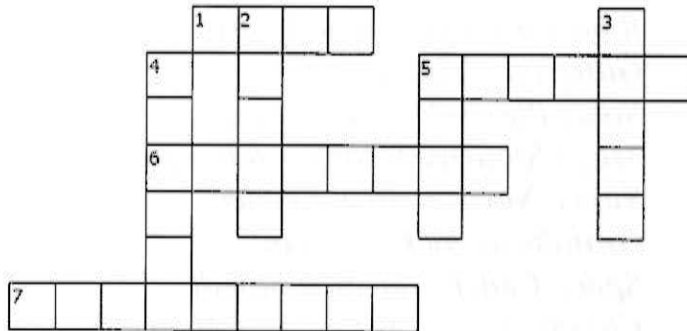


# The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



### ACROSS

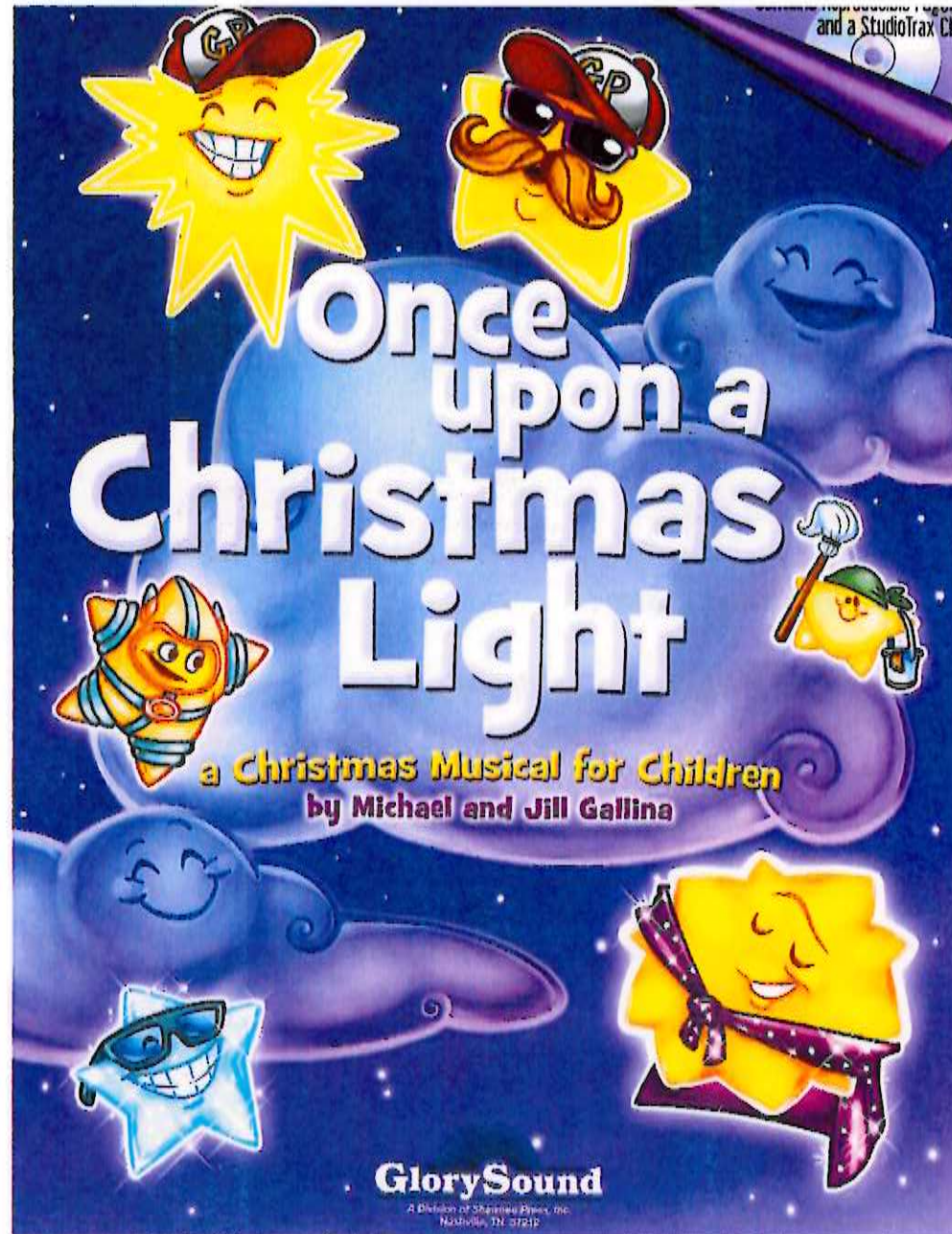
1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

### DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER

Millcreek Lutheran Church  
Sunday School  
presents



**Once Upon a Christmas Light**  
by  
**Michael and Jill Gallina**

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 15, 2024**

*Overture-Choir Entrance*

*Once Upon a Christmas Light*

*Our Time to Shine*

*Don't Blame Us!*

*Calling All Stars*

*Bright Shining Star!*

*This Little Light/Joy to the World*

*Today in the town of David*  
*a Savior has been*  
*born unto you.*  
*He is the Messiah, the Lord.*  
*Luke 2:11*

***Sunday School Cast***

*Narrators: Morgan Hoffman*  
*Brayce Miller*  
*Baylee Marderness*  
*Janice Wolf*

***Cast:***

*Stella-Isabel Rivera*  
*Roaring Boring Alice-Laura Long*  
*Glitteroti-Celia Bender*  
*Solar Plexis-Matthew Long*  
*Mega Staurus-Madelyn Johnson*  
*Super Nova-Andrew Keener*  
*Grandioso-Jack Gehman*  
*Space Cadet-Anderson Stoudt*  
*Clouds: Isaiah, Esther and Abigail Keener*  
*Additional Stars: Ariana Warnick, Addie*  
*Gehman, Ella Gehman, Bethany Keener,*  
*Harper Gettle, and Skylar Johnson*

***Production Crew:***

*Accompanist- Debbie Tice*  
*Director- Cheryl Batdorf*  
*Producer- Nikki Johnson*  
*Star Wrangler- Stephanie Sheetz*

***Props/Costumes/ Scenery:***

*Cheryl Stoudt and Deb Buffington*

*Thanks to parents and grandparents as well as Pastor Scott for their support. Big thanks to Linda Sheetz for the "stellar" bulletin. And as always, Glory to God for his gift of Jesus, and giving us these talents to share.*

## Order of Worship

Prelude of Entrance (seated)

Announcements (seated)

Prelude of Preparation (seated)

---

### **Gathering**

---

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (seated)

With the birth of Jesus, our lives are forever changed. The Spirit transforms us by his model and message. We light these candles to represent the joy Christ brings to our lives.

*Two blue candles and the pink candle are lit.*

Song: "One Candle Is Lit" (seated)

**Come surely, Lord Jesus  
as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you  
as roses, the light.**

**Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.**

**Come quickly, shalom,  
teach us how to prepare  
for a gift that compels us  
with justice to care.**

**Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.  
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.**

*Continued...*

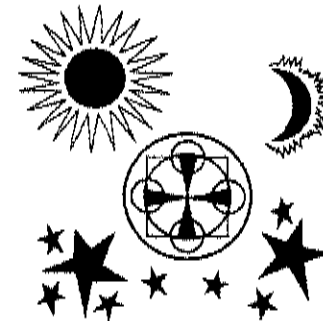
**Come, festively sing while  
awaiting the birth,  
join angels in dancing  
from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news,  
lift high thankful praise.  
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.**

Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day (seated)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Creator God, who set the stars in their places and directs the course of the planets; who robed this earth with a thin garment of air, making it a haven of beauty and life; who breathed into each of us the breath of life: Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and in all your gifts that we receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name. **Amen.**



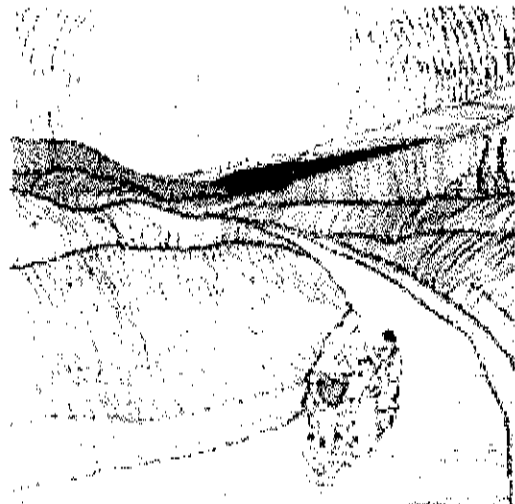
## Word

### Scripture Reading (seated)

A reading from Isaiah [52:7–10].

