



First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

First News

From Our Pastor... THE CHURCH: WHAT I b GOD INTENDS IT TO BE has pr

The reflections I write are to be found in a church newsletter. therefore will be primarily read by a church audience. The topic of the church, I find, is timely for there seems to be a growing chasm between belief and church participation, evidenced by an increasingly large number of empty pews on Sunday mornings and the increasing number of folks who believe that a relationship with God is a one-on-one proposition apart from any collective, relational gathering of believers who worship and serve God together. Therefore, I believe it is appropriate to ask and reflect upon a proper definition of the church, that is, what God intends the church to be for God is the one who called the church into existence.

Descriptions of the church are varied. Some believe it to be a place where one can hold membership, a place to go on Sunday mornings or other designated times. Others believe the church to be a collection of believers who share some commonality; i.e. denominational theology and polity; maybe a shared taste and interest in music styles; maybe to make connections for participation and influence in the wider community; quite possibly to hear the "what's-going-on" in other folks' lives. Whatever we might come to believe about the church, we can affirm that God wants the church to be, for God has called it into existence and promises to be present in its gathering. That is, there is a purpose for the church beyond one's own personal, individual relationship with God undertaken outside and apart from the collective body of believers.

I believe that the Apostle Paul has provided clarity for us in discerning the purpose and role of the church and our needed participation within it. In addressing the activity of God in and through Jesus, an activity of blessing and forgiveness and salvation, Paul writes to the church in Ephesus: "And God has put all things under Jesus' feet and has made him the head over all things for the CHURCH, which is his BODY, the FULLNESS of him who fills all in all (1:22-23). Certainly from Paul's perspective, the church's existence, purpose, and activity is to be in line with the fullness of God's intent revealed in the life of Jesus; that is the church is the now gathered presence of God's activity in and through the Risen Jesus manifested in the shared lives (the body) of believers. The church exists and has purpose because God wills it to be.

Paul adds in his address to the Ephesian church: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you (plural) were called to the one hope of your calling, one baptism, one God and Father of ALL, who is above all and through all and in all" (4:4-5). The church is to be properly understood from God's calling for fullness and peace and not from our narrow appropriations of it. God has equipped the church to carry out and bring fulfillment to God's will. God has given to the church gifts "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for BUILDING UP the body of Christ, until ALL OF US, come to the UNITY of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the FULL STATURE o f Christ" (4:12-13).

The church as God intends and calls it to be has a purpose and a goal far beyond the measurement of our individual beliefs and actions. As Paul indicates, "we are members of one another" (4:25). Quite thankfully, we have the grace-filled opportunity from God to worship God together on a regular basis. Might we ask: what forms the choices we make on those Sunday mornings? Too busy? Tired? Lack of interest? Other pressing matters? Dislike of others, maybe the pastor, in that gathering? The list could go on-and-on.

Hopefully, we can all pause and take a moment to reflect upon God's will and purpose for the church.

During OCTOBER, we will have the opportunity to gather as a PARISH, both congregations, to be the church in the unity of our shared worship Each Sunday experiences. morning we will gather for worship at the Elias building, the structure that housed an early Lutheran witness in our area, at 10 AM. The focus of our liturgy, a bit different from our traditional standards, will be to praise and thank God through representations of our histories as the church and on the revitalization and renewal of the church as we seek to follow God's way into an anticipated, promised future. (In addition, there will be time of refreshment- a variety of hot and cold goodies- following worship. More information will follow.) Preliminary themes and readings:

EPHESIANS 4:1-16.

OCT. 7 Roots and Remembrances: Ephesians 1:15-2:21; Romans 6:3-11

OCT. 14 Reconciliations and (cont. pg. 2)

Staff & Council Members

- Rev. John Yost, Pastor
- Diane Scott, Director of Music
- Heather Klose, Church Administrator
- Cher Girton, Asst. Church Adm.
- Hank Dorman, Sexton
- Harry Boyer, Council President
- Jeff Mensch, Vice President
- Barb Randecker, Secretary
- Cher Girton, Treasurer
- Deanna Billow, Council
- Gary Girton, Council
- Libby Loss, Council
- Bill Musser, Council
 - Jane Moore, Council
- Jim Schwartz, Council
- Sue Jows, Council
- Linda Skinner, Council
- Logan Mensch, Council

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Reciprocations: 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:10; Romans 5:6-11

OCT. 21 Redemption and Renewal: 1 Corinthians 11:23-12:13; Romans 8:18-30

OCT. 28 Reformation and Revitalization: Romans 3:21-26; 12:1-21

> Blessings, Pr. John

2019 Recovery Mission Puerto Rico

Meeting on 9/30/2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the church- downstairs meeting room. Please try to attend this information/planning meeting.

