



From Our Pastor...

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish

July 2020

A BLESSED LIFE

Both in retrospection and in wishful longing, many talk about having had, having or wanting the “good” life. Indicators of the “good” life have often varied through the ages, conditioned as well by cultural values and norms. In our time and place, the “good” life is often defined in terms of degrees of success, usually with respect to comforts, power, prestige, prosperity or status. Indicators allowing for a measurement of this “good” life have included physical and cognitive abilities, material possessions, capital, and societal ranking and influence. A successful foray into the “good” life is said to bring about a “peace of mind,” producing high levels of happiness and pleasure as well as keeping to a minimum the effects of

stress and pain.

Regardless of our abilities and ambitions, and the demands and wants placed upon us in our time and place, there are no guarantees that anyone’s “good” life will bear the marks of perpetuity or immortality. One can and does “fall,” at times quickly, from the “good” life through one’s own faults and failures from choices acted upon as well as missed opportunities or, more often than not, simply by those external factors and the “accidents” of natural occurrences which impact and exacerbate the many limitations imposed upon our bodies and minds and well-being.

Because the pursuit and hoped-for attainment of the “good” life is often affected by and influenced by factors and occurrences beyond our control, what then are we to trust and where do we place our hope? The apostle Paul addressed this very question in his letter to the Ephesians for a people whose lives and interests were not so much unlike our own. Majestically, Paul used the language of what was then perceived as the normal way to depict the “good” life in his day (riches, wisdom, pleasure, inheritance, power, status) and reframed and reformulated it to now characterize the “blessed” life that all are able to receive according to the foundational (before there was even a time or a place to pursue the “good” life) will of God the Father through the redemptive gift of Christ Jesus. This “blessed” life can only be received by and through the immeasurable and boundless grace provided as Christ shall gather all in heaven and on earth in the fullness of time.

Whereas it was and is often thought that the “good” life was to be pursued through and by human ambition, motivation and effort, and could also be necessarily affected by external natural and societal courses, and therefore subject to gain and loss, the “blessed” life that Paul refers to is but a gift of grace simply and solely received in trust and hope. Whereas the “good” life could always be affected and influenced by the factors of personal choices, preferences and effort as well as external occurrences, natural and/or social, the “blessed” life is a predestined and eternal gift from God’s actions in and through Christ and, therefore, not subject to the whims of human thought or behavior. This is “GOOD NEWS” /Gospel for ALL, and not just for those who have attained or hope to attain the “good” life.

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Parish Pastor **Pastor John Yost**

Staff Members Of CULC

- **Margie Dunkle**, Secretary/Asst. Treasurer
- **Dianne Shuck**, Treasurer
- **Cliff Valentine**, Financial Recording Secretary
- **Loretta Martin**, Housekeeping

Council Members of CULC

- **Lee Spangler**, President & Facilities & Administration
- **Dave Murray**, Vice President & Inreach
- **Barry Spangler**, Council & Recording Secretary, & Inreach
- **Dianne Shuck**, Treasurer
- **Pearl Gemberling**, Outreach
- **Doug Gemberling**, Outreach
- **Linda Smith**, Inreach
- **Maurice Clouser**, Facilities & Administration
- **Joe Dressler**, Outreach
- **Kim Blyler**, Facilities & Admin
Phone: 570-922-1860
Email: culc@dejazzd.com

Parish Council Members

- **Lee Spangler**, (CULC) President
- **Jim Schwartz**, (FELC) Vice President
- **Sue Jows**, (FELC) Secretary
- **Drew Christy**, (CULC) Treasurer
- **Dianne Shuck**, CULC
- **Kim Sawyer**, FELC

Staff Members of FELC

- **Diane Scott**, Director of Music
- **Heather Klose**, Church Administrator
- **Hank Dorman**, Sexton
- **Loretta Martin**, Housekeeping