<sup>52:7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.  
**Thanks be to God.**



### Psalmody: "Joy to the World" (seated)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy,  
found, far as, far as the curse is found,  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

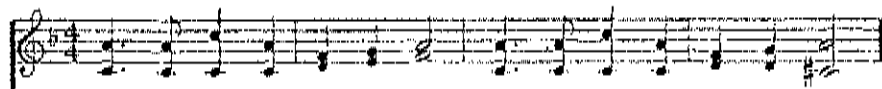
### Responsive Reading: John 1:1–5 (seated)

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**  
<sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God.  
<sup>3</sup>**All things came into being through him,**  
and without him not one thing came into being.  
**What has come into being** <sup>4</sup>**in him was life,**  
and the life was the light of all people.  
<sup>5</sup>**The light shines in the darkness, and the**  
**darkness did not overcome it.**

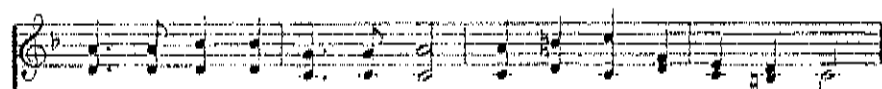
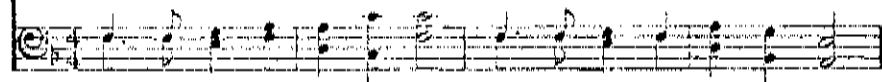
Program Presented by Children (seated)

"Once Upon a Christmas Light"

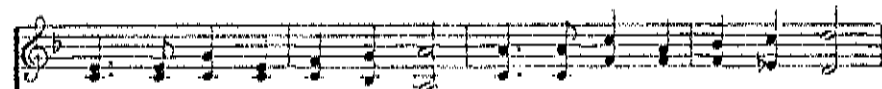
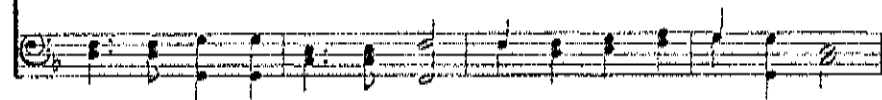
Hymn of the Day: "Watchman, Tell Us..." (standing)



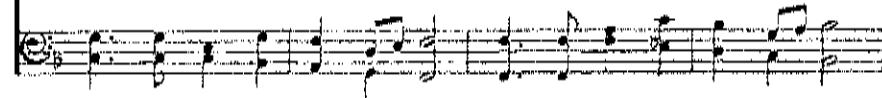
1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, What its signs of prom-ise are.  
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; High-er yet that star as-cends.  
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, For the morn-ing seems to dawn.



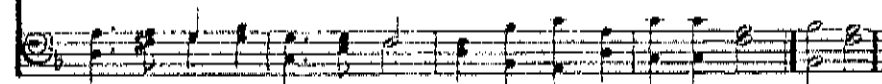
Trav-'ler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
Trav-'ler, bless-ed-ness and light, Peace and truth, its course por-tends.  
Trav-'ler, dark-ness takes its flight; Doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-man, doth its beau-ti-ous ray Aught of joy or hope fore-tell?  
Watch-man, will its beams a-lone Gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Watch-man, let thy wan-d'rings cease; Hie thee to thy qui-et home.



Trav-'ler, yes; it brings the day, Prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.  
Trav-'ler, a-ges are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
Trav-'ler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God, is come! A-men.



