



CHRIST'S UNITED'S NEWS & VIEWS

DECEMBER 2017

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

ADVENT WAITING AND WATCHING

Advent is a time of expectant watching and hopeful waiting, a time of eager anticipation and prepared readiness. Jeremiah announces that “the days are surely coming.” And Jesus warns that “there will be signs.” As the church, we ready ourselves for Christmas, remembering the birth of Jesus, all the while anticipating the fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy, “at that time (God) will cause a righteous Branch to spring up, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.” And as we remember the birth of Jesus, we also stand guard and watch for “the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

Advent hope is grounded on the promise of God, anticipated through our worship and reflected upon our attentiveness to God’s word. We know how, when, and for whom to watch because we have heard God’s promise and we remember and attest to the faithfulness of those who witnessed the birth of Jesus and followed in his way. We wait with the assuredness that God shall deliver upon that which God has promised: “the days are surely coming.” We also watch with a particular viewpoint beyond the fears and forebodings written upon the ways of the world: “God will cause a righteous Branch to spring up.” And we stand guard for the execution of “justice and righteousness in the land.”

Our Advent participation suggests that we are ready and willing to submit ourselves to God’s promise and to live our lives under the cosmic and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our Advent participation shall reveal our trust that God’s promise is manifested and shall be fulfilled in the coming presence of Jesus Christ. And our Advent

participation asserts that we shall not be “weighed down with dissipation and the intoxicating worries of this life,” but we shall be alert to God’s reign as it draws near.

Advent asks of us: shall our values and dreams be shaped by the promise of God incarnate in Jesus Christ or by commercial schemes and advertising slogans? Are we looking for a good deal at a bargain price or are we allowing ourselves to be embraced with the promise of life in God’s hands? Do we hope for and expect a future that is merely the summation of even the best of our efforts or should and shall we anticipate and prepare for a time to come that bears the marks of the crucified and risen One who promises to return in the embodiment of grace and mercy for his gathered people that we may experience true peace and joy?

“The days are surely coming!” How shall we “read” the signs? How shall we discern the times? Will we be able to “see” the arriving presence of Jesus bringing to fulfillment God’s promise or will he simply be remembered from a story beautifully told some two thousand years in the past?

Shall we be adventurous bearers of expectant hope in the promise of God as fulfilled in the arriving presence of Jesus Christ or shall we cling to past memories and a benign continuation of what already has been?

How shall God find us this Advent: alert and ready for who and what is to come or sluggish and weary from where we have been? With eager anticipation and unbridled hope, what shall we seek: a festive rehearsal of Christmas as an act of mere remembrance or a joyous song led by a choir of angels that announces the arriving presence of Jesus who changes the present by revealing the gift of salvation and the eternal execution of justice and righteousness for all?

Hope and pray! Wait and watch! Be ready! Advent is here and Jesus is on his way!
~Pastor John

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ***DECEMBER 10***



Our Annual Congregational Meeting
will be held following the **December 10** worship service.
The congregational meeting will deal with
the Budget and Council Elections.



We find so many ways to say it. But the old familiar words are somehow always best: so from every member of the staff we pray that you will have a very blessed and Christ-centered Christmas season and for God's richest and choicest blessings for you and yours both now, as we pause with the world to remember the birth of our Lord, and throughout every day in 2018. Christmas greetings to our Members and Friends!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Blessings & Peace,
Pastor John*

*God Bless,
Tom*

*Have a Blessed Christmas,
Margie*

CHRISTMAS PARTY ***DECEMBER 8***



All kids from our church and Hope's Haven are invited to a Christmas party that will be held on **Friday, December 8, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Contact Bev Catherman for details.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING ***DECEMBER 10***



At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10, we will meet at the church to go caroling to our shut-ins. We will begin the excursion by going to Lewisburg and then traveling westward. We hope to be able to sing to our members who are in nursing homes, assisted living, or are shut-in. Refreshments will follow the caroling.

Warm bodies and hearts are more important than singing talents. Bring your friends and come share the joys of the season with us and spread some Christmas spirit.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ***DECEMBER 24***



This year's Christmas Eve worship services will take place at the following time and locations:

- 10:00 a.m. – Joint Worship Service at Christ's United**
- 5:00 p.m. – Family Service at First Lutheran**
- 10:30 p.m. – Candlelight Service at Christ's United**

We invite you and your loved ones to experience all of the wonderful traditions which are part of the Christmas Eve service at Christ's United as we celebrate the greatest event of history -- the birth of the Christ Child.



CHRISTKINDL MARKET ***DECEMBER 14, 15, 16***

It is time to start thinking about Christkindl Market. Do you believe it? Time does fly by much too fast.

We will be having a stand at the Christkindl Market again this year, selling baked potatoes, schnitz un knepp and bon bons. Sooo...along with the Christkindl Market comes some preparation and of course helping at the market.

On Monday, **December 11, at 9:00 a.m.** the bon bons will be mixed and shaped. Very easy to do and a lot of fun.

Then at **5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.** (whichever time suits you), the bon bons will be dipped and boxed. If you like using stickers and ribbon, this is a perfect job for you.

On Wednesday, **December 13, at 5:00 p.m.** we will be washing, oiling and wrapping the potatoes.

The Market opens at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14,** and at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 15, and Saturday, December 16.**

Hopefully enough people will sign up that we can do two hour shifts. Please feel free to sign up for more than a one day shift if possible. Watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board beside the office.

