



St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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From the Pastor's Desk

October is the month which best describes the Fall season. Brightly colored leaves and pumpkins dotting the porches, give the tell-tale signs that winter will soon be around the corner. November is the month of Thanksgiving, and we all know the basics of how the Pilgrims celebrated the First Thanksgiving with the Native Americans in 1621. But who were the Pilgrims and why would they have a lasting impact upon the religious life of the Colonial United States? Let's take a closer look at who the Pilgrims were.

The Pilgrims were an off shoot of a larger Protestant group called the Puritans. The Puritans started to appear during the reign of Elizabeth 1 after 1508 when she declared an end to the Protestant Reformation in England and the acceptance of rules and the church book of the Church of England. The Puritans were not a specific religious group but was a collection of different Protestant influences which included Puritan, Quakers, Calvinists, Presbyterian and others. They felt that the Reformation did not go far enough in England and the new church, while it was purged of Catholic Doctrine, still contained "Popish rites" including the use of organs/instruments during worship service, a set liturgy according to the church calendar and clergy wearing vestments. Many of the Puritans were also called "Separatists" who objected to any Royalty or government interference in the governance of the Church. This idea will have a lasting impact when the Colonists wrote the Constitution. Hence, having the King or Queen of England as Head of the Church was a serious problem for them. The Pilgrims were the best-known of the Separatists and were eventually forced out of England and fled to Leiden which was in the Netherlands. In 1620, they decided to emigrate to the New World and 102 of them made the trip on the Mayflower to establish the Plymouth colony which was greatly expanded in 1639 by the start of the Great Puritan Migration which led to the founding of New England and the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The first winter was hard on the Pilgrims with half of the 102 members dying from scurvy, pneumonia and tuberculosis. By Spring of 1621, the colony looked in dire straits until the local Native American tribe, the Wampanoag, helped them by teaching them how to grow crops and to build houses that were sturdy. The Pilgrims had a successful harvest that fall, and to show their gratitude to the Native tribes, they shared a three-day feast with the Wampanoag for Thanksgiving and friendship. This was amazing in the fact that the Wampanoag were pagans and the Pilgrims were

highly religious. Those differences were set aside, and they were able to come together for at least a couple days to show and say thanks to each other.

Unfortunately, this feeling of goodwill did not last because as more of the Puritans migrated and started pushing westward into the interior of New England, it placed pressure on the various Native tribes. Soon, wars and skirmishes broke out between the various tribes and Puritans who were new to the colony. The Pequot War, fought between 1636-1637 was between the Pequot tribes and the coalition of the Massachusetts and Connecticut colonies. It costed many lives on both sides, but this was only the beginning of intense strife between colonists and Native-Americans up through the end of the American Revolutionary War. Thanksgiving was not celebrated again as a holiday until 1777 when the Continental Congress, in exile at York, Pennsylvania, passed a resolution calling for a National Day of Thanksgiving for the victory over the British at Saratoga, New York. Then in 1863, is perhaps the most well-known call for Thanksgiving when Abraham Lincoln, called for a “National Day of Thanksgiving” after the Union victory at Gettysburg. It wasn’t until December 1941 under President Franklin Roosevelt, who signed into Law, fixing the date of Thanksgiving at the Fourth Thursday of November.

No matter what day Thanksgiving is officially set: we should always give thanks to God each day for the blessings that He gives us daily. God provides everything that we need and we too, should look around our communities and see how we can help others who are in need. That would truly make a very Thankful moment. Amen.

PET BLESSING

We will have a Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, **October 5th at 2:00 PM in the park.**

FILL THE SHELVES

Our next Fill the Shelves Sunday will be on **October 5th**. Your donations are very much needed and appreciated.

U.S.S.W.O. & BLANKET SUNDAY

Thanks to all who contributed hygiene products to be distributed to Church World Service

In October we will meet to prepare all for shipping along with Blankets which will be collected on **Blanket Sunday, October 5th**. Monetary donations are also very much appreciated. Please make all checks payable to St. John’s.

JOINT CONCERT

On **Sunday, October 12th at 3:00 PM**, St. John's choir will join Faith United in Nescopeck for a joint concert.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next scheduled blood drive will be on **Monday, October 15th from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**.

FELLOWSHIP & EVANGELISM

CANNED GOODS COLLECTION

The first Sunday of each month has been designated as "Fill the Shelves" Sunday.

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 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 September we served 112 meals. 89 were drive ups and 23 were delivered. **Upcoming meals will be held on October 11th, November 8th, and December 13th from 10:30am – Noon.**

Welcome Table will again be giving **Christmas cookie bags to our guests at the December 13th meal**. There will be a sign up sheet in 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 Thursdays before the meal from 5:30 to 6:00 PM, and Saturday, the morning of after 9:00 AM (unless otherwise announced)***

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 12th and November 9th**. 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 sign you signed up! Looking forward to seeing you!

WOMEN OF ELCA & GIRL SCOUTS

We will be collecting some items to send to Camp Louise during the **month of October**. Items can be placed in a box provided in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Individually wrapped toilet paper

Paper Towels

Regular or Freezer Plastic Bags-Qt, Gal, or 2 ½ Gal (Dollar Tree)

Toilet Bowl Cleaner-Crooked neck

Windex-Refillable bottles

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Grief Support Group will meet **on Wednesday, October 15th 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.

BELL & CHOIR PRACTICES

Bell & Choir practices are on **Thursday Evenings. Bells at 6:00 PM and Choir at 7:00 PM** We always welcome new members. No experience required!

TRUNK OR TREAT/MIFFLIN PARADE

The Mifflinville Parade will take place on **October 19th, at 6:00 PM starting** at the Carnival grounds. **Trunk or Treating will take place immediately after the parade.** Those **helping** with the Trunk or Treat should be at the carnival grounds **by 5:30 PM**.

POLKA MASS

This year's Polka Mass will take place on **October 26th at 3:00 PM**. Ethnic German Refreshments to follow.

CHICKEN & WAFFLES

Chicken and Waffles will be held on **Saturday, November 1st from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Prices remain Adults \$12.00, Children 6-12) \$6.00, and under 6 free.**



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
Deborah Morris 11
Lydia Ferro 15
Graham Waldron 17

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 2025 - 9:00 am

Pet Blessing

Chicken and Waffles

Blanket Sunday

Joint Concert

Polka Mass

Trunk or Treat