



CHRIST'S UNITED'S NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2018

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

In Paul's address to the church in Corinth regarding the evangelical nature of Christian mission and ministry, he indicates foremost that sharing the gospel is an action of freedom but enacted upon as if one was a slave. (1 Corinthians 9:19f) By this, Paul intends that the gospel frees one from any and all sorts of idolatrous claims upon oneself but in such a manner that within this freedom one is totally captivated by what the gospel promises. Therefore, in the freedom that the gospel presents before oneself, all choices that would become available before oneself would be discerned through the lens of the gospel promise and not from personal desires or wants. The gospel proclaims a freedom from submitting to the false claims of our idols into a freedom for a mission to share the gospel promise in all that we say and do.

We fill numerous roles in our daily lives. We are parent, child, brother, sister, student, teacher, employee, employer, farmer, builder, cook, seamstress, banker, neighbor, friend, taxpayer, citizen, parishioner, minister, singer, artist, and dreamer. In each and every role, many claims and opportunities are presented before us. Almost every moment of our lives we are faced with a choice to make. These choices reveal our priorities and responsibilities and ultimately disclose who and what we believe in. Our gods/idols are found through the ways we use or not use our time and talents. Additionally, the care we devote to each of our relationships—family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and strangers alike—reveal our trusts and hopes. From Paul's perspective, whatever role we occupy at a particular time and place presents an opportunity to share the gospel.

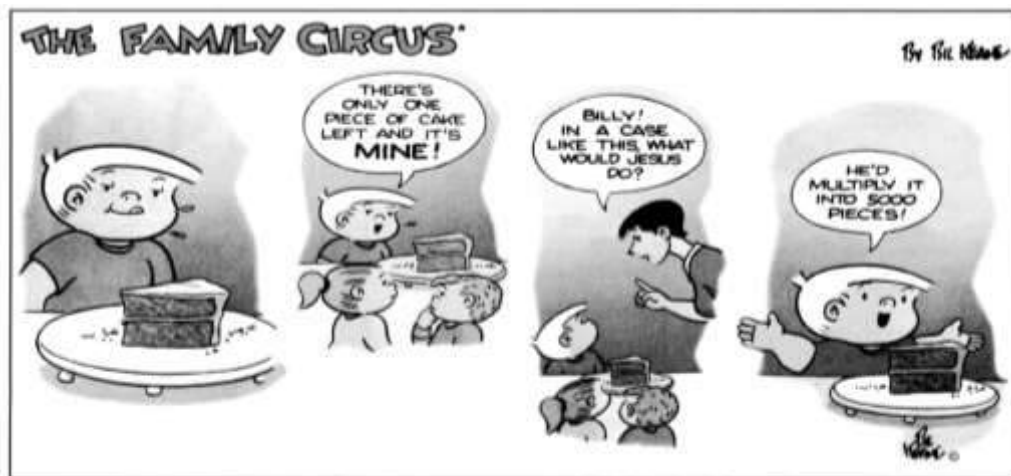
For Paul, the gospel, that is, the good news of grace, mercy, love and forgiveness received through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, enables and empowers us as believers to share this same gospel in all of our interactions with others. More so, this gospel serves to guide and impact each and all of our decisions, individually and collectively. As Paul himself indicated, the gospel allowed him to be “all things for all people” in order that the gift of salvation would be received in the lives of those with whom he interacted. (1Corinthians 9:22)

Often when we speak of freedom, we intend a freedom to say and act as we would want to apart from any coercive demands or obligations placed upon us from any external influences. The saving grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ affords us this freedom, but not all choices that we make in this freedom of ours in Christ will be beneficial to us, to those we are in relationship with, or to the building up of God’s kingdom. We are free to do this, or that, or some other thing and we may be sure that Christ is with us in whatever choice we may find ourselves in. Certainly, Christ is present with us whenever there is a choice to be made but he also grants us the freedom to make choices independently of his will or influence. Because Christ lives, all choices we make are under the promise of the gospel, but not all choices that we make will reveal the gospel promise to us or to those in our midst. The gospel is informative and formative but is not coercive or oppressive.