Prayer (standing)

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung, standing)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us  
our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and  
the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

---

**Sending**

---

Benediction and Dismissal (standing)

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
**Thanks be to God!**

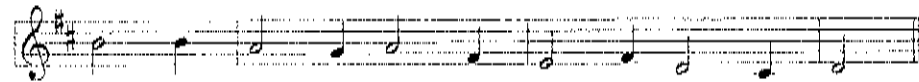
Song: "What Star Is This?" (standing)



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - tious  
 2 True spake the proph - et from a - far who told the  
 3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright: with - in them  
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us  
 5 To God the Fa - ther, heav'n - ly Light, to Christ, re -



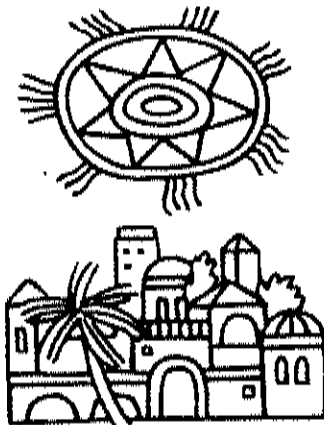
than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald  
 rise of Ja - cob's star, and east - ern sa - ges  
 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with  
 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful  
 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly



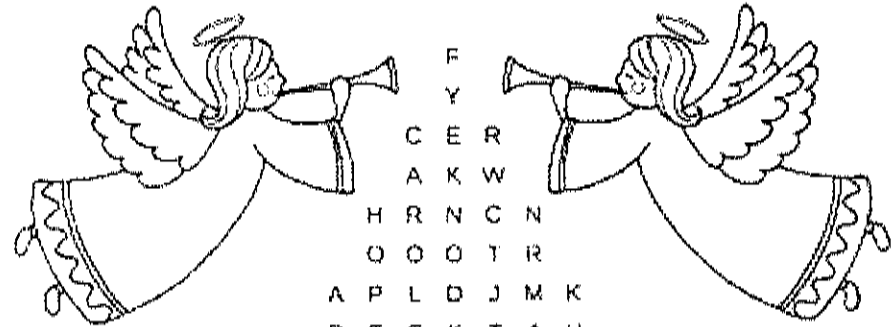
forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring,  
 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.  
 pow'r be - nigh to seek the Giv - er of the sign.  
 hear's re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.  
 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

Moments of Meditation (seated)

Postlude (seated)



# Christmas Wordsearch



F  
Y  
C E R  
A K W  
H R N C N  
O O T R  
A P L D J M K  
P E S K T A H  
U E C H R I S T M A S T R E E M D L O G I  
C J P E A C E S U A I Y J G M P F K M  
G X E S N E C N I K N A R F A B P  
C M Z S D R E H P E H S H T J  
N N V Y M Y R R H W X C P  
Y B A B R A T S I H A  
E M A N G E R H S J N  
N A T I V I T Y E E E G H  
B N N T T E A E M S E D  
E L D N A C P E U L W P  
Y B D O S N S D I J  
I N N L J G M R  
O H T V  
F O

WORD LIST

ANGEL	GOLD	NATIVITY
BABY	HOPE	PEACE
CANDLE	INN	SHEEP
CAROLS	JESUS	SHEPHERDS
CHRISTMAS TREE	MANGER	STAR
DONKEY	MARY	WISE MEN
FRANKINCENSE	MYRRH	

Homemade GIFTS MADE EASY



"The Church on the Hill"

Church Office  
(610) 589-2570  
secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

221 North Sheridan Road  
PO Box 399  
Newmanstown, PA 17073  
[www.millcreeklutheran.com](http://www.millcreeklutheran.com)

Pastor Scott Paradise  
Home: (717) 628-1241  
Cell: (540) 335-1693  
pastorscottparadise@gmail.com

---

### **Our Mission**

---

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

---

**Sunday December 15, 2024**

---

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. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.

---

### **Helping God Restore and Renew our Community**

---

#### **Serving You This Morning:**

Pastor,	The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
Lay Leader,	Susan Long
Organist/Pianist,	Debra Tice
Lay Reader,	Julie Strickler
Ushers/Audio,	Frank Hoffman & Scott Johnson

*The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Norman and Pat Sharp on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Happy Anniversary!!!*

*The altar poinsettias are in memory of the Paul Bennett Family.*

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. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.