Tom and Don have always brought what was needed to be cleaned up back to the church so it is ready for the next day. I'm sure they would not mind if there is anyone else that would like to help with this. Let Tom and Don know.

In advance, Thank You and Merry Christmas!!!

If you want more information, talk to Bev Catherman.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias have been a holiday favorite for generations. Every year we enjoy the beauty of this plant at our Christmas Eve service. This year will be no exception. This year we have pre-ordered 25 (6") plants and orders will be on a first come basis, so you may want to get your order in as soon as possible. If you do want to provide a plant or two (plants may be taken home following the late service on Christmas Eve), fill out the following and return it to Janice Wagner or Margie.

Poinsettia Order Form

Cost: \$4.00

**Return with Payment to:
Janice Wagner or Margie Dunkle**

GIVEN BY _____

in memory of _____

in memory of _____

in honor of _____

in honor of _____

to the Glory of God _____

Number of Plants Ordered _____

Amount Enclosed _____



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS AND MEMBERS IN THE SERVICE

When making out your Christmas cards this year be sure to send some to our shut-ins and service members.

Shut-Ins

Carolyn Bowersox
Rolling Hills Manor
17350 Old Turnpike Rd
Millmont Pa 17845

Barbara Grimooris
Rockwell Center
32 S Turbot Ave
Milton, PA 17847

Shirley Kerstetter
175 Scottsdale Dr
Mifflinburg Pa 17844

Alveretta (Pat) Korman
133 Market St
Mifflinburg Pa 17844

Betty Lauf
11 Tee St
Selinsgrove Pa 17870

Eugene Phillips
Maria Joseph Manor
875 Montour Blvd
Danville Pa 17821

Myron (Mick) Sampsell
Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village
889 Fairground Rd
Lewisburg Pa 17837

Richard Schnure
Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village
889 Fairground Rd
Lewisburg Pa 17837

Connie Wagner
1135 Cold Run Rd
Millmont Pa 17845

Caroline Wenrick
Rolling Hills Manor
17350 Old Turnpike Rd
Millmont Pa 17845

In The Service



Brandi Gemberling
130 Ent Rd
Hanscom AFB
MA 01731

MINISTERIUM BACKPACK PROGRAM

The churches of the Mifflinburg Ministerium are providing backpacks of food for students in the Mifflinburg School District for weekends when they may not have a hot meal.



The Ministerium is asking for help with this program through donations of the following items:

- Single serving pudding cups
- Single serving cereals or pop tarts
- Peanut butter or cheese cracker packs
- Single serving applesauce or fruit cups
- Individual Microwavable Macaroni & Cheese
- Gummies - Dried fruit - Granola or protein bars
- Individual Microwavable Chef Boy R Dee Products
- Microwavable individual pasta meals (i.e. Chef Boy-R-Dee, mac & cheese)

Christ's United is in charge of filling and distributing backpacks for December 2017. 128 from Mifflinburg Area Elementary and Intermediate Schools are receiving backpacks filled with food for the weekend.

Backpacks will be distributed on the following December Fridays: 1, 8, 15 and 22. December 22 we hope to supply a "double" donation since school will be out until after the New Year's. Items should be brought to the church the Sunday before each distribution Friday.

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*Late on a sleepy, star-spangled night, those angels peeled back the sky just like you would tear open a sparkling Christmas present. Then, with light and joy pouring out of Heaven like water through a broken dam, they began to shout and sing the message that baby Jesus had been born. The world had a Savior! The angels called it "Good News," and it was.*

--Larry Libby



## ***GIFTS FOR THE KIDS***



Santa needs help from his “elves” to provide the children who come to Hope’s Haven with some gifts at Christmas, so we ask you once again for donations of toys of \$5.00 or under. They can be for either a boy or girl.

Unwrapped donations can be put in Margie’s office where they will be collected and stored until they can be given to the children. Thank you all in advance for helping us brighten the day for the kids.

If you want more information, talk to Bev Catherman or Janet Hileman.

## ***COAT DRIVE***



The Mifflinburg Elementary & Intermediate Schools are seeking help in providing some children with winter coats. If you would be willing to help with this appeal, coats for either a boy or girl in the elementary or intermediate schools can be brought to the church office. If you have questions about this coat drive, contact Bev Catherman (922-1640) or Pastor John.

## ***FOOD COLLECTION***



The Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club is asking for your assistance in the collection of canned and boxed food (especially cereal) for needy families in the Mifflinburg Area School District this Christmas season. The Kiwanis Club along with other volunteers will be distributing the food to needy families on the 18th of December. Your food contributions may be placed in identified boxes in the hallway on the first three Sundays in December. As in the past, your donations will be greatly appreciated.

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*Where does the white go when the snow melts?
~Hugh Kieffer*

BANQUET SCHEDULE



The banquets scheduled thus far for 2018 are:

Buffalo Valley Sportsmen
January 20
TBA

Readington Farms
March 6
11:30 a.m.

Help will be needed in both the dining room and kitchen. Watch the bulletin board across from the sanctuary for sign-up sheets for dining room help. If you are able to help in the kitchen, talk to Kim Blyler.