Council Members of FELC

- **Linda Skinner**, Council President
- **TBD**, Vice President
- **Gloria Mincemoyer**, Treasurer
- **Logan Bartlett**, Secretary -Y
- **Ann Beckley**, Council
- **Sue Jows**, Council
- **Libby Loss**, Council
- **Sherri Neece**, Council
- **Kim Sawyer**, Council
- **Jim Schwartz**, Council
Phone: 570-966-0266
Email: firstlu@dejazzd.com

Worship During the COVID Crisis

Brief outline of FELC’s worship procedures:

- ◇ Ushers will seat you beginning with the front row to ensure safe distancing (families may sit together)
- ◇ Ushers will dismiss you beginning at the back of the sanctuary
- ◇ Offering baskets will be in the back of the sanctuary
- ◇ Sanitary products will be available
- ◇ If it is necessary to use the bathroom, please follow all posted procedures; children must be accompanied by an adult
- ◇ Please greet fellow parishioners outside before or after worship; **not** inside the church
- ◇ There will be no singing nor standing; please remain seated
- ◇ Please enter through the main entrance on Market Street; the glass doors in the alley will be available if necessary
- ◇ Worship services will still be available online on our website: felcmif-flinburg.org
- ◇ If you or anyone in your household has COVID or has been exposed to a COVID patient, DO NOT come to the church at anytime



In Paul's day, suggestions of the "good" life often depended greatly on one's nationality, gender, status or wealth, that is, whether one was Jew or gentile, man or woman, master or slave, rich or poor. These categories of differentiation and division that functioned, even as they still do in many places today, to determine the "good" life were erased, according to Paul in his opening statement in Ephesians, by the mystery of God's good pleasure and eternal will, planned and given purpose before the foundation of the world; that is, before anyone was able to say or achieve anything, be it good or bad. Therefore, the grace of God at work in the redemptive and forgiving way of Christ brings all, in heaven and on earth, to a state of "blessedness" (1:3, 10). In and because of God's grace, the pursuit of the "good" life has given way to the gift of a "blessed" life, where the drive for success gives way to the way of peace for all by and in God's grace.

Our collective "blessed" life is neither initiated nor attained by us through our attitudes and behaviors, ambitions and wants, motivations and desires. Unlike the "good" life, a "blessed" life cannot be achieved or awarded by being "good" at something, such as growing crops, baking pies, singing songs, hammering nails, repairing cars, caring for children, hitting baseballs, or preaching sermons. These abilities and actions are, indeed, "good," for they help build and sustain caring, supportive and productive communities at many levels of work and play, but in no way do they merit special favors from the God of grace. We are "blessed" simply because God, mysterious as it may be to us, thought it was a "good" idea to give blessing to us before the world was even formed. This gift of a "blessed" life rests entirely upon the gift of God's grace shared by and through the faithfulness of Christ Jesus. A "blessed" life does not adhere to nor is regulated by the ups and downs of human performance and preference but is drawn to and from the power and authority of God's grace which, in Christ, gathers together all in heaven and on earth according to God's good pleasure.

The "good" in our lives, whether thoughts, actions or deeds, is intended by God to be a thankful response to the gift of our "blessing" at the hands of God's grace received in, through and by Christ. Our "goodness," therefore, is but an attribute of our being "blessed" by God, and a call to reach out and share the fruits of our "blessing" with all because God's "blessing" through Christ includes all.

July Bible Study Schedule

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	7:00 p.m.
<u>CULC</u>	<u>FELC</u>	<u>CULC</u>
July 6th	July 7th	July 8th
July 13th	July 14th	July 15th
July 20th	July 21st	July 22nd
July 27th	July 28th	July 29th

FELC July Volunteers:

Chief Usher: Logan Bartlett

Ushers:

7/5 - Kim Sawyer

7/12 - Sue Jows

7/19 - Sherri Neece

7/26 - Jim Schwartz

In Our Prayers:

Winifred Aikey
 Jan Beckley
 Dennis Boop
 Jim & Florence Boop
 Roger Dunkle
 Mike Flickinger
 Doug & Pearl Gemberling
 Barbara Grimooris
 Gary Hackenberg &
 Hackenberg Family
 Dustin Kline
 Dr. Bill & Ethel Musser
 Eric Powell & Family
 Sam & Ethel Schnure
 Ken Smith

John Snook
 Wanda Stamm
 Meda Struble
 Helen Troup
 Ed Wagner

In Our Military:

Thaddeus Miller
 Zachary Miller

Our Shut-Ins:

Jim & Jan Beckley
 Jim & Florence Boop
 Carolyn Bowersox
 Shirley Diehl

Barbara Grimooris
 Joan Herman
 Betty Lauf
 Georgie Linke
 Betty Loudenslager
 Dr. Bill & Ethel Musser
 Helen Pirone
 Richard Schnure
 Marie VonNeida
 Connie Wagner
 Hertha Wehr



Our condolences to the families of Pat Korman & Shirley Diehl

Alveretta "Pat" B. Korman, 96, entered into rest on May 29, 2020 at RiverWoods. She was born on February 8, 1924 in Greenbriar, PA in Sugar Valley near Loganton a daughter of the late Clarence E. and Zelda B. (Day) Phillips. On September 16, 1944, she married Lawrence W. Korman, who passed away on March 27, 2000. She is the last of her immediate family. The service was held at Christ's United with Pastor John Yost, officiating. Interment was in East Side Cemetery, Mifflinburg.

Shirley M. Diehl, 91, passed away on June 10, 2020, at home. She was born October 29, 1928, in Millerstown, a daughter of the late Luther A. and Ruth I. (Grubb) Smith. On August 15, 1948, she married Samuel A. Diehl, who preceded her in death on March 13, 2016. Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Kris Diehl of Millmont; two daughters, Terry Diehl of Mifflinburg, and Joy Diehl of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; 6 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and her dog, Lucy. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert and William Smith. Funeral services were held privately at the convenience of the family.



Norman & Bonita Conrad	07/01	42 Years	Don & Dotty Seebold	07/17	65 Years
Michael & Donna Culp	07/06	29 Years	Dennis & Tammy Boop	07/22	31 Years
Jeff & Denise Hosterman	07/07	19 Years	Donald & Carolyn Bowersox	07/22	48 Years
Glenn & Patricia Spangler	07/10	38 Years	Michael & Melissa Lynch	07/28	36 Years
Harvey & Brenda Ilgen	07/12	61 Years	Emil & Tanna Stenger Jr.	07/31	27 Years
Keith & Kimberley Sawyer	07/14	36 Years			



Carolyn Bowersox	07/02	Tyler Wagner	07/15	Ann Beckley	07/23
Joshua Hornig	07/03	Dayna Bickhart	07/16	Richard Schnure	07/25
Bonita Conrad	07/04	Patricia Spangler	07/17	Sarah Fritz	07/26
Gary Girton	07/04	James Gemberling	07/18	Donald Bowersox	07/27
Sally Rothermel	07/05	DuFrane Reed	07/19	Ashley Wenrich	07/27
Brandi Gemberling	07/06	Norman Conrad	07/20	Helen Donmoyer	07/29
Rylan Shuck	07/06	Steven Forcheskie	07/20	Gregory Shuck	07/30
Kim Woods	07/10	Zachary Harvey	07/20	Darlene Endy	07/31
Kayla Forcheskie	07/14	Rian Rantz	07/21	Evan McBryan	07/31
Dylan Harvey	07/15	Brian Dauberman	07/22		

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	6 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	7 10:30AM: Bible Study - FE:C	8 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	9	10	11
12 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	13 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	14 10:30AM: Bible Study - FE:C	15 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	16	17	18
19 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	20 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	21 10:30AM: Bible Study - FE:C 7:00PM: Council - CULC	22 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	23	24	25
26 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	27 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC	28 10:30AM: Bible Study - FE:C	29 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	30		