THRIVENTACTION TEAMS JOIN MY THRIVENT ACTION TEAM v taking action

Anyone willing to use their Thrivent Action Team opportunity for the upcoming Food Drive tags and/or Apple Dumpling Supplies and/or Christkindl Supplies and/ or the No Tricks/No Treats service Project and/or the College Exam Care package postage....please see Kim Sawyer ASAP. Simple and easy \$250 seed money for the project that will lower the youth group expenses and allow the youth/young adults to do more.



Unfortunately our worship service at Knoebel's for September 9th, had to be cancelled. We will worship as a parish at Christ's United at 9:00AM. Guest speaker, Pastor John Burke, will speak to us about the program Food For The Poor. A refreshment hour will be held following the service. Please mark your calendars and join us in worship and fellowship!

STATISTICS STATES

September Birthdays

Vicki Hackenburg 09/02 Elliana Girton 09/03 Daphine Fritz 09/04 Thomas Taylor 09/08 Amanda Galer09/09 Zachary Hornig 09/09 Craig Rothermel 09/09 Blaine Dunkle 09/12 Jayla Yoder 09/12 Mary Jane Feaster 09/13 John Uehling 09/14 Jace Watson09/15 Jadyn Rothermel 09/16 Grace Crossland 09/17 Curt Rothermel 09/19 Jonathan Neidig 09/20 Nathan Lynch 09/24 Millard Boyer 09/25 Barry Fetter 09/26 Tracy Mensch 09/26 Tom Woodring 09/26 Max Zeller 09/26 Ruth Gessner 09/28 Andrew Schwartz 09/28 Brenda Ilgen 09/30

Shut-Ins: Ethel Bilger 19th Grayson Manor Room 228 29 Grayson View Court Selinsgrove, PA 17870

First News



Janet & Mike Shoemaker invite you to a showing of the movie War Room. They will be hosting the showing on Sunday, September 16th, at 2:30 PM, in the church sanctuary. They hope you can attend!

Film Synopsis: "With great jobs, a beautiful daughter (Alena Pitts) and a dream house, the Jordans seem to have it all. Appearances can be deceiving, however, as husband Tony (T.C. Stallings) flirts with temptation and wife Elizabeth (Priscilla Shirer) becomes increasingly bitter, crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. Their lives take an unexpected turn for the better when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara (Karen Abercrombie), who encourages the couple to find happiness through prayer."

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.







COLLEGE/MILITARY PARENTS – Yep, they are off and away from home....Kim needs their latest "away from home address" so our church family can send them a package the end of November – PLEASE...PLEASE...do

this for us...it's so easy - simply text/email Kim (570-713-4577 or kksawyer2@gmail.com)

with the following info:

- Name of the one you are still supporting with those tuition checks
- The postsecondary institution name or military base/ branch of service
- Their mailing address
- The major of study (and which year) so we can have an idea what they are up too – or what technical skill



Youth and Young Adults Upcoming Events

September 23rd – Dinner & Devos @ Sawyers @ 6:00 PM – Who wants to lead? Can do with a friend!

• September 26th 7:15 AM - Stand by the Pole @ your school

 \cdot September 30th – Church Basement @ 6:30 PM – Puerto Rico Meeting

 \cdot October 7th – Dinner & Devos @ Sawyers @ 6:00 PM – Who wants to lead? Can do with a friend

• **October 28th** – No Tricks Just Treats Event – 6:00 PM Church Parking Lot – Need adult drivers!

• November 4th – Meet @ Methodist Church lot at 12 Noon to TAG HOMES and then Pizza and Devos @ Larry's Pizza after the tagging is done! Please bring friends!

• November 11th – Meet at Methodist Church parking lot at 12 Noon to divide into teams and collect food and then sort in the church gym – Please bring friends!

• November 18th - College Boxes due back to church for mailing = Kim Sawyer

• December 2nd - BREAKFAST Devotions @ Carriage Corner at 9:00 AM

 \cdot December – 13th, 14th, 15th – Christkindl Stand and Nativity needs lots of volunteers

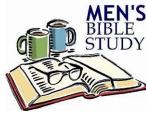
Choir Rehearsals

Chancel Choir rehearsal starts Wednesday, September 12, 2018 7:15-8:00pm. Chancel Choir is open to High School age to adult. All are welcomed to join! No previous experience needed. The Chancel Choir sings once, maybe twice a month and rehearses most Wednesday nights.

Cherub Choir starts Wednesday, September 12, 2018 6-6:20pm. They will sing the last Sunday of each month.