Cakes will also be needed for these banquets. If you are able to provide one or two, sign up on the attached form or talk to Darlene Ulrich. All help is greatly appreciated

BANQUET CAKES

I will provide a cake(s) for the following banquet(s):
(Indicate number to be provided)

_____ **January 20, 2018**
TBA
Buffalo Valley Sportsmen

_____ **March 6**
11:30 a.m.
Readington Farms

Signed _____
Telephone _____

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*Oh look, yet another Christmas TV special! How touching to have the meaning of Christmas brought to us by cola, fast food, and beer... Who'd have ever guessed that product consumption, popular entertainment, and spirituality would mix so harmoniously?*

*~Bill Watterson,  
Calvin & Hobbes*



## ***TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2017***

|                            | <u>Actual</u>        | <u>Budgeted</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Income for month (5 weeks) | \$ 15,475.08         | \$ 14,378.85    |
| Expenses for month         | <u>16,657.74</u>     | 14,378.85       |
| Difference                 | <b>(\$ 1,182.66)</b> |                 |

|                                | <u>Actual</u>     | <u>Budgeted</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Income Year-to-Date (44 weeks) | \$170,637.44      | \$115,030.30    |
| Expenses Year-to-Date          | <u>159,517.91</u> | 115,030.30      |
| Difference                     | \$ 11,119.53      |                 |

### **October Notes:**

Income includes \$5,495 per month from the Buffalo Valley Parish Expenses include \$4,200 per month to Buffalo Valley Parish

Budget is based on Sundays per month. October had 5 Sundays so Budgeted based on 5 Sundays.

(Jan. Apr. Jul, Oct, & Dec have 5 Sundays – all others have 4 Sundays)

This is the second month in a row that expenses exceeded income. We have been playing catch up on some expenses that could not be paid until income was realized from the profits from the West End Fair Stand. Income slightly higher in October mostly from Offering Envelopes. Expenses were \$2,278.89 higher than budgeted. Payment to Synod \$2,110.00, Piano tuned \$342.00, and repairs \$814.84 were paid in October (not typical).

The Year-to-date net income keeps dropping. Aug. balance \$15,703, Sep. \$12,259, and Oct. \$11,120. **So what's happening?**

One of the major benefits of the Parish Agreement was the shared salary for Pastor. Last October 2016 we paid just over \$7,000 salary and benefits to the Pastor. This October we paid \$4,200, which saved us \$2,876.

The main source of income is Offering Envelopes. As of October 31, 2017 our income is \$89,673.33 (below number includes flow through income such as Hopes Haven, World Hunger, Parking Lot Loan, etc.) As of October 31, 2016 Offering Envelope income was \$100,411.60. Income from Offering Envelopes is down \$10,738.27 from last year.

Let's look at income from Banquets and Other Fundraisers:

| <u>Source of Income:</u><br>(+ or -) | <u>2016</u> (as of Nov.18th) | <u>2017</u> (as of Nov.18th) | <u>Difference</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Easter Egg Sales                     | \$7,015.18                   | \$7,200.60                   | + 185.42          |
| Public Sale Food Stands              | 2,911.52                     | 1,364.50 (est)               | -1,547.02         |
| Banquets (Non Profit)                | 6,070.58                     | 5,419.69                     | - 650.89          |
| Pot Pie Suppers (2)                  | 6,511.58                     | 6,259.10 (est)               | - 252.48          |
| West End Fair Stand                  | 6,248.62                     | 6,969.64                     | + 721.02          |
| Chicken Bar-B-Q                      | <u>1,1119.15</u>             | <u>00.00</u>                 | <u>-1,119.15</u>  |
| Totals                               | \$29,876.63                  | \$27,213.53                  | -2,663.10         |

(est) estimate We had a Public Sale Stand and Pot Pie Supper in November but not all expenses may be available at this time. By the end of November we should have exact numbers.

Not considering the Chicken Bar-B-Q income since there was none in 2017 the loss of income is - \$1,543.95.

So what is the future of this type of Source of Income?

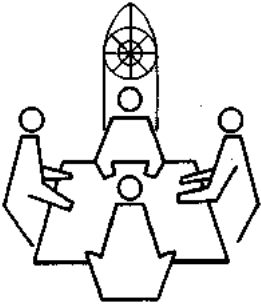
Just thought I would lay out some facts to consider. The savings from the Parish Agreement should be showing at least \$28,760 for net income as of October 31, 2018 instead of \$11,119.53. We know that Offering Envelope income is down \$10,738.27. Why, I don't know. I only see totals of income same as reported in the bulletin each week. Our fund raising sources are down at least \$1,543.95.

| <u>Sources of Income:</u> | <u>October 2017</u> |      | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |      |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Offerings                 | \$ 10,354.00        | 67%  | \$ 92,000.53        | 54%  |
| BV Parish                 | 5,495 .00           | 35%  | 54,950.00           | 32%  |
| Banquets                  | <u>-373.92</u>      | -2%  | <u>23,686.91</u>    | 14%  |
| Others                    |                     |      |                     |      |
| Totals                    | \$ 15,475.08        | 100% | \$170,637.44        | 100% |

