



2017

First News



First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

From Our Pastor...

WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT WE ARE?

Deep into his ministry, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" Their response was varied, some indicating that he was a revisiting of some particular prophet from the past. Then he pressed them further by asking, "Who do you say that I am?" here, Peter speaks up by indicating that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

As the church, we too recognize that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. This proclamation gives us our purpose as Christians, baptized and marked with the cross of Christ, and fed and sustained by his body and blood.

But we may also ask, "Who do people say that we are?"

Our collective identity as the church, the body of Christ, is

defined mostly from within. That is, we understand ourselves as sisters and brothers in Christ from a "believing" perspective. We identify ourselves as the church from perspectives gained from shared beliefs and practices within the collective history of the church and her traditions and rituals. But the question I posed is to ask how we are viewed and understood from the outside, from the perspective of the wider community and world that is not self-defined by the church's history of beliefs and practices. That is, does the wider community see us as we see ourselves?

Are they able to see the presence of Christ through us? Do they witness any Christ-like characteristics in our actions? Are they interested in what we have to offer through and be-

cause of our faith? Or are they unable to recognize any distinctive Christian quality in us, that is, do we just seem to blend in to the ways of the world? Or even, has the world around us grown tired and disinterested in our Christian witness or lack thereof?

Quite possibly we should understand that what happens within the church is but a dress rehearsal for what is to happen outside the church. What we say and do in our worship and ministry life within the church need be visible to the whole world around us.

Who do people say that we are? All depends on how clearly and frequently they can see Christ in us.

*Blessings,
Pr. John*

Staff & Council Members

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

2017-18 Altar Guild Books

The 2017-18 Altar Guild books are in the members mailbox. Please pick yours up! There are a few changes.

Also, all of the Sundays in September are available for sponsorship. Please sign up today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



We are in desperate need of additional volunteers to serve in various ways during Sunday worship!

Acolytes, ushers and children's church leaders are desperately needed. Current volunteers are serving frequently and it would be nice to spread that time out a little further.

If you are able to serve in any way, please contact the church office. **THANK YOU!!**





September Birthdays

Vicki Hackenburg	09/02	Jadyn Rothermel	09/16	Andrew Schwartz	09/28
Elliana Girton	09/03	Grace Crossland	09/17	Brenda Ilgen	09/30
Daphne Fritz	09/04	Oren Sheesley	09/18	Maxine Stahl	09/30
Stephen Smith	09/06	Curt Rothermel	09/19	Shut-Ins:	
Thomas Taylor	09/08	Scott Blue	09/23	Jean Sanden	9/10
Amanda Galer	09/09	Lori Weaver	09/23	Riverwoods	
Zachary Hornig	09/09	Nathan Lynch	09/24	3201 River Road	
Craig Rothermel	09/09	Millard Boyer	09/25	Lewisburg, PA 17837	
Brandon Confer	09/11	Michael Culp	09/25	Ethel Bilger	09/19
Blaine Dunkle	09/12	William Baylor	09/26	Grayson Manor	
Jayla Yoder	09/12	Tracy Mensch	09/26	29 Grayson View Court	
Mary Jane Feaster	09/13	Tom Woodring	09/26	Selinsgr ove, PA 17870	
John Uehling	09/14	Max Zeller	09/26		
Jace Watson	09/15	Ruth Gessner	09/28		

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 17th, starting at 9:00 am. in the multipurpose room. There will be a special presentation for ages Nursery through Adult.

Adult Sunday School this fall will be the continuation of "Having A Mary Heart In A Martha World". Chapters 7-12.

Dates:

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

November 5

New class members are welcome to join the class. Please let Ann Beckley or Bill Musser know if you would like to join so they can get materials for you.

Dandelion Run Saturday, September 2nd Camp Mt. Luther

**Donations of homemade cookies
are being sought.**

A sign-up sheet will be
on the church bulletin board.

Donations should be brought to the church
by Friday, September 1st, 3PM.

Bible Study With Pastor John

The Cross: The Real and The Symbolic

We will be taking an in depth look at Christianity's primary symbol, the cross. We will begin by studying the gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion, as well as exploring the historical roots of Rome's use of the cross as an instrument of torture, humiliation and death. We will then look at Jesus' call to his followers to take up their own cross in order to follow him. Additionally, we will explore Paul's metaphorical usage of the cross to describe Christian faith and discipleship. Finally, we will address the manner in which an instrument of death turned symbolically into a representation of the Christian faith. This will include an exploration of the many types of crosses that have been used by the Christian church throughout its history.

Dates:

Mondays, 10:30 AM at 4-Bells—8/28, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/16

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM at First—9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/17


Wednesdays, 7:00 PM at 4-Bells—8/30, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/18, 10/25



ADDRESSES NEEDED

Please contact the church office with updated addresses for our young adults, college students and military.

YOUTH EVENTS



September Dinner and Devotions will be held on 9/17, at 6:00 PM at the Sawyer's house. This will include youth grades 6 and up.



Stand By The Pole

Wednesday, September 27th

Early morning, youth to gather to pray together, at the flagpole, at the Mifflinburg High School. Kim Sawyer will provide more details closer to the date.

MANY THANKS!

Dear First Evangelical Lutheran Church,

I would like to thank you for the beautiful handmade quilt. I love how each square was carefully thought out to represent one aspect of my life. I appreciate all of the women who had worked on my quilt, along with my other classmates. I feel blessed to be part of a wonderful church filled with such loving and caring people.

Love,

Bryanna Yost

Thank you so much for the quilt that was given to me. I love it and plan to use it regularly. I really appreciate all the hard work everyone put into not only making the quilt, but also making me who I am today.

Much appreciation,

Zachery Taylor

Jeannie Sawyer and Women Of The Church,

I wanted to write you a thank you card for my awesome quilt. It's always great to look at it and realize someone would put that much time and effort for a friend. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Dylan Harvey

To: 1st Evan. Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1000.00 towards the purchase of a new copier. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated. Our Summer Servant Groups are starting to arrive to help with the repair work on our church. This coming week the group will teach Bible School. Again thank you, your gift will directly benefit our church.

Sincerely,

The Congregation of Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church-Rocky Boy

Dear Jeannie,

I'd like to thank you and all of the other wonderful women that came together to make the senior quilts. They were all beautiful, as always! I loved the running and flower pattern that was picked for mine. I will be taking my quilt to college with me and thank you again!

Sincerely,

Grace Alexander

Dear First Lutheran Quilters,

Thank you for making me such a beautiful quilt. All the time and hard work spent on creating a quilt that is so true to me. It means everything! I appreciate the support you have given me throughout the years! Wherever my future takes me I will always keep the quilt close. It will represent the love and warmth of my church family. Thanks again!

Love,

Cora Reed

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*

