provide any help for the transition of someone else becoming involved.

If you would be willing to be a co-chair for either of these events, please contact the office for more information.

Sunday School



September 18th @ 9AM

in the Multi-Purpose Room

We will have a special presentation for all ages by Jeff Baker, Chalk Art Ministry!

Check out his website:
www.drawinghisglory.com

Sunday School classes for the 2016/17 Season

Combined 1st grade thru 4th grade Class -- Gary Girton and Eric Hull

5th and 6th grade Class -- Jace Watson

Junior /Senior High Youth -- Meet as youth groups Sunday evenings

Adult Class one --

Bill Musser Facilitator

Adult Class two --

Ann Beckley Facilitator



September Birthdays

Vicki Hackenburg	2nd	Jace Watson	15th
Elliana Girton	3rd	Jadyn Rothermel	16th
Daphine Fritz	4th	Grace Crossland	17th
Steve Smith	6th	Oren Sheesley	18th
Tom Taylor	8th	Ethel Bilger	19th
Craig Rothermel	9th	Curt Rothermel	19th
Amanda Galer	9th	Lori Weaver	23rd
Zach Hornig	9th	Scott Blue	23rd
Jean Sanden	10th	Michael Steimling	24th
Blaine Dunkle	12th	Nathan Lynch	24th
Jayla Yoder	12th	Millard Boyer	25th
Mary Jane Feaster	13th	Michael Culp	25th
Emma Wagner	14th	Max Zeller	26th
John Uehling	14th	Tom Woodring	26th

Tracy Mensch	26th
Ruth Gessner	28th
Andrew Schwartz	28th
Brenda Ilgen	30th
Maxine Stahl	30th

Shut-ins:

Kathryn Steimling	1st
Rolling Hills Manor	
17350 Old Turnpike Road	
Millmont, PA 17845	
Geri Mattern	10th
Riverwoods, E-wing, #429	
3201 River Road	
Lewisburg, PA 17837	



Dear Quilt Ladies and First Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you for the wonderful quilt and kindness. I will be thinking of you all while away at college and warming myself with the quilt.

Love,
Perri Hull

To First Lutheran,

Thank You for all the cards and prayers extended to our family at the passing of Carol.

God Bless,

Mike & Sandy McCloud and family

From Our Pastor...

(con't. from pg. 1)

notes that if our justification can be attained or appropriated by any human means, even that of holding on to a particular set of beliefs, "then Christ died for nothing" (Gal. 2:21).

But because we are "justified by faith," that is, by Christ's faithfulness to God's justifying promise and plan for us in Jesus, we can let go of any reckless pursuit of self-justification, and can therefore live our lives by "faith" (trust) in Christ. Paul also characterizes this "justification brought about by God's grace" with an understanding of freedom that is not autonomous and self-serving but is actualized in love for others- "the only thing that counts is faith made effective through love" (Gal. 5:6). The justifying freedom we have in Christ is to be lived in and by love- "do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love becomes servants to one another" (Gal. 5:13), for "those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24).

*In service to Christ and the Church,
Pastor John*

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

As of July 31, 2016

Income YTD:	\$ 97,258.54
Budgeted Income YTD:	\$ 141,379.00
(Under Budget YTD:	\$ (44,120.46)
Expenses YTD:	\$ 86,585.41
Budgeted Expenses YTD:	\$ 141,379.00
(Under Budget YTD):	\$ (54,793.59)

General Fund Balance

January 1, 2016:	\$ 20,433.09
Income YTD:	+ \$ 97,258.54
Expenses YTD:	- \$ 86,585.41
Transfers:	- \$ 2,630.50
July 31, 2016	\$ 28,475.72

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

Regular Sunday School begins
September 18th @ 9:15AM.
(Rally day, Sept. 11th @ 9AM)



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.

FAMILY DAY AT CAMP MT. LUTHER!!

Sunday, September 11

"God's Work, Our Hands"

Worship begins at 11:00AM

Followed by activities and service

More information will be in upcoming bulletins.

*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*

