
The Parish Echo

Millcreek Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 399, 221 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown, PA 17073 November 2023

“Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and ourselves.”

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SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 10:15 AM. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line.

WORSHIP AT 10:15 AM

PARADISE CORNER



Ted Widmer is an expert on the speeches of Abraham Lincoln. He describes Thanksgiving as “our most unifying holiday.” He says this is because, “In general, the holiday is celebrated the same way around the country.... There are no blue-state versions and red-state versions. We all experience roughly the same routine as we go in and out of the annual food coma, punctuated by sidelong glimpses at football games and floating Snoopys on TV...relatives and stragglers, breaking bread together.”

He goes on to write about how—while the idea of a national day of Thanksgiving goes as far back as the presidency of George Washington who declared such a day in 1789—it took another seventy-five years for it to catch on permanently. 1863 was the year a writer named Sarah Josepha Hale persuaded President Abraham Lincoln that a consistent Thanksgiving holiday was needed because she believed it could help heal the nation—which—at that time—was divided by the Civil War.

Widmer suggests we can still learn from the idea of gathering—even with those with whom we disagree—to think of the debt of gratitude we owe the Wampanoag Indians who were living in what is now the United States when the Mayflower and her passengers arrived and who helped those early settlers survive in a new land. Because of the Wampanoag Indians—and the second chance they gave the Pilgrims—we live in a country where we have much to celebrate not just at Thanksgiving—but throughout the year. This includes the location of our own beautiful “church on the hill.”

Millcreek Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenni-Lenape and Susquehannock peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land home. This is especially true at Thanksgiving which—as Ted Widmer reminds us—is our country’s most unifying holiday.

I believe that all becomes a reminder of how God draws us closer both to one another but to all those before and after us so that we can unite in seeing the way God works through us for the sake of the world. Like the Wampanoag Indians—and the second chance they gave the Pilgrims—God continues to bless us with new opportunities to spread God's own holy and life-giving love both when we gather and when we are apart. In Christ, God draws us all together, and, for that, we are indeed thankful.

Live as children of light!
Pastor Scott Paradise

PRAYER LIST

We remember the following **MLC members** in our prayers: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, the Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Daryl Strickler, Kiersten Sweigart, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, and Michael Yiengst Jr.



The congregation extends sympathy to Dara Wolfe whose nephew, Carl Messner, died October 5, 2023. Pastor Scott officiated at the graveside service.

2024 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2023 will be prepared for distribution on or about **November 19, 2023**. PLEASE let me know if you DO NOT wish to remain on the envelope list to receive them, or if you would like to be added to the list, including your present address. If you are currently on the list, notify me of any address changes that need to be made for the financial statements. The information is needed no later than **October 31, 2023**. Contact me by putting a note in my mail slot in the office, see me personally, email secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call 610-589-2570. Thank you, Linda.



CHOIR

Choir has moved their rehearsals to Thursdays for the time being. Please check with Debbie Tice or another member just to make sure, if you want to join in.

Church Council

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **Sunday, November 5 after worship**.

Shoe box Ministry: The **deadline for completed boxes is Sunday, November 5, 2023**. We are participating in Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child this year by filling shoe boxes for children who would otherwise not receive any gifts at Christmas. There are brochures and labels in the narthex with instructions. (Please read them carefully as there are restrictions as to what can be included in the shoe boxes.) There are preprinted shoe boxes that can be assembled, or you can wrap a shoe box of your own, just make sure the lid can be opened. Finished shoe boxes should be placed on the table in the multi-purpose

room. If you are including shipping charges, it is \$10 per box, payable to Samaritan's Purse (put your check in an envelope inside your box) or you can refer to the instructions in the brochure to donate online. **If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610-589-5505) or Pat Ontkos (610-589-4350).**

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: The committee's next meeting will be **Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 2:00 PM** at the church.

Ingathering 2023 totals are in: **67 School kits and 59 personal care kits.** The donations were very generous and we appreciate all the help in getting the items collected. Thanks for helping so many who are less fortunate than we. God Bless, Evangelism Committee
P.S. Thanks to Dara Wolfe and her sister and brother-in-law who transported the kits to the drop-off church in Lebanon.

CHURCH BREAKFAST

The breakfast group that meets monthly at Country Fare Restaurant will meet on **Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 8 AM.**
Nancy Deiter

SWEET SECOND SUNDAY

Sweet Second Sunday will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship on November 12, 2023. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS TO PLAY FOR MLC on **Sunday, November 12 at 10:00 AM for Veterans' Sunday** at Millcreek Lutheran Church.