~~Cliff Valentine, Financial Recording Secretary

## ***COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE***

**November 21, 2017**



1. The annual congregational meeting is scheduled to take place right after the Sunday, December 10 worship service. We will vote on the 2018 budget and hold a Church Council election.
2. Council is seeking volunteers who are willing to count the offering after the worship service.
3. Parish Worship Services for December 24, Christmas Eve, are listed below. All are invited to any and all services.
  - 10:00 a.m.: Christ's United Lutheran Church
  - 5:30 p.m.: First Evangelical Lutheran Church
  - 10:30 p.m.: Christ's United Lutheran Church
4. A joint Parish Worship Services will be held on Sunday, December 31, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

## ***BIBLE STUDIES***

This month's Bible studies will take place as follows:



| <b>Monday</b>                 | <b>Tuesday</b>               | <b>Wednesday</b>              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b><u>10:30 a.m.</u></b>      | <b><u>10:30 a.m.</u></b>     | <b><u>7:00 p.m.</u></b>       |
| <b><u>Christ's United</u></b> | <b><u>First Lutheran</u></b> | <b><u>Christ's United</u></b> |
| <b>December 4</b>             | <b>December 5</b>            | <b>December 4 **</b>          |
| <b>December 18</b>            | <b>December 19</b>           | <b>December 18 **</b>         |

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE!** This month's evening Bible studies will be taking place on Monday evenings.

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*I used to stare up at the sky trying to see where the snowflakes were born.
I could do it for hours. Well, minutes.
But it was always the waiting that was the most fun.
~Author unknown*



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CHAIRS FOR SALE

The church has 45 wooden folding chairs in real good condition that are available. There are four chairs on the stage in the fellowship hall for you to check out if you are interested. Chairs are yours for a donation. For additional information, contact Maurice Clouser or Eugene Hassinger.

FREE ENERGY CREDIT

There is a free energy credit available to the church. If you want help to lower the church's electric bill, and save money on your own electric bill contact Greg Shuck for details.

REIMBURSEMENTS

Please talk to Dianne Shuck for information on how to obtain a reimbursement for expenses you may have for the church.

COFFEE CANS NEEDED

We are in need of coffee cans to be used to send altar flowers home following a worship service. If you have any to spare, please drop them off at the kitchen or in the office.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

1. Baby News Correspondent

When a new baby is born to a member of the congregation, the responsibility of the baby news correspondent is to contact the family and get "vital statistics" and then write a short article for the newsletter. Talk to Margie if you would like to tackle this position.

2. Greeters, Lay Readers, Communion Assistants, Ushers and Sound System Operators.

Our list of people willing to do these jobs keeps dwindling. Will you help? Sign up on the attached "volunteer form" and drop them on Margie's desk or put them in the offering plate.

COMMUNIONS

Communion for all confirmed members must be recorded in the parish register annually. If you do not commune on a regular basis, we ask that you fill out a communion record card (one per year is all we need) so we know you have communed. The cards are located in the racks on the back of the pews. Cards may be put in the offering plate or handed to an usher.

MEMORABILIA

The following memorabilia items are still available for anyone interested in purchasing anything:

Wooden Miniatures of the Church - \$10.00
Church Prints - \$20.00
Blankets - \$10.00
Christmas Cards - \$10.00
12 cards per box feature a winter picture of the church

Talk to Bev Catherman if you have questions about, or would like to purchase, any of these items.

INFORMANTS WANTED

We like to publish news about our members in the newsletter, but we need your help to do so. If you know of interesting information about any of our members (youth or adult), i.e. an award or recognition, a funny tale or exciting adventure, please let Margie know about it so we can include it in an issue of Christ's United's News & Views.

DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

If you have an e-mail address that you have never given to us or if it has changed, please fill out the following and drop it off on Margie's desk or give her a call.

Name _____

E-Mail Address _____

HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

Over the past few years, some of you have been requesting favorite hymns and gospel songs and for that we give many thanks. Because of U.S. copyright laws, we do not have permission to reproduce or copy all of our favorites. You may choose selections from the following hymnals: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and With One Voice (WOV). We are also permitted to use hymns that are in the "Public Domain". It's all very complicated. So, keep your suggestions coming and we will be happy to sort out and use all of your suggestions. Give any requests to Gary Hackenberg, Margie or Pastor John.

Hymn Request

BUILDING & GROUND NEEDS

Do you know of any physical problems (or potential problems) that should be addressed by our property committee? Your insight is important. Maybe you have seen something that no one else has noticed yet. You can talk to Pastor John, any council member or Margie if you know of something that needs attention, or fill out the following and put it on Margie's desk or in the offering plate.

Building & Ground Needs:

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a group of men and women of Christ's United who pray for the concerns and requests of Christ's United's members and friends. Someone in need of prayer calls the church office and requests to be put on the Prayer Chain. Each member of the Prayer Chain then receives either a phone call or an email notifying

them of a prayer request. The prayer chain member receiving the phone call then calls one other person and so on down the list. Those notified by email do not have to pass it on.

Would you be willing to pray for someone in need? It is reassuring to know that you are supported by the prayers of others and not alone with your concern. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, fill out the following and put it in the offering plate or on Margie's desk.

Prayer Chain Calling List

I would like to be included on the prayer chain calling list.

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

SOCIAL/FELLOWSHIP REQUEST

If you have any ideas or suggestions for social/fellowship activities, drop a note on Margie's desk.

