

October 2026

# The Parish Echo

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

**"Motivating Lives Through Christ."**

**Interim Pastor: Rev. Frank Terhune**
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**www.millcreeklutheran.com**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9 AM WORSHIP AT 10:15 AM

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 10:15am. 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**.**




October already? What happened to summer? Where does the time go? October1 It is the month of transition. The leaves are falling. The temperatures are cooling. The daylight is getting shorter. Halloween is coming. Soon we will changing the clocks – is it forward or back this time?

For us Lutherans, October means Reformation, our annual remembrance of Martin Luther's challenge to the church of 1517. We remember how he posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.in those days the church doors stood Social Media. The doors of the church doubled as public bulletin boards. With his posting, Luther was calling the church to a debate on church matters. He was not out to start a new church. Luther's hope was to bring the people of the Church together to discuss church practices in the light of the Gospel. He particularly found a problem in the way the Church raised its money. (Not a new issue).

The focus of the Gospel, said Luther, was the grace and love of God. Everything the church does revolves on that promise reflected in the favorite Scripture: God so loved the world.... God so loves this world that he gave. God giving and loving is the heart of the Gospel message. Everything we do as the Church is a response to that love. God is the initiator; we are the recipients. God makes that love clear in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God's Word made flesh and dwelling among us. We get to know what God is like through the witness of Jesus. The Church today is the Body of Christ and it is through our witness that the world experiences the love of God in a real way.

In the 2nd century, there was a great epidemic in the Mediterranean world. The plague of Galen lasted fifteen years, 165-180. It is estimated that 5 million people died. At the height of the plague, 2,000 Romans died each day. The streets were Literally filled with corpses. People were filled with fear and refused to touch the sick and dying. Only the Christians dared to offer relief, risking their lives and personal safety. They tended to everyone, no matter economic stratum, country of origin, or religious belief. History speculates that the plague of Galen was actually measles brought by the Roman armies returning from China.

Those 2nd century Christians had no Bible. What we call the Bible did not exist for another 300 years. They had only the teachings of Jesus as remembered by the apostles' witness and the collected letters of Paul and others. There were no books. These writings were put down on expensive scrolls, handwritten and expensive. Very few people had access to them. What they did have was the Gospel, the Good News of God's love, orally shared. That Gospel drove them into the streets with care and concern for others, no matter who they were.

Through the years, the Church has been plagued by losing that spirit. It seems every 500 years new prophets rise up to challenge us to get back on course. Luther and others were such voices crying out into the wilderness. The Church is ever in need of reforming, because the complexity and fears of life distract us. In our time, the voices of fear surround us and rob us of any hope. We have good news for the world. God has not abandoned us. God is with us. God loves the world. There is hope. It is our mission, our task to bring that hope to all in need. Not just with our leftovers, but with our very lives. That is the witness of the Saints, the Reformers, and the Church today. That is why I feel it is a good time to be the Church. The need is great. But we have Good News to share, not just with our words, but with our lives.

Peace,
Pastor Frank Terhune

"Nothing can so make a person an imitator of Christ as caring for their neighbors.".
John Chrysostom (349-407)

## PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following **MLC members** in your prayers:

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|---|---|---|---|
| Violet Hepler | Liz Leibig | Portia Lindermuth | Stewart Wolf |
| Brian Ream | Norm Sharp | Gerry Strickler | Julie Strickler |
| Aaron Yiengst | Devon Yiengst | Greer Zellers | Michael Yiengst, Jr. |

## Evangelism Updates

The "Ingathering" project consisting of Personal Care Kits for this year was, once again, very gratifying. Kits have been assembled, packaged and will be delivered to the collection point which is Salem Lutheran in Lebanon. We were able to provide 46 complete kits to help where needed throughout the world. Yes, a little bit CAN go a long way! God is GOOD and SO ARE YOU!

Our college students have begun another year of "hitting the books". Their addresses will be posted at church for you so that you can communicate with them. They are; Aiden Heck (remember those infamous bow ties of his?), Brady Keath (right on "par"), Cole Pennington, (Millcreek's own Paul Bunyan) and freshman Morgan Hoffman (a musician who has never let a goat "get her goat"!!!!). Please consider sending a card sometime and always include them in prayer.

The next Evangelism committee will meet on October 14th @ 2:00 P.M.

Blessings! The Evangelism Committee

**PARISH ECHO**: The **deadline** for items for the **November church newsletter is October 16.** Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to secretary@millcreeklutheran.com. Items may also be submitted by placing a written note in the secretary mailbox in the church office or by phone.



## UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE

- Sunday October 4- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am communion service
- Sunday October 11- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am Blessing of the Pets service, outside (weather permitting)
- Sunday October 18- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am regular service
- Sunday October 25- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am communion service. Trunk or Treat 1-3pm.

## CHURCH BREAKFAST



The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, October 10** at **8:00 a.m**. Everyone is welcome and no advanced notice is needed. Ask the hostess for the Millcreek Lutheran group & you will be directed to our table. We'd love to have breakfast with you...a nice way to start the day! ~Nancy Deiter

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Teachers will be starting to work with children on the Christmas program songs during Sunday school.




**TRUNK OR TREAT:** This year's trunk or treat event will take place on Sunday, October 25th from 1-3pm (rain or shine). To make this event a success we need volunteers to decorate their vehicles to hand candy or treats out to the children. We are looking forward to another successful trunk or treat event, but we wouldn't be able to do it without all your help! Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex starting September 27th.

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE- OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

We will be 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 also pre-printed 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 the 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. The deadline for completed boxes is Sunday, November 8, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610) 589-5501.

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Thanks, Lisa Martin

**Top Of the Hill Clean-Up**

ANOTHER successful year for our Top Of the Hill Clean-Up was held in September. Eight people helped with the cleaning on the actual day and eight people took an assignment to work on as it fit into their schedule.
The following people were able to help on Saturday: Nancy Deiter, Harry Bump, Linda Bump, Layne Strickler, Dara Wolfe, Erica Bennethum, Marian Bennethum, and Pastor Terhune.
Those who took an assigned task to compleat at another time that worked for them were: Rachel Mock, Steph Seldomridge, Conner Pennington, Roy Hoglund, David Engle, Cheryl Batdorf, Bill Batdorf and the Keener children.
Thank you everyone for giving of your time to help keep our church and property looking good. We not only got a lot done, we also enjoyed our time together and got to know each other a little bit better.

Thank you, Nancy Deiter





## October Birthdays

1 Margie Kriss
4 Mary J. Ream
5 Debra Tice
9 Lindsay O'Connor
10 Ann Marie Engle
16 Peter Bergman
17 Aidan Heck
21 Sara Bentz
23 Phyllis Stettler
25 Doris E. Bergman
28 Jordan Rosengrant
Theresa Frederick




If you would like to be included on the birthday list, please email to secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or place a slip of paper in her mail slot in the church office.

| OCTOBER 2026 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SUNDAY** | **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** | **SATURDAY** |
| | | | | **1** | **2** | **3** |
| **4**<br>**9am Sunday School,**<br>**10:15am communion service** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10**<br><br>**8am CHURCH BREAKFAST** |
| **11**<br>**9am Sunday School,**<br>**10:15am Blessing of the Pets Outside service** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** |
| **18**<br>**9am Sunday School,**<br>**10:15am regular service** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** |
| **25**<br>**9am Sunday School,**<br>**10:15am communion service**<br>**Trunk or Treat 1-3pm** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** | **31** |