It's not too early to be thinking about singing with the **Christmas Choir** (10pm service)! Rehearsals are Wed Dec 12, &19, and Sunday 23rd 7:15-8:30pm. Please consider joining! A small commitment of 3 rehearsals may be more manageable with your busy schedule. The more people who join, the fuller the choir will sound! You will also be guaranteed a reserved seat for the service!

See Diane Scott if you have any questions!



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY STUDY STUDY September 6th at 7:30 pm. Our meetings usually last one to one and a half hours, and we use a video

and discussion format, with some time for general visiting as well. We continue to meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 pm, all meetings in the church's multi-purpose room. We're going to begin this session with a 5-part DVD series entitled "Effective Stewardship". Explaining to us all the different aspects of Stewardship in out lives through which we serve God. This includes "Using our God Given Talents and Skills"; "Our responsibilities to nature and our environment"; "Our responsibilities to care for and love our neighbors"; "God's call for us to strengthen our church and families"; and finally "How to be good stewards with our finances". This is an interesting series, very thought provoking. Please join us, we'd love to have you.

God Bless, Bill Musser



We will start sharing "Profiles/Pics" of our youth and young adults in upcoming church newsletter so please complete the forms that your youth will be given and return to Kim ASAP.

August 1, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1911 by Harry Boyer.

Present: Jim Schwartz, Libby Loss, Jane Moore, Harry Boyer, Jeff Mensch, Cher Girton, Logan Mensch, Linda Skinner, Sue Jows, Gary Girton, and guests, Gloria Mincemoyer and Jim Adams.

Absent: Bill Musser, Heather Klose, Barb Randecker, Deanna Billow, and Pr. John Yost,

No devotions, as Pastor John was sent home not feeling well.

Boy Scouts: Jim Adams reported that the Boy Scouts of America are now allowing girls to join scouts as well as boys. He presented council with a form with options to choose as to how the church wanted to handle allowing girls in the scouts at the church. Jeff Mensch made a motion to go with the second option, "We will encourage girls to join and participate in separate dens...". The motion was seconded by Jim Schwartz. Motion approved by council. Jim Adams will get Pastor John to sign the forms for submission to Boy Scouts of America.

Secretary's Report: May and June minutes were submitted and stand approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: June through July reports submitted and approved subject to audit.

Pastor's report: Jeff Mensch suggested helping out at Christ's United's Food Stand at the West End Fair.

Communication: None

Executive: None

Gifts & Endowments - None

Worship & Music - None

Property – Jim Schwartz reported that we still have not heard from Silvertip. We were supposed to hear from them by June 29th. He suggested we have the office personnel call Silvertip and see what is going on. The painter has almost completed the painting of the exterior of the building. Jim stated that Bobby Cross said he would make repairs to the ruts in the lawn from the lift. Jim stated the Carillion is not working. He said Emil Stenger reattached some wires while he was up winding the clock, but that did not fix the issue with the Carillion. Jeff Mensch stated that Heather spoke with the company and they are going to ship a box to us to ship the Carillion back to them for repairs. Jim reported he received a bid of \$450 to remove the dead trees in the alley. It will be an extra \$250 for stump and root removal. Jeff Mensch made a motion to have the trees cut down for \$450. Jane Moore seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Jim asked if someone donated the \$250 for stump removal, could we go ahead and have them removed. Council agreed.

Christian Education –Gary Girton reported that Vacation Bible School starts on Sunday, August 12th and runs through Tuesday, August 14th.

Fellowship & Recreation – Libby Loss reported that she will be meeting with Matt Wagner on Tuesday, August 14th, to discuss Christkindl.

Service & Outreach - None

Finance – Jeff Mensch reported that he will be setting up a meeting this month.

Youth – Gary Girton read an email from Kim stating, "The Mission Trip to Wrightsville was off the off the charts wonderful!" "It got the team thinking of where they want to go next year and they decided Puerto Rico." Gary stated they are planning on a Work Camp to Puerto Rico in June. Gary also reported that the trip to Harvey Cedars was great as well. The youth also helped with the kids games at the park for the Fourth of July and had a lemonade and walking taco stand. There will be a meeting of the youth and parents to plan for this year, on Sunday, August 5th at the park. Sunday, August 19th the youth will share their experiences, at Work Camp and Harvey Cedars, with the congregation.

Staff Support – Linda Skinner reported that she, Harry Boyer and the Staff Support Committee met with all of the staff. She said the only complaint they heard from everyone was communication needs to improve. She asked that whenever there is a change in the scheduling, to make sure others, that the change may be affecting, are notified, Housekeeper, Sexton, Diane, etc. Linda made a motion to start giving Loretta a Weis and Wenger's gift cards to purchase housekeeping supplies when needed. Jeff Mensch seconded the motion. Motion was approved by council..