Because of Christ, we live and act in the freedom of the gospel which is to be shared freely with and for others in order that each and all may come to know and live the freedom to choose without restraint from external forces. The gospel of Jesus frees us to be able to make choices freely. More so, when we freely share the gospel in and through the choices we make, we unleash the power of God’s promise, freed from the chains of coercion and conditions, to guide all into the way of salvation.

--Pastor John

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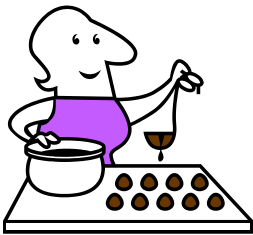
## ***BIBLE STUDIES***



Keep an eye on the bulletins for information on when the Bible studies will resume.

## ***EASTER EGGS***

Ash Wednesday is February 14, which means it's time to start thinking about making our Easter eggs again. Watch future bulletins and newsletters for the exact schedule.



**Lots of help will be needed both at 9:00 a.m. when the eggs are mixed and shaped and at 6:00 p.m. when they are coated and packaged. Please plan to come out and help make these popular confectioneries**

Order forms will soon be available on the table outside of the sanctuary for anyone willing to take orders from relatives, friends or co-workers.

## ***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.

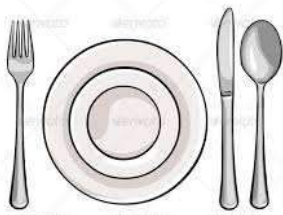
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Weather Lore

If the New Year falls on Monday: Expect a severe winter, a good spring, and a windy summer.

BANQUET SCHEDULE

The banquets scheduled thus far for 2018 are:



Buffalo Valley Sportsmen
January 20
6:00 p.m.

Hubner Seed
January 23
TBA

Mifflinburg Boy Scouts
February 20
6:00 p.m.

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)

_____ **Buffalo Valley Sportsmen**
January 20
6:00 p.m.

_____ **Hubner Seed**
January 23
TBA

_____ **Mifflinburg Boy Scouts**
February 20
6:00 p.m.

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

Signed _____
Telephone _____



COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

There is no “official” communication to the congregation from last night’s Council meeting. However, there will be a Council installation held during the January 14 service. The next Council meeting will be held on **January 16, at 7 p.m.**

Also, Lee Spangler’s term on the BVLP Council ends. The CULC Council formally appointed and approved Greg Shuck as his replacement and will serve a 2-year term.

Parish Joint Services:

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 14, CULC, 7 PM

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 25, FELC, 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 29, CULC, 6 PM

Good Friday: Friday, March 29, FELC, 7 PM

Easter Sunday (Early Morning): Sunday, April 1, CULC, 6:30 AM

Easter Sunday (Late Morning): Sunday, April 1, FELC, 10:30 AM

Parish Committees:

These three Parish committees are looking for help and assistance in anyway.

- **Parishioners Helping Parishioners:** What can we do to help our older parishioners who need help around their house or property? This group has looking for people to help start up the process. For more information on how you can help plan or offer help, contact Dianne Shuck.
- **Social:** This group has been charged to plan activities for adults, children or families of the parish. They have started to meet and are looking for additional ideas and people. For more information, contact Barry Spangler.
- **Bible School:** This group will be planning for a Bible School for the parish and community. Help and ideas are greatly needed. If you are interested, please contact Gary Gurton and Harry Boyer (both of FELC).



***TREASURER'S REPORT
AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2017***

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budgeted</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Income for month (4 weeks) | \$ 19,224.36 | \$ 11,503.08 |
| Expenses for month | <u>17,183.09</u> | 11,503.08 |
| Difference | \$ 2,041.27 | |

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budgeted</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Income Year-to-Date (48 weeks) | \$189,061.32 | \$126,533.38 |
| Expenses Year-to-Date | <u>176,957.12</u> | 126,533.38 |
| Difference | \$ 12,104.20 | |

November 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. November had 4 Sundays so Budgeted based on 4 Sundays.

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

November was a good month for our church's financial picture, thanks to the Pot Pie Supper. The Pot Pie Supper netted \$3,200+. Without the Pot Pie Supper, we would have had another negative income month.

Expenses in November were higher than planned. Heating fuel tanks were filled, another insurance bill, and two pension payments made in November. The pension payment for October was not paid in October.