Fellowship Events:

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

The Shriners

Can Tabs (give tabs to Maurice Clouser)

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*"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth,  
for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire;  
it is the time for home."*

*~Edith Sitwell*



## ***NEWS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS***

### **BIRTHS**

Congratulations to Forrest & Torey Showalter on the arrival of their newest grandson, Rowan Cyrus Varney. Chris & Kyla (Showalter) Varney welcomed their newest family member on October 26. The baby weighed 10 lb. 4 oz. and was 20½ inches in length. God bless you and your family as you celebrate a new life.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

On October 22, Richard (Rick) and Darlene Endy became the newest members of our church family. Rick and Darlene, who live in Mifflinburg, are both retired. They are the parents of three children and six grandchildren. We are so very glad to have you with us, and would like to welcome you to our church family.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 – Kyle Blyler     | 16 – Kevin Baker       |
| 2 – Terri Krawec    | Jennifer Keister       |
| 3 – Kevin Zimmerman | Christie Leach         |
| 4 – Adam Spigelmyer | 20 – Kevin Shuck       |
| Wendy Zartman       | 23 – Judy Moyer        |
| 7 – Adam Gemberling | 24 – Theodore McJilton |
| 12 – Jean Buoy      | 27 – Brian Haggy       |
| Brianna Doeblor     | Torey Showalter        |
| 14 – Kenneth Reamer | Brennan Snyder         |
| 15 – Holly DeHart   | Scott VonNeida         |
| Chuck Spurr         | 28 – Kiana Seedor      |
|                     | 29 – Jasmine Doeblor   |

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5 – John & Mindy Yost (1987)  
6 – Lance & Janice Wagner (1986)  
15 – Randy & Laurie Harvey (1979)  
20 – Gary & Janet Hackenberg (1969)  
29 – Steve & Terri Krawec (1990)  
30 – Randy & Joan Lyons (1977)



### **Remember In Thought and Prayer**

***Please help us keep our prayer list current by letting us know of any names that should be added or removed***

#### **Our Members**

Gailyn & Jacki Baker  
Jim & Florence Boop  
Jean Buoy  
Shirley Diehl  
Doug & Pearl Gemberling  
Gary Hackenberg  
Zach Harvey  
Vickie Kahler

Shirley Kerstetter  
Pat Korman  
Bob & Eve Rantz  
Dottie Rathfon  
Alice Reitz  
Teresa Shuck  
Janet Spurr

#### **Our Friends & Relatives**

Bonnie Bilger  
John Bowersox  
Shannon Dressler  
Adam Garman  
Gary & Barb Gemberling  
Trisha Gemberling  
Carol Gross  
Bella Guisewite  
Jeanne Howard  
Dave & Cindy Janas  
Linda Katherman  
Norman Kline  
Keagan Lahr

Gerald Lloyd  
Sharon Magyar  
Keith McGlaughlin  
Cindy Mertz  
Martha Shutt  
John Snook  
Deb & Brian Sprenkle  
Mark Troup  
Greg Valentine  
Karen Wagner  
Verna Erdley Weller  
Russell Wise  
David Wood

**Our Shut-Ins**

Jim & Florence Boop  
Carolyn Bowersox  
Barbara Grimooris  
Shirley Kerstetter  
Pat Korman  
Betty Lauf

Eugene Phillips  
Myron 'Mick' Sampsell  
Richard Schnure  
Marie VonNeida  
Mary Ellen VonNeida  
Connie Wagner  
Caroline Wenrick

**The Men and Women Serving In the Military**

Brandi Gemberling

*In an effort to keep our prayer list current, we are going to clear the 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.***

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EVERYTHING IS WONDERFUL

*Everything is wonderful
When Christmas fills the air,
When Jesus is the reason
For all we have to share.
There is no greater greeting,
No sweeter rendezvous
Than sharing Christ as Saviour,
Who's come to make life new.*

*Everything is wonderful
When it is Christmas Day.
When Jesus is the reason,
When Jesus is the way.
There is no greater measure
A heart can ere receive
Than knowing Christ as Saviour,
O, come, let us believe.
--Joy Loudermilk*



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
404 Market Street
Mifflinburg, PA 17844
Telephone 570-966-0266 - E-Mail: firstlu@dejazzd.com
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:00-2:00

Weis & Wenger Cards

A member from First Lutheran will be offering Weis and Wenger cards for purchase in our hallway from **8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.** every **1st and 3rd Sunday**. Weis cards are in the denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and we receive 5% of the cards sold. Wenger cards are in the denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and we receive 10% of the cards sold. First Lutheran has been doing this type of fundraising for many years and has supported over 15 workcamp mission trips. Thank you for your support.

Community Meal

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 1:00. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 30 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.

Growth And Service Trips

It's exciting that we are now a Parish and I encourage Christ's Lutheran to be involved! We're planning four exciting growth and service trips throughout the next year and will have fundraising available to support these trips.

January 1-3, 2018 PASSION CONFERENCE in Washington, DC for High School Seniors and College Age

June 17-23, 2018 GROUP WORKCAMP in Wrightsville, PA for 6th Grade to Age 100

June 27-July 1, 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX led by Pastor John (Will add a couple days before and after for travel and sightseeing)

July 9-14, 2018 Harvey Cedars Bible Conference in New Jersey for Senior High students

We are planning once a month "Dinner and Devotions" for 6th Grade through College Age

Monthly fun activities as a group and with other area churches (MACY = Mifflinburg Area Christian Youth). PLEASE encourage any parents of the above age groups to join us to make final plans and details at this meeting.