Parish Council: -- None

New Business:

Handicap Parking: Harry reported that someone approached him asking what happened to the handicap parking spot in front of the church. Jeff stated that it is up to the Borough to put the handicap parking spot there. Jeff suggested to Harry to contact Jason Mitchell with the Borough. Harry said he will contact Jason.

Janet Shoemaker: Harry Boyer reported that Janet Shoemaker has requested permission to show the movie, War Room, in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 16th at 2:30 PM. Gary Girton questioned who will run the projector and equipment needed to show the movie. Jeff Mensch made a motion to allow Janet to show the movie War Room on, September 16th at 2:30 PM. Gary Girton seconded the motion. Motion approved. Janet will need to write up what she wants put in the bulletin and find someone to operate the equipment.

Preschool: Harry Boyer reported Kris Lamey was not able to attend the council meeting because she just had surgery. He asked that the office personnel call Kris and ask what her enrollment numbers are for this year.

Locking Building: Jeff Mensch reported that Heather told him the door locks were not working on the backdoor again the other day and she had to continuously run up and down to let people in. Council discussed having the doors open when someone was in the office. Cher Girton suggested leaving the side preschool door open when someone was in the office. This way they can hear if someone comes in. The alley doors would remain locked. Council agreed that would be a better idea and to go ahead and try it.

Harry Boyer closed the meeting with prayer and adjourned at 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Cher Girton Substitute Recording Secretary

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First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8AM: Men's Breakfast-Old Turnpike 11AM-12:30PM: Community Meal
2 10:30AM: Worship/HC-		4 10:30AM: Bible Study	5 Council Meeting 7PM	6 Office Closed 6:30PM Men's Ministry MP Room	7	8 8AM: Men's Breakfast— Ard's
9 9AM: One combined Parish Service at Christ's United with refreshment hour to follow service.	6	11 10:30AM: Bible Study 6:30PM Apple Dumpling Volunteer Update Meeting in the MP Room	12 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13	4	15 8AM: Men's Breakfast- Carriage Corner
16 9:15AM: Sunday School Rally Day 10:30AM: Worship/HC- 2:30PM-Shoemaker's showing War Room movie in sanctuary	17	18 10:30AM: Bible Study	19 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30PM Men's Ministry MP Room	2	22 8AM: Men's Breakfast- Old Turnpike
23 9:15AM: Sunday 30 School 9:15AM: 10:30AM: 9:15AM: Worship/ HC- Ship/HC-	24	25 10:30AM: Bible Study	26 6PM-6:20PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:15PM-8PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29 8AM: Men's Breakfast— Ard's
SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS	Announce	Announcements: Don Seebold II	<u>Altar/Communic</u>	Altar/Communion: Deb Johnson & Jane Moore	e <u>Offering Envelopes:</u> Sue Jows	ue Jows

<u>Chief Usher:</u> Gary Girton

<u>Acolytes:</u> 2: Head Usher 9: @ Christ's United 16: Paige Bartlett 23: Head Usher 30: Logan Bartlett

Lay Readers: 2: Norm Conrad 9: @ Christ's United 16:: Andy Long 23: Earl Michael 30: Tom Orren

<u>Children's Church:</u> 2: Jamie Bartlett 9: @Christ's United 16: Liz Loss 23: Barb Randecker 30: Tom Orren

<u>Offering Envelopes:</u> Sue Jows Gloria Mincemoyer
<u>Ushers:</u>
2: Jeff Hackenburg, Earl Michael, Jane Moore, Jim Schwartz
9: @Christ's United
16: Jeannie Sawyer, Kim Sawyer Don Seebold II, Troy Smith
23: Jeff Crossland & Linda Skinner
Dewey & Barb Reed
30: Carol Klose, Libby Loss Liz Loss, Kim Wagner



First Finances

Currently, the General Fund has a negative balance. The majority of the expenses were daily operating and were consistent with budget projections. Spending has been frugal and mindful of the current situation.

If you have any questions and/or would like more information regarding the church finances, please contact a member of the finance committee or church office.

We encourage regular giving so that our operating expenses can be met and ministry opportunities fulfilled.

Monthly Financial Needs: \$ 16,617

Monthly Offering: \$ 11,657

Difference: \$ -4960

What's Happening at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish...

