



St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

5th & Race Streets (P.O. Box B), Mifflinville, PA

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Church Office: (570) 752-2289

Pastor: Reverend Daniel Warntz

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From the Altar

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. – 1 Thess. 5:16-21

October and November has traditionally been the time when churches held “Harvest Home” Sundays and Thanksgiving Sundays. In the past, when most of our country was agricultural and rural, this was the time of harvest with the corn and soybean harvests in full swing and getting the last crops out of the family gardens before the first snow would fall. When Becky and I served in Northern Minnesota, the fields and factories were humming with the harvesting of sugar beets. Piles and piles of sugar beets were brought into the rail yards by rail cars, tractor trailer trucks and were deposited in huge piles until there was room in the warehouses at the sugar plants to store them. Harvesting was a 24-hour job with no breaks in between the coming and going of trucks until the fields were finished. A good harvest meant that there will be plenty of sugar to be made at the factory, and lots of sugar beet pulp available to farmers and ranchers to use for cattle feed, so there was much rejoicing over a very good sugar beet harvest.

Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians, writes that we should “give thanks in all circumstances” – (see quote above). For us Christians, it is easy to give thanks to God when things are going well, when we can feel and know that God has richly blessed us with good things. But we know that life throws us many ups and downs, so the one big question we must ask Paul is; how can we thank God when bad things are happening to us? When we are struggling to pay bills, wrestling with serious health issues or having to face traumas within our own family with hatred and strife among family members, how can we thank God for these circumstances? What makes it more difficult is that Paul states that **“for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”**. It sounds like God sends these bad things upon us and then turns around and wants us to thank Him for the sufferings because “Jesus for you”. Is that something we want to give thanks for? As Paul would say, “By no means”! What Paul is referring to in his quote is that God knows, because of sin in the world, that bad things are going to happen to us and happen often, because the sole purpose of Satan is to undo everything good that God has created. When Paul says to give thanks in all circumstances, Paul knows that God, who created all things, is still Lord of all things and in control of all time and space.

Through Jesus Christ, sin, death, Satan and Hell has been defeated once and for all. Though we suffer in this body now, God has already won the victory for us and thus we can give thanks now even during our sufferings that Satan has no control over us. We have a heavenly home waiting for us where there will be no more bad things to worry about because God has prepared it for us. And so, like Paul, we can trust in God's promise, and we can give thanks to God in all circumstances because we know that God has prepared everything for us and we have nothing more to fear. And that is something worth giving thanks for!!!

Pastor Dan

FELLOWSHIP & EVANGELISM NEWS

PET BLESSING

The Feast of St. Francis and our Annual Pet Blessing will be held this Sunday October 4th at 2:00pm in the Lois Gassert Pavilion across the street from the church. Bring your pet or your pet's photo. (Please restrain your pet).

CANNED GOODS COLLECTION

The first Sunday of each month has been designated as "Fill the Shelves" Sunday. (October 4th and November 1st)

St. John's will continue to collect canned goods and non-perishable items for Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine. Your generosity is supporting a vital and much appreciated ministry in our community. (St. John's is the only church to support CCVM regularly.)

You can place your items in the collection bags at any of the church entrances.

~ Thank You! *(Please remember to check the expiration dates on your donations)

THE WELCOME TABLE

The Welcome Table is a place where someone can get a free meal without judgment or discrimination. It relies solely on the generosity and donations of other's and volunteers. In August and September, we served 96 meals. Upcoming meals will be held on October 10th, and November 14th from 10:30am – Noon. In December, we will again be taking donations of Christmas cookies for distribution to our guests. There is a sign-up sheet in the rear of the sanctuary.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for your dedication and support to this ministry! Sign-up sheets are in the rear of the sanctuary, or you can call Lydia (570-204-2516) to volunteer. Please Note: **Drop off times for donations will be on Thursday's from 3:00 – 5:00** prior to the weekend of the meal, during **regular office hours** and **Saturday morning of, at 9:00 am.** (unless otherwise announced) Please call Lydia to make arrangements for alternate drop off times.

GATHERING TIME

Gathering time has been very enjoyable. We are meeting some new friends and catching up with our old friends! We look forward to our next Gathering-times. **On October 11th and November 8th.** There will be light refreshments. If you would like to volunteer to bring a light snack (cookies, donuts, cake) please give the office or Lydia Ferro a call and we'll get you signed up! Looking forward to seeing you!