Rehearsals will be:

Saturday, October 28 @ 10:00

Saturday, November 4 @ 10:00

Saturday, November 11 @ 10:00

For music or any questions, please **call or text Julie Strickler at 610-207-9650 or email at juliestrickler66@gmail.com.**

Parish Echo: **Deadline** for items you want in the church newsletter for December, 2023 is **Wednesday, November 15.** Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to either **Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com or millcreek.echo@gmail.com.** Items may also be submitted to the Hoglunds by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone: **Roy 717-228-8175, Dotti 717-228-8177.**

DECORATORS NEEDED: Please speak with **Stephanie Gahres** if you can help decorate the church for the Advent season. Meet her at the church on **Wednesday, November 29 at 6 PM** if you can help.

November Birthdays

3 Barbara Heckendorn
14 Renee Strickler
Carol Sova
16 David Engle

17 Jullianne Strickler
19 Nathan Tice
25 Tom Tice
Paul Zimmerman
29 Matthew Engle
30 Terry Griffe



If you want to be included on the birthday list, please contact Dotti at 717-228-8177, by email at Millcreek.ECHO@gmail.com, or place a slip of paper in the Newsletter mail slot in the church office.

Relay for Life

Deb Buffington is continuing her Relay for Life team, the Cancer Crusaders. Please contact her for ways to help so we can fight this disease.

Blood Drive

The next Central PA Blood Drive in our area is **Thursday, November 16, 2023** from **11 AM-7PM** in the multi-purpose room of Millcreek Lutheran Church.

HARVEST HOME FOR LCCM

On September 18, **157 lbs.** of food items were delivered to LCCM from Millcreek Lutheran's Harvest Home donations. That's up 30 lbs. from last year's collection. Thank you to all who shared!



Abbie Keath was selected as Homecoming Queen on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at Lebanon Valley College. Looking great in your crown, Abbie!

Pictorial Report

Our photography sessions are over and the committee is in the process of finalizing the completion of the new Millcreek Lutheran Church Pictorial Directory. Forty -three Millcreek families came in to sit for photos along with six families from another church who were also putting together a directory. Our committee went out to visit our shut-ins and photographed them so they will be included in with our church family.

A color proof copy of the directory will be shipped to the church 20 working days after Universal receives all the materials they need to compile the directory. The completed directories will be shipped to the church within 20 working days of the date the final corrected proof copy is received. Those who participated will receive your complimentary 8x10 portraits and any other additional portraits you ordered within 4 to 5 weeks. The portraits will be delivered directly to your home. Each family photographed will receive a directory. The directories will be delivered to the church.

Thank you for your participation. The committee hopes you enjoy your new pictorial directory as well as your photographs.

Nancy Deiter (chair), Deb Buffington, Barb Heckendorn, Mary Ream, Pastor Paradise

While Pastor Scott was on vacation, we had guests leading the worship service: **Sister Marianne Brock** on September 24 and **Rev. Michael Yesenko** on October 1. Many thanks to them! **Maddie and Skylar Johnson** designed the welcome sign for Sister Marianne and **Celia Bender** designed the sign for Rev. Yesenko. Great job girls!



BLESSING OF THE PETS



Totals: 8 dogs present, pictures of 2 cats, 2 deceased pets, 1 stuffed elephant were blessed. We also enjoyed a special song, "All God's Critters..." sung by some of our youth.





2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 7:00 Choir	3	4 10:00 MLC Band Rehearsal -Set clocks back 1 hour at bedtime
5 ALL SAINTS -Council -Communion DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 3 PM Girl Scouts	6	7 ELECTION DAY	8 2:00 Evangelism	9 7:00 Choir	10	11 VETERANS' DAY 8:00 Breakfast 10:00 MLC Band Rehearsal
12 MLC Band plays for VETERANS -Sweet Second Sunday	13	14	15 Deadline for December Parish Echo	16 11 AM-7PM Blood Drive 7:00 Choir -LCCM Dinner & Auction	17	18
19	20	21 10 AM-12 NOON Cooking Class	22 7:00 Community Thanksgiving Service- Richland COB	23 THANKS-GIVING 	24	25
26 CHRIST THE KING Communion	27	28	29 6:00 Decorating the Church for Advent	30 7:00 Choir		