The 2018 Budget was approved Sunday, December 10, 2017 at the Congregational Meeting. The new budget is \$134,900. The 2017 budget was \$134,000 so there is a small increase in our budget.

| Sources of Income: | <u>November 2017</u> | | <u>Year-to-Date</u> | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Offerings | \$ 9,267.00 | 48% | \$ 101,267.53 | 54% |
| BV Parish | 5,495 .00 | 29% | 60,445.00 | 32% |
| Banquets/
Others | <u>4,462.36</u> | 23% | <u>27,358.79</u> | 14% |
| Totals | \$ 19,224.36 | 100% | \$189,061.32 | 100% |

Cliff Valentine, Financial Recording Treasurer

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**DUMB THINGS PEOPLE SAY AND DO**

- *According to the Knight-Ridder News Service, the inscription on the metal bands used by the U.S. Department of the Interior to tag migratory birds has been changed. The bands used to bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated, "Wash. Biol. Surv." until the agency received the following letter from an Arkansas camper: "Dear Sirs: While camping last week I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and I want to tell you it was horrible."*
- *A company trying to continue its five-year perfect safety record showed its workers a film aimed at encouraging the use of safety goggles on the job. According to Industrial Machinery News, the film's depiction of gory industrial accidents was so graphic that twenty-five workers suffered minor injuries in their rush to leave the screening room. Thirteen others fainted, and one man required seven stitches after he cut his head falling off a chair while watching the film.*
- *I am a medical student currently doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control center. Today, this woman called in very upset because she caught her little daughter eating ants. I quickly reassured her that the ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. She calmed down, and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she gave her daughter some ant poison to eat in order to kill the ants. I told her that she better bring her daughter in to the Emergency room right away.*
- *I had been Christmas shopping. It was past 9 PM, most of the stores had closed and I was tired and hungry. I came across one of the better-known fast food chain restaurants which was still open, but was about to close in 15 minutes. I hurried in and saw, to my dismay, that while the counter and dining room areas were still lit, the entire kitchen area was dark and very empty. I asked the counter girl if I could still get something to eat. She answered that although she couldn't cook me anything, they did have some hamburgers in the warmer. I ordered two hamburgers, plain. The girl grabbed her microphone and said to nobody, "Two Hamburgers, please, plain." Then she walked around to the dark and empty kitchen, took two hamburgers out of the warmer, walked back to the counter and served them to me.*
- *George Gibbs, from Columbus, Ohio, suffered second-degree burns on his head. This is what happened one freezing cold winter morning. Unable to start his car, George diagnosed the problem as a frozen fuel line which he thought he could correct by running warm petrol through it. He then tried to heat a two-gallon can of petrol on his gas stove in the kitchen. Ah.....*
- *Then there was the fisherman who saw a sign on his way to fish that read, 'All the worms you want for \$1.00. He stopped his car and ordered \$2.00 worth.*



## ***FOR YOUR INFORMATION***

### **2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you have not yet picked up your 2018 offering envelopes you can do so from the table across from the parlor.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The 2018 altar flower chart is on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary for use by anyone wishing to provide flowers for a service during the year. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00 per week and is payable to the church.

### **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.

### **REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE**

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**

Communions 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.

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Name\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address\_\_\_\_\_

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**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.

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**Hymn Request**

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**SOCIAL/FELLOWSHIP REQUEST**

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

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**Fellowship Events:**

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## **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.

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### **Prayer Chain Calling List**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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## **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.

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### **Building & Ground Needs:**

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## **ONGOING COLLECTIONS**

### **The Shriners**

Can Tabs (give tabs to Maurice Clouser)



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

### **Deaths**

In Christian love and in a sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we extend our sympathy to the families of **Myron 'Mick' Sampsell and Janet Spurr**.

Our family of faith is saddened upon the death of **Myron 'Mick' Sampsell** who passed away on November 28, 2017 at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. Mick was one of the original members of Christ's United and was well known in the area as a self-employed welder.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Dennis & Carole Sampsell of Camillus, NY; 4 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Phoebe, one daughter and three brothers.

His funeral service was conducted by Pastor John at the church at on December 4.

Our family of faith will also be missing the fellowship of a dear sister, **Janet Spurr**, who passed away on December 25, 2017.