Any questions, please have them contact Kim Sawyer, Youth Director at (570) 713-4577.



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

Holiday Breakfast **December 9, 2017**

Diakon's Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village and Camp Mount Luther are teaming up to provide a fun morning of food, fellowship, and Christmas crafts and games on Saturday, December 9, 2017. The breakfast will feature an appearance and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, chocolate chip pancakes, craft stations, and cut-out cookies. Space is limited. Call Gretchen at 570-523-4285 to RSVP. The event will be from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Common Building. For more information and a flyer to help publicize this event to your friends, visit <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SLS-BV-Breakfast-With-Santa-4Q-B-2017-4.pdf>.

Camp Mount Luther Camperson Meeting **January 21, 2018**

The annual meeting for Camp Mount Luther Campersons is Sunday, January 21, 2018, starting at 3:00 p.m. The camp is an extension of local congregational ministry and wants every member of the Upper Susquehanna Synod to know what is happening with this important ministry. To do that, Mount Luther has CAMPERSONS!

A camperson is a liaison between CAMP and your CONGREGATION, who is interested in camp and wants to regularly share camp news with others. Parents of campers, past campers or staff, or someone with a genuine interest in outdoor ministry makes a great camperson. Campersons are ambassadors and promote camping ministry in your congregation. Each synod congregation is asked to send a representative to this event to learn more. Campersons will

- Share Information
- Plan and Coordinate a Camp Sunday
- Recognize Campers
- Reach Out to promote outdoor ministries
- Support camp fundraising efforts

Each congregation who sends a camperson to this event will receive Camel Bucks for the camp store for each camper. For more information, visit <http://wp.me/P7aFC9-y2>

Camp Mount Luther Turkey Benefit Dinner **January 21, 2018**

This event will celebrate Benjamin Franklin's Birthday. Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of our country. Camp Mount Luther thought it would be fitting to have a turkey dinner to honor his January birthday! You are invited to come to his birthday party and support camp at the same time! The dinner will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Evergreen Center at Mount Luther. The menu will consist of turkey and all the trimmings. Cost for the meal is \$14 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. To download a bulletin insert/flyer at the dinner, click <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017-Turkey-Dinner-Flyer.pdf>

GROW in the Snow **February 9-10, 2017**

This year's synod youth retreat at Camp Mount Luther will be held on February 9-10, 2018. All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend. The theme of this year's retreat is "Hello God, It's Me," dealing with prayer. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Cost is \$59 (whole program) or \$40 (Saturday only) if registered by January 30, 2017. A late fee of \$25 added after that date. No refunds will be given after the January 30 deadline. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults

and number of youth attending. Contact Chad Hershberger at chad@campmountluther.org with questions. For a flyer and registration form: <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2018-GROW-in-the-Snow-Flyer.pdf>.



SYNOD NEWS

Active Shooter Response Training **December 18, 2017**

In light of recent mass shooting events, church leaders have asked to have training in how to respond if an active shooter comes into the building. United Lutheran Seminary will offer this training at the Gettysburg campus December 18th led by the Safety & Security team of Gettysburg College. This event is open to all interested persons who wish to receive such training. Questions can be directed to Chelle Huth, Director of Lifelong Learning, United Lutheran Seminary at chuth@uls.edu. It is a busy time of year, but ULS wanted to offer this in a timely manner. Another training will be scheduled in the new year. The Active Shooter Response Training will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Abiding Presence on the United Lutheran Seminary Gettysburg Campus. Cost is \$10 per person, payable at the door (reservations/registration not necessary).

Healthy Congregations Facilitator Training **February 16-17, 2018**

Our synod will host a two-day training for those interested in becoming facilitators for Healthy Congregations. This training will take place at the synod office – 500 Reitz Blvd, Lewisburg. Anyone who would like to learn more about Healthy Congregations may attend this event. More details will be forthcoming but save the dates! Healthy Congregations is an interfaith organization that understands the times in which we live in. They equip leaders for challenges of thinking more clearly about families, relationships, and faith communities. Resources and training are based on seeing all communities as living systems that incorporate thinking, feeling, responsibility, and purpose. Healthy Congregations, Inc. has created educational resources and

leadership development material designed with the purpose of encouraging healthier, clearer and deeper individual and community life based on the contributions of leaders in the field of Bowen Theory and congregational life.

A Growing Need for Caregivers

Home Helpers of Central Susquehanna Valley (based in Sunbury) is looking for compassionate individuals to provide companion care and daily living assistance to the elderly, new parents, and those requiring recuperative or continuing care. If you are a compassionate caregiver who is looking for a rewarding career, there are full-time, part-time and live-in positions available with Home Helpers...and the need is growing. Contact them directly to learn more: 570-286-9460 or www.HomeHelpersHomecare.com/CSV.

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### **THE TRINITY SNOWMAN**

*When you see a snowman  
Three snowballs round.  
He is reminding you  
That in God, three in one are found.*

*The bottom reminds us of God the father,  
Our strong rock and foundation,  
The Creator of all living things,  
People, tribes, and nations.*

*The middle shows us God the son  
With His arms spread open wide.  
Who died on the cross for each of us  
Our sins Jesus' blood did hide.*

*The head reminds us of God the Holy Spirit  
Who is our counselor and friend,  
He speaks to our hearts and minds  
Transforming us in the likeness of Him.*

*So when you see a snowman  
In the midst of all the wintertime fun,  
Listen carefully and he will tell you,  
"Remember God Is Three In One"*



## ***IN THE MAILBAG***

### **Weatherization Services Available to Eligible Residents**

Residents can save money and stay warm this winter with weatherization services by SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG).