---

### **Helping God Restore and Renew our Community**

---

**ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR TOSS:** During the month of December, I will be collecting new or gently used stuffed animals that will be thrown onto the ice during the Hershey Bears Annual Teddy Bear Toss. Help us break last year's record of 74,599 stuffed animals! The stuffed animals are then donated to over 30 different charities and hospitals. Look for the box in the Narthex. Thank you for your support! Deb Buffington

---

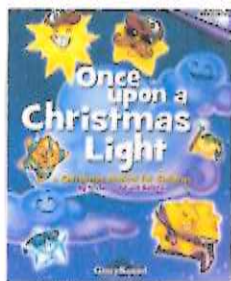
### ***Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation***

---

**TREASURER'S REPORT: December 8, 2024**, Current Offerings-\$905.00, Plate-210.00, Advent Offerings-20.00, Flowers-30.00, Bulletins-10.00, Restore & Renew-25.00, Coffee-10.00, MP Rental-50.00, Misc. Income-700.00. **Total-\$1,960.00**  
Attendance-72, Sunday School-28.

**LESSONS AND CAROLS READERS:** Please consider being a reader for this annual service on Sunday December 22, 2024. There will be a signup sheet on the narthex table.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** for items you want in the **Parish Echo for January 2025 is Sunday, December 15**. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to [mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com](mailto:mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com). Items may also be submitted by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone.



*Our Sunday School children and teachers have been working very hard practicing their presentation of the annual Christmas Program at Millcreek Lutheran Church. This year's presentation is "Once upon a Christmas Light". The presentation will be today-Sunday December 15th at 10:15 in the multi-purpose room. Join us for this special presentation!*



**NURSERY NOTE:** I will not be supervising the nursery Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>, that is the date of the Children's Christmas Program and Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, I will be directing the MLC Orchestra for Lessons and Carols. The nursery will be open for your child or children, but under your supervision. Stephanie Sheetz

Calling all musicians to play for our **Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m.** Rehearsals are: **Saturday, December 14 at 9:30, Saturday, December 21 at 9:30.** Please let Julie know if you are available or have any questions at 610 207 9650 or email [juliestrickler66@gmail.com](mailto:juliestrickler66@gmail.com).

Also, the Millcreek Brass will be playing Christmas Eve at 9:45 pm. Please let me know if you can join us. Blessings, Julie Strickler



**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** The Sunday School students are once again collecting Christmas cards to include in “goody bags” for those who are unable to attend worship. The individual list will be **on the table** next to the bags. **Individual bags for each person will be set up in the narthex starting November 17<sup>th</sup>.** Please deposit cards before the church service on **December 15<sup>th</sup> (deadline)**, so that they can be ready for delivery after church. We would also appreciate any **volunteers who would be willing to make deliveries** to these members after December 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the table. Please contact Nicole Johnson ([blouch1986@hotmail.com](mailto:blouch1986@hotmail.com)) with any questions. Thank you, Nicole Johnson

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** may be picked up from the small table along the wall in the narthex. If you do not see a box there for you, please see or contact me and I will get a box for you.

Thank you for recent updates and for supporting our church. Linda Sheetz, 610-589-2570

**YEARBOOK 2024-25:** I am starting to gather information for the 2024-2025 yearbook so I can have it to the congregation hopefully by the beginning of February. I would prefer **all reports and information to me by December 31.** If you have changes in address, phone numbers, email addresses, weddings, births, or deaths in your family, please let me know so we may include the information in the new yearbook. Updated information may be put in my mail slot in the office, or emailed to [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com). Thank you, Linda Sheetz

**FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025** are available in the narthex.

---

## Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

---

*The Millcreek Lutheran Congregation extends their prayers and sympathy to the family of Sylvia Hoffman who passed away Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Sylvia is the mother, mother-in-law and grandmother of members Frank, Jodi and Morgan Hoffman. Services are private. The arrangements are by Grose Funeral Home.*

*The Millcreek Lutheran Congregation extends their prayers