Janet was a registered nurse, having most recently worked at Grayson View Manor, as Health and Wellness Director.

She is survived by her husband Charles 'Chuck', one daughter and son-in-law, Michelle & Darian Parker of Las Vegas, NV and one son and daughter-in-law; Michael & Andrea Spurr of Pittsburgh, Pa, and one granddaughter. She was preceded in death by one brother.

Her funeral service was conducted by Pastor Gary Owens at Dominick Adamo Funeral and Creation Services on December 28.

We ask that you continue to keep these families in your prayers as they deal with their loss.

## **Birthdays**

### **January**

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Robert Rantz      | Lee Spangler          |
| Wendy VonNeida        | 18 - Nicholas Shively |
| Laura Welker          | 19 - Hannah Blyler    |
| 3 - Wayne Doeblor     | 22 - Jaiden Beiler    |
| Patricia Kahler       | 23 - Avery Blyler     |
| 4 - Constance Wagner  | 24 - Randy Lyons      |
| 6 - Emily Zartman     | 25 - Natalie Harvey   |
| 7 - Florence Boop     | John Smith            |
| 14 - Trevor Spencer   | 27 - Stacey Campbell  |
| 15 - Dennis Boop, Jr. | John Stamm, Sr.       |
| 16 - Kendrah Beiler   | 29 - Rick Endy        |
| Paige Hosterman       | 31 - Joy Diehl        |
| Wayne Kline           | Jason Duke            |
| Janice Wagner         | Rebecca Dunkle        |
| Miranda Zimmerman     | Krista Emery          |
| 17 - Sally Kline      |                       |
| Lonnie Leach          |                       |

## **Anniversaries**

### **January**

- |                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 7 - Jim & Florence Boop    | (1955) |
| 19 - Donald & Phyllis Ruhl | (1972) |
| 30 - Kevin & Kelli Baker   | (1993) |
| Doug & Stacey Gemberling   | (2013) |



**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  
Teresa Shuck

**Our Friends & Relatives**

John Bowersox  
Adam Garman  
Gary & Barb Gemberling  
Trisha Gemberling  
Carol Gross  
Dave & Cindy Janas  
Linda Katherman  
Norman Kline  
Keagan Lahr  
Gerald Lloyd  
Sharon Magyar  
Keith McGlaughlin

Cindy Mertz  
Bob Reedy  
Joanne Sennawald  
Martha Shutt  
John Snook  
Mark Troup  
Leslie Valentine  
Karen Wagner  
Lana 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  
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.***



### **FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**404 Market Street**

**Mifflinburg, PA 17844**

**Telephone 570-966-0266 - E-Mail: [firstlu@dejazzd.com](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Youth Group Newsletter

December 2017 – January 2018

I must admit to not patiently waiting for each day's chocolates from the Advent calendars when I was younger! How did you do with that? Did you tuck the little tear out window back in so it appeared as though it wasn't touched? The excitement of this beautiful season is real! We know what happened over 2000 years ago. Obviously, no one knew then what was happening or they would have had a beautiful birthing room ready for the Christ child and Facetime streaming the birth so all could see! **We do know**...that is exactly why we should be celebrating each and every single day leading up to Christmas (and then obviously the days and months after). Take a moment (or more) each and every day to do something amazing for another person...better yet...do it anonymously!

Just recently I overheard someone mention that we have very special youth (both at First and MACY). Looking back over the 40 years that I've been involved with youth group I realized that each and every one of these youth (and there are hundreds) are doing something great for others today! WOW! I love you all and wish you the very best Christmas and thereafter. By now hopefully you realize it isn't the gifts we receive but the JOY in giving and loving! ♥



**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU** for the Trek the Trail support, No Tricks/Just Treats (great stories still being told by those in our community who were treated) tagging and retrieving food from over a thousand homes, filling and sending 24 care packages to our college/military young adults, hosting a beautiful brunch for those who support us, jumping up and pulling the Christmas decorations from the upper loft and then decorating the church the next week and so much more that you do without hesitation. I beam like your Momma when I see you humbly loving Jesus and others! Seriously! 😊

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**This Sunday (December 3rd) – AT METHODIST CHURCH @ 4:00** – Dinner and Devos followed by whipping up lots and lots of cookies for the upcoming Christkindl Cookie fundraiser – please bring an electric hand mixer if you have one at home!