This service is available to income-qualifying homeowners and renters in Columbia, Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, Perry, Snyder and Union counties. Weatherization services include energy education, diagnostics and solutions, emergency furnace repair or replacement, and cold weather crisis intervention.

To get the whole picture, SEDA-COG staff will review home heating bills, energy leaks and the resident's heat distribution system. Specifically, services can include:

- Insulation, sealing air leaks.
- Heat system repairs and insulation, water pipe insulation.
- Refrigerator/freezer and hot water heater replacements.
- Energy-efficient lighting, faucet aerators, smart strips.
- Thermostats, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, ventilation fans.
- Indoor air quality tests, corrective action.

Income qualifications range from \$23,540 for a single person to \$81,780 for a family of eight. Add \$8,320 for each additional family member. Residents also must live in the home year-round to qualify.

Since the inception of SEDA-COG's weatherization program in 1976, over 37,000 homes have been weatherized. SEDA-COG makes homes more affordable, comfortable and energy efficient with staff and technology expertise. For more information, call SEDA-COG at 1-800-332-6701 and ask for the weatherization program. [Additional information is also available online here](#)

## Heating Assistance Program to Open Nov. 1

Residents who struggle with their home heating bills can apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) beginning November 1.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants. It also provides crisis grants to help in the event of an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel or termination of utility service.

The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are set at 150 percent of the federal poverty income level. For example, the income limit for an individual is \$18,090; for a couple, the limit is \$24,360; and for a family of four, it is \$36,900.

[Residents may apply for LIHEAP online](#) or by contacting the appropriate County Assistance Office:

- Snyder County Assistance Office: 570-372-1721.
- Union County Assistance Office: 570-522-5274.

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CHRIST IS THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

*Christmas joy and lights aglow;
Christmas songs to warm and cheer
Excitement is on the children's faces
As anticipation fills the air —*

*But for some, it can be lonely
When loved ones have passed away,
Memories are all that linger
As the years begin to fade*

*But Christ's light should never dim;
It should ever shine out bright
Our ray of hope in this troubled world
Is our joy of eternal light*

*Christmas, when spent with Jesus,
Can warm our hurting hearts,
For as His light shines within us,
Its glow warms our deepest parts.*

~M.S.Lowndes



NOTES OF APPRECIATION

“Volunteers are gold”. Volunteers are the most valuable commodities in ministry. Without them, nothing would get done in our churches. We are fortunate to have the kind of dedicated people that we do. Do you know anyone who should be given a pat on the back and a “Thank You” for the contributions they make in and around the church? Let Margie know.

THANK YOU TO...

- ...**Everybody** who helped in any way with the potpie supper
- ...**Everyone** who has helped cook, serve, set up, clean up and bake for banquets this year
- ...**Our outgoing council members**
- ...**The volunteers** who work in any capacity...donating food, picking up donations, shelving food, distributing food, etc...with the Hope’s Haven food bank
- ...**The volunteers** who work in the clothing bank
- ...**All** who donated toys for the children who attend the Christmas party
- ...**All the volunteers** who worked at the food stand at the public sales this year.
- ...**The Christmas Decorating Committee** and all who helped decorate on Advent Fellowship Day
- ...**All the goblins** who helped with the Halloween Party
- ...**Dave Bickhart, Maurice Clouser, Eugene Hassinger & Cliff Valentine** for installing the storm windows.

As I reflect back on the past year, I have come to the conclusion that I am well blessed. I have experienced the generosity of a family of believers that is Christ United Lutheran Church. I am so thankful for all that has been done on my behalf...The monetary support, the prayers, and the concerns that have truly been felt by my wife and I. When a church family comes together in the name of Jesus to help a needy family, that is when we experience God's love and the feeling of the spirit overwhelms us. I have felt that spirit of God's love and it is awesome to say the least....again a warm thank you to all who helped in any way towards my ongoing recovery.

Doug Gemberling



December

ALTAR GUILD

Sherri Klauger

GREETERS

3 – Judy Moyer
10 – Delight Showalter
17 – Evelyn Rice
24 – Maurice & Barbara
Clouser
31 – Linda Smith

LAY READERS

3 – Drew Christy
10 – Glenn Spangler
17 – Greg Shuck
24 – Barry Spangler
31 – Janet Hackenberg

SOUND SYSTEM

Chad Shuck
Barry Spangler

CHRISTMAS EVE ***(10:30 p.m.)***

Greg & Teresa Shuck,
greeters
Amy Shuck, lay reader
Tom Catherman,
communion assistant
Chad Shuck,
sound system

USHERS

Roger Dunkle
Eugene Hassinger

MUSIC PROVIDERS

3 – Barry Spangler
10 – Diane Valentine
17 – Dave Swartz
24 – Gary Hackenberg
31 – Gary Hackenberg

COMMUNION **ASSISTANTS**

3 – Dianne Shuck
10 – Glenn Spangler
17 – Greg Shuck
24 – Barry Spangler
31 – Janet Hackenberg

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 SERVICES SCHEDULED DURING THE MONTH.

If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers to help with one or more of the following positions, please fill it out and return it to the church office.

USHER



I/we will serve as an usher

Name _____
Telephone _____

CHILDREN'S CHURCH



I/we will help with children's church

Name _____
Telephone _____

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATOR



I/we will operate the sound system

Name _____
Telephone _____

ALTAR GUILD



I/we will serve on the altar guild

Name _____
Telephone _____

COMMUNION HELPER



I/we will serve as a communion helper

Name _____
Telephone _____

GREETERS



I/we will serve as greeters

Name _____
Telephone _____

LAY READER



I/we will serve as a lay reader

Name _____
Telephone _____



Christ's United Lutheran Church
 13765 Old Turnpike Rd
 Millmont Pa 17845
 570-922-1860
 church's e-mail: culc@dejazzd.com
 Pastor's e-mail:
 pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com
 website: www.4bellschurch.com

Office Hours:
 Mon-Thu – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
 Fri – Closed

THE DEADLINE FOR
 ARTICLES FOR THE

JANUARY
 NEWSLETTER IS:

DECEMBER 18



STAFF

The Congregation.....The Ministers
 The Rev. John D. Yost Pastor
 Margie DunkleSec/Asst Tr
 Dianne ShuckTreasurer
 Janet HackenbergAsst Tr
 Cliff Valentine . Financial Recording Sec
 Tom Catherman..... Custodian
 Gary HackenbergOrganist
 Diane Valentine & Karen Zimmerman...
 Pianists
 Dave Swartz & Barry Spangler.....
 Digital Music Arrangers
 Paula ChristyChancel Choir Director

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers

Greg Shuck, President
Drew Christy, Vice President
Linda Smith, Council Secretary
Barry Spangler, Recording Sec

Ministry Assignments

Facilities/Administration

*(deals with property, personnel and
 stewardship)*

**Tom Catherman, Maurice Clouser,
 Eugene Hassinger**

Inreach

(focus on ministry within the congregation)

**Drew Christy, Greg Shuck,
 Janet Spurr**

Outreach

(related to ministry beyond the congregation)

**Doug Gemberling, Dianne Shuck,
 Linda Smith**

Parish Council Representatives

**Drew Christy, Dianne Shuck,
 Lee Spangler**

THE M.I.S.S.I.O.N OF CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Meet – we meet each other as sisters and brothers in Christ

Invite – we invite and welcome others into the body of Christ

Share – we share the good news of Jesus and our gifts with all

Support – we support each other as we walk in the ways of Jesus

Image – we imagine life filled with God's purpose and grace

Offer – we offer ourselves to God through faith, hope and love

Nourish – we nourish one another in the Word, by the Spirit

Christ's United Lutheran Church is a community of faith, gathered, empowered and entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ to bear witness that we are one body in Christ as together we worship God in all praise and thanksgiving and we serve one another with unconditional love and mercy.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE...

...when a member of your family is sick or is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.

...when your address and phone number is changed, so the church records can be corrected.

...when you move—out of town or locally.

...when a new baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church member.

...when a member of your family leaves home for college or to establish a new residence.

...when a new family moves into your neighborhood.

...when your class or group plans to have a meeting, so that it can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.

...when something good happens to you or your family.

...when you feel the church can assist you in any way.



*"Before going to bed
After a fall of snow
I look out on the field
Shining there in the moonlight
So calm, untouched and white
Snow silence fills my head
After I leave the window.*

*Hours later near dawn
When I look down again
The whole landscape has changed
The perfect surface gone
Criss-crossed and written on
where the wild creatures ranged
while the moon rose and shone.*

*Why did my dog not bark?
Why did I hear no sound
There on the snow-locked ground
In the tumultuous dark?*

*How much can come, how much can go
When the December moon is bright?
What worlds of play we'll never know
Sleeping away the cold white night
After a fall of snow."*

~May Sarton, "December Moon"

December 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <i>Snowflakes are kisses from heaven.</i> | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3
9:00 Worship
10:00 Koinonia Kafe
10:15 Sunday School
Advent Fellowship Day | 4
10:30 Bible Study

7:00 Bible Study | 5
10:30 Bible Study | 6
10:00 Hope's Haven | 7 | 8

6:30 Hope Haven's Christmas Party | 9

Fellowship Hall Reserved |
| 10
9:00 Worship Congregational Meeting

3:00 Caroling | 11
9:00 Bon Bon Mixing

6:00 Bon Bon Coating | 12 | 13
10:00 Hope's Haven

5:00 Christkindl Workday | 14

4:30 Christkindl Market | 15
10:00 Christkindl Market | 16
10:00 Christkindl Market |
| 17
9:00 Worship
10:15 Sunday School | 18
10:30 Bible Study

7:00 Bible Study | 19

7:00 Council | 20
10:00 Hope's Haven | 21
 | 22 | 23 |
| 24
10:00 Joint Service
5:00 Joint Family Service @ First
10:30 Joint Candlelight Service | 25

Fellowship Hall Reserved | 26 | 27
10:00 Hope's Haven | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31
9:00 Worship
10:15 Sunday School | <p><i>The first fall of snow is not only an event, it is a magical event. You go to bed in one kind of world and wake up in another quite different, and if this is not enchantment then where is it to be found?</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">~J.B. Priestley</p> | | | | | |