September 6: Men of First Lutheran. Our Men's Ministry group will begin our Fall/Winter sessions on Thursday, September 6th at 7:30 pm. Our meetings usually last one to one and a half hours, and we use a video and discussion format, with some time for general visiting as well. We continue to meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 pm, all meetings in the church's multi-purpose room. We're going to begin this session with a 5-part DVD series entitled "Effective Stewardship". Explaining to us all the different aspects of Stewardship in out lives through which we serve God. This includes "Using our God Given Talents and Skills"; "Our responsibilities to nature and our environment"; "Our responsibilities to care for and love our neighbors"; "God's call for us to strengthen our church and families"; and finally "How to be good stewards with our finances". This is an interesting series, very thought provoking. Please join us, we'd love to have you. God Bless, Bill Musser

September 9: Worship at Knoebels has been CANCELLED. One combined parish worship service will be held at 9 AM at Christ's United with a refreshment hour to follow the service.

September 11: An Apple Dumpling Volunteer Update meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room at 6:30 PM. This meeting will be held to get an update on how things are coming together for the Apple Dumpling Fundraiser. All those willing to volunteer to make and/or sell apple dumpling are asked to please attend this meeting.

September 12: Chancel Choir rehearsal starts Wednesday, September 12, 2018 7:15pm-8:00pm. Chancel Choir is open to High School age to adult. All are welcomed to join! No previous experience needed. The Chancel Choir sings once, maybe twice a month and rehearses most Wednesday nights. See Diane Scott if you have any guestions!

September12: Cherub Choir starts Wednesday, September 12, 2018 6pm-6:20pm. They will sing the last Sunday of each month. See Diane Scott if you have any questions!

September 16: Sunday School begins 9:15AM.

September 16: Janet & Mike Shoemaker will be hosting a showing of the movie War Room. The movie will be shown at 2:30 PM, in the sanctuary. Film Synopsis: "With great jobs, a beautiful daughter (Alena Pitts) and a dream house, the Jordans seem to have it all. Appearances can be deceiving, however, as husband Tony (T.C. Stallings) flirts with temptation and wife Elizabeth (Priscilla Shirer) becomes increasingly bitter, crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. Their lives take an unexpected turn for the better when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara (Karen Abercrombie), who encourages the couple to find happiness through prayer."

September 23: Youth Dinner and Devos at 6PM, at the Sawyer's Home.

September 26: 7:15 AM – Stand by the Pole @ your school

September 30: 2019 Recovery Mission - Puerto Rico - meeting on 9/30/2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the church downstairs meeting room. Please try to attend this information/planning meeting.

Apple Dumpling Time Again!!!

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

Cher Girton and Linda Lewis have taken on the project as co-chairs this year. As the planning process continues, anyone that will be able to help in any way, please contact Cher 570-755-1671, or Linda 570-238-5058, and let them know how you would like to help. Please mark your calendars for every Thursday and Friday in October to be making and selling dumplings. Lots of volunteers are needed to make this huge undertaking a success. This year if you are available Thursday afternoon, we can use your help then too.

Areas to consider volunteering to help with are:



Apple Pick-Up and Delivery
 Peeling/Slicing
 Blending Dough
 Rolling Dough/Dumpling Assembly
 Set-up/Clean-up
 Waiting For Pick-Ups Friday Afternoon



Volunteers are needed every Thursday from 5: p.m. (or earlier) until 11 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. If you can assist in rolling rough, 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.

A meeting will be held on, Tuesday, September 11th, at 6:30PM to discuss how the plans are progressing. Please plan on attending and help to make this a very successful fundraiser.

Dumplings will again be sold in pans of two for \$6.00. You will find the 2018 Apple Dumpling Order Form enclosed in this newsletter. Please use this form when taking orders. Extra forms can be found in the bulletins each week, in the back of the church and in the church office.

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 12:00 PM ON THE TUESDAY BEFORE THE PICK-UP DATE. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AS THIS HAS CAUSED PROBLEMS IN THE PAST. ANY ORDERS RECEIVED AFTER 12:00 PM TUES-DAY WILL GO WITH THE ORDERS FOR THE NEXT WEEK.

**If you have or are able to get boxes to be used as order trays to carry dumplings, please drop them off in the church basement near the chalkboard. Thank you!

Thank you all!!! We will be looking forward to another successful Apple Dumpling sale!!!!!

Member Name	Order Date (Circle One)					
Member nume	October	5	12	19	26	
Member Phone						
Homemade Apple Dumplings—A	vailable i	n 2/j	pan j	for \$	6.00	
	QTY ORDR'I	DQ	TY OR	DR'D	TOTAL	
NAME	2/PAN		4/PA	N	DUE	

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



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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 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) or pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com