**Wednesday, December 13th** – Time & location TBA – Bring any cookies that you signed up to bake at home to the “Gathering and putting cookies on trays” for the next three-day hopeful sell out!

**Thursday-Friday-Saturday, December 14-16th – Lutheran Church parsonage** – Much help is needed to operate the Christkindl Café and Cookie Tray Sale – It's warm inside, it's fun to meet people from all over the country who love coming to this beautiful community event! Please **contact Jen Harter or Vicki Hackenburg** with any questions about the Café and Cookie Tray fundraiser – they are doing an amazing job organizing and pulling this off!

**Monday-Wednesday, January 1-3rd** – Seniors and Post-Secondary young adults will be attending the SOLD-OUT Passion Conference in Washington, DC – Leaving church parking lot at 10:00 AM on New Year's Day!

**Sunday, January 14th** – Dinner & Devos @ Sawyer's at 6:00 PM

**Friday, January 19th** – Leaving at 3:30 from the church parking lot (if you need a ride from school to the lot, please let Kim know) – WINTERJAM 2018!!!! We are not renting a bus – just a 15-passenger van so space is limited! Youth first...if there is room then adults! Kim needs a \$10 deposit to hold a seat in the van – please do not wait till the last minute! After you arrive at the event, the money will be refunded to you!

**Sunday, January 21st** – SOUPS + SANDWICH + SWEET Fundraiser – Major fundraiser! Tracy Seebold is chairing this again and will provide info to all of you. (She shared that it will be the third Sunday of January, February and March)

As always, please contact me at [kksawyer2@gmail.com](mailto:kksawyer2@gmail.com) or 570-713-4577 (text or call)!



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

## **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](mailto: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, 2018**

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](mailto: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>.



**UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD**

**PO Box 36**

**Lewisburg, PA 17837**

**Phone: 570-524-9778 - Fax: 570-524-9757 - Web: [www.uss-elca.org](http://www.uss-elca.org)**

**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](http://www.HomeHelpersHomecare.com/CSV).

### **Seafarers Bags**

This year our synod collected over 560 satchels filled with items to be given to seafarers as they visit ports in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. These satchels bring a message of hope and appreciation to men and women who spend most of their lives on ships, even when they are in port. The ministry of the Seafarers and International House is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and sojourners. An ecumenical mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, SIH is a multi-faith, multi-national harbor of hospitality seeking to nurture the human spirit and foster human dignity by providing pastoral care, social assistance, advocacy and prayer.

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IN THE MAILBAG

Applications for 2018 Pennsylvania House Scholarships Now Available

High school seniors interested in receiving financial assistance to help pay for college can now apply for a Pennsylvania House of Representatives Scholarship.

Each year the program awards four-year scholarships to two students preparing for post-secondary education. The scholarship is privately funded by individual and corporate donors; no tax or other public funds are used, and it is administered through the Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

The program is open to graduating high school seniors who are Pennsylvania residents with plans to attend a Pennsylvania college, university or career school as a full-time student. Students must have attained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in high school in order to be eligible for a scholarship. Other factors taken into consideration for the awards are a student's commitment to community, leadership qualities, extracurricular activities and financial need.

[The application is available through the foundation's website.](#) The application deadline is March 1, 2018.

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*Cosy fire a-burning bright,—  
Cosy tables robed in white,—  
Dainty dishes smoking hot,—  
Home! And cold and snow forgot!*

*~Louise Bennett Weaver and  
Helen Cowles LeCron*



## ***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...***

...all the volunteers that helped decorate the church for the holiday season  
...everyone who provided a poinsettia for our Christmas Eve service  
...everyone who helped in any way with Christkindl  
...to those who worked on the Nativity scene that is in the front yard  
...the members and friends who contributed to the backpack program, the winter coat appeal and the collection for infants in Puerto Rico

*I would like to thank everyone who thought of my family during the holidays with cards and gifts, as well as for the help and moral support you give me all year long. I truly appreciate your generosity.*

*--Margie*

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*The New Year lies before you
Like a spotless tract of snow
Be careful how you tread on it
For every mark will show*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