DIRECTORY OF CONGREGANTS

If you would like to send a card to a fellow member, please call the church office for further information.

LOOKING AHEAD

November 1st will be the **Polka Mass at St. John's. at 3:00pm.** Refreshments will be provided by the Fellowship & Evangelism Committee. If there is a German specialty you would like to make, please contact Lydia 570-204-2516

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Grief Support Group will meet **on Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 PM.** Anyone who has experienced grief due to the recent or past death of a loved one is welcome to attend. This is an informal group whose purpose is to talk about any issues group members may be experiencing related to loss. Refreshments will be served.

RAISE RIGHT

With the holidays right around the corner, we will be submitting Raise Right orders **twice a month on the Second and Fourth Sundays of the Month.** Our next orders will be on **October 11th, October 25th, November 8th, and November 22nd.** Thanks so much for supporting St. John's!

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next scheduled blood drive will be on **Wednesday October 14th, from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**

CHICKEN & WAFFLES

Our Fall Chicken & Waffle will take place on **Saturday, November 7th from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.** Prices remain \$14.00 for adults, \$7.00 for children 6 to 12 yrs, and under 6 yrs free.

CALENDARS FOR CCVIM

This is the time of the year that people (organizations) send free calendars for next year. If you have no need for those that you receive, please bring them with your food donations for CCVIM. They would be happy to receive them.

You and your Care Receiver are invited to attend



Celebrating National Caregiver Month

Come spend some time networking with other caregivers and learning about vaulable local resources. Lunch will be provided.



"Empowering Caregivers Through Self-Care"

WEDNESDAY NOV. 4TH

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

9am to 10am-Registration and Resource Fair

10am to 12noon - Program: Self Care for the Caregiver:

Caregiver Burnout, Guided Meditation and First Aid for the Caregiver

12noon to 1pm - Lunch with Interactive Expert Panel discussion and Networking

**** Choose to attend all or part of the event****

**St Luke's Lutheran Church
Bloomsburg, PA**



Space is Limited. Registration is Required.

RSVP by October 26th

Nancy Irons at (570) 784-9272



Sponsored by:

COLUMBIA-MONTOUR
Aging Office, Inc.
The Agency with Heart!



Hello members of St John's Lutheran Church Mifflinville. It is my pleasure to be joining you for the next year as a seminarian. I look forward to learning under the direction of Pastor Warntz. I started seminary in January at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC). I take all of my classes on-line in a virtual classroom with live instruction. I am in the Master of Divinity Program and should complete my studies in December of 2029.

My husband, Emory and I live in Scenic Knolls, just over the river from Mifflinville. My father was a Lutheran pastor, and I was raised in Pennsylvania. My husband and I moved to the Bloomsburg area in 2021. My son, Andrew, is thirty years old. He lives in Raleigh, NC with his fiancé.

I graduated from Middleburg High School (now Mid-West) and got my Bachelor's in Psychology from Susquehanna University in 1992. I went on to get a Master's of Community Psychology in 1996 from Penn State University. I have worked for over thirty years in human services and higher education. I worked for Bloomsburg University from 2023-2026. My husband and I have a local cover band called Strawbridge. We have played many times at carnivals and fairs in Mifflinville. In fact, that is where the band got its start in 2022. I am the lead singer and Emory is the drummer.

I look forward to getting to know you. Thank you. ~Becky Toth - Seminarian





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Jason Shotwell 3
Glenda Brink 6
Joshua Kramer 7
Denise Leiby 8
Scott Brink 13
Vincent Moroney 13
Anna Powlus 17
Kathy Wolfe 17
Marlene Trotman 19
Brianna Kramer 22
David Ferro 24
Lily Evans 24

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Janet Peifer 10
Ronnie Wolfe 10
Barbara Yoder 10
Debra Morris 11
Lydia Ferro 15
Graham Waldron 17

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box B
Mifflinville, Pa. 18631

St. John's Mission Statement

*"We the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
celebrate God with us as we worship, learn, grow and serve."*

Upcoming Events:

Worship

October / November 2026

9:00 am

Blood Drive	Raise Right	Polka Mass
Pet Blessing	Grief Support	Chicken & Waffles