PASTOR JOHN, MINDY & THEIR FAMILY

TOM CATHERMAN, our custodian, as well as our outgoing council member for his years of service

BEV CATHERMAN & DON FORNWALT, Tom's helpers

TOM CATHERMAN, DREW CHRISTY, MAURICE CLOUSER, DOUG GEMBERLING, EUGENE HASSINGER, DIANNE SHUCK, GREG SHUCK, LINDA SMITH, JANET SPURR, 2017 council members

PAULA CHRISTY & GARY HACKENBERG, organists

DIANE VALENTINE & KAREN ZIMMERMAN, pianists

BARRY SPANGLER & DAVE SWARTZ, digital music arrangers

PAULA CHRISTY & DIANE VALENTINE, choir directors

DIANNE SHUCK, treasurer, banquet coordinator

JANET HACKENBERG, assistant treasurer

CLIFF VALENTINE, financial recording secretary

BEV CATHERMAN, funeral meal coordinator, coordinating the stand at the Christkindl Market, sending thank you notes for Hope's Haven donations and Christmas cards to the shut-ins

KIM BLYLER for his computer talents when help is needed and for also his cooking skills, banquet coordinator

JUNE WENRICH for serving as Sunday school superintendent and for taking care of the candles

JANICE WAGNER for coordinating the holiday flower orders

PATTY EMERY for maintaining the memorial book

EUGENE & KATHERINE HASSINGER for mailing Christmas cards to visitors

BEV CATHERMAN for mailing Christmas cards to our shut-ins

BECKY DUNKLE for creating the cards that were mailed to the shut-ins

BEV CATHERMAN & JANET HILEMAN for managing Hope's Haven

BARBARA CLOUSER for scheduling greeters

BARRY SPANGLER for scheduling lay helpers and overseeing the acolytes

ALL THE MEN who make repairs and help with the upkeep of the facility

**HOPE'S HAVEN'S VOLUNTEERS AND ALL WHO HAVE DONATED FOOD,
CLOTHING, AND MONETARY SUPPORT**

DINING ROOM COORDINATORS & SERVERS

KITCHEN HELPERS

DISHWASHERS

CHOIR MEMBERS

SOLOISTS & MUSICIANS

MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS & MEMBERS

WORKDAY VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

YARD SALE COORDINATORS, HELPERS AND ALL WHO DONATE TO IT

BLANKET KNOTTING DAY PARTICIPANTS

FLOWER SPONSORS

**EVERYONE WHO HAS ANY PART IN ORGANIZING, COOKING, SERVING AND
HELPING WITH THE BANQUETS, CHRISTKINDL MARKET, PANCAKE SUPPER,
POTPIE SUPPERS, BREAKFASTS, FUNERAL & COMMUNITY MEALS AND THE
WEST END FAIR**

ACOLYTES

DECORATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**EASTER EGG HUNT & HALLOWEEN PARTY COORDINATORS, HELPERS &
PARTICIPANTS**

EASTER EGG/BON BON MIXERS, SHAPERS, DIPPERS & PACKAGERS

LAY READERS

GREETERS

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS

COMMUNION HELPERS

USHERS

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

KOINONIA KAFE COORDINATORS

BLOODMOBILE DONORS & HELPERS

ADVENT FAMILY DAY COORDINATORS & PARTICIPANTS

PUBLIC SALE STAND HELPERS

THE MEN AND WOMEN who provide baked goods and food donations for any event we have

THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION who give of themselves anonymously

**And...EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS CULC
THROUGH THEIR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENTS & FINANCIALLY**

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*"He knows no winter, he who loves the soil,  
For, stormy days, when he is free from toil,  
He plans his summer crops, selects his seeds  
From bright-paged catalogues for garden needs.  
When looking out upon frost-silvered fields,  
He visualizes autumn's golden yields;  
He sees in snow and sleet and icy rain  
Precious moisture for his early grain;  
He hears spring-heralds in the storm's 'turmoil  
He knows no winter, he who loves the soil."  
~Sudie Stuart Hager*



**ALTAR GUILD**

Barbara Clouser  
Maurice Clouser

**USHERS**

Drew Christy  
Tom Watters

**GREETERS**

7 – Gene & Katherine  
Hassinger  
14 – Ron & Darlene  
Ulrich  
21 – Sam & Ethel  
Schnure  
28 – Maurice & Barbara  
Clouser

**SOUND SYSTEM**

Dianne Shuck

**MUSIC PROVIDERS**

7 – Barry Spangler  
14 – Diane Valentine  
21 – Dave Swartz  
28 – Gary Hackenberg

**LAY READERS**

7 – Doug Gemberling  
14 – Mike Flickinger  
21 – Maurice Clouser  
28 – Janet Hackenberg

**COMMUNION  
ASSISTANTS**

7 – Judy Mecouch  
14 – Janice Wagner  
21 – Judy Moyer  
28 – 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.***

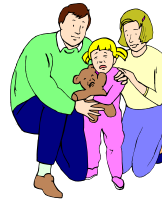
If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers to help with one or more of the following positions, please fill it out and return it to the church office.



**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](mailto:culc@dejazzd.com)**  
**Pastor's e-mail:**  
**[pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com](mailto:pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com)**  
**website: [www.4bellschurch.com](http://www.4bellschurch.com)**

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

THE DEADLINE FOR  
 ARTICLES FOR THE  
  
**FEBRUARY**  
  
 NEWSLETTER IS:  
  
**JANUARY 22**



**STAFF**

The Congregation.....The Ministers  
 The Rev. John D. Yost ..... Pastor  
 Margie Dunkle .....Sec/Asst Tr  
 Dianne Shuck .....Treasurer  
 Janet Hackenberg ..... Asst Tr  
 Cliff Valentine . Financial Recording Sec  
 Tom Catherman..... Custodian  
 Gary Hackenberg .....Organist  
 Diane Valentine & Karen Zimmerman...  
 .....Pianists  
 Dave Swartz & Barry Spangler.....  
 ..... Digital Music Arrangers  
 Paula Christy .....Chancel Choir Director

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Officers**

**Ministry Assignments**

**Facilities/Administration**

*(deals with property, personnel and  
 stewardship)*

***Maurice Clouser, Eugene Hassinger***

**Inreach**

*(focus on ministry within the congregation)*

***Drew Christy, Greg Shuck,***

**Outreach**

*(related to ministry beyond the congregation)*

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

**Parish Council Representatives**

***Drew Christy, Dianne Shuck,  
 Greg Shuck***

## **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

**Imagine** – 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.

# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Koinonia Kafe 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Px	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  7:00 Council	<b>17</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  6:00 BVSA Banquet
<b>21</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  12:00 Hubner Seed Banquet	<b>24</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Px	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven	<i>When snow falls, nature listens.</i>		

There is no “official” communication to the congregation from last night’s Council meeting. However, there will be a Council installation held during the January 14 service. The next Council meeting will be held on January 16, at 7 PM.

Also, Lee Spangler’s term on the BVLP Council ends. The CULC Council formally appointed and approved Greg Shuck as his replacement and will serve a 2-year term.

Note to Pastor John, Dianne, Lee, Greg & Drew: If the info below is wrong, please tell me and Margie and correct us ASAP. Thanks.

I received info from Dianne regarding BVLP joint service dates and committee info, along with other info from me, that you can share with the congregation.

Parish Joint Services:

- Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 14, CULC, 7 PM
- Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 25, FELC, 10:30 AM
- Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 29, CULC, 6 PM
- Good Friday: Friday, March 29, FELC, 7 PM
- Easter Sunday (Early Morning): Sunday, April 1, CULC, 6:30 AM
- Easter Sunday (Late Morning): Sunday, April 1, FELC, 10:30 AM

Parish Committees:

These three Parish committees are looking for help and assistance in anyway.

- Parishioners Helping Parishioners: What can we do to help our older parishioners who need help around their house or property? This group has looking for people to help start up the process. For more information on how you can help plan or offer help, contact Dianne Shuck.

- Social: This group has been charged to plan activities for adults, children or families of the parish. They have started to meet and are looking for additional ideas and people. For more information, contact Barry Spangler.
- Bible School: This group will be planning for a Bible School for the parish and community. Help and ideas are greatly needed. If you are interested, please contact Gary Gurton and Harry Boyer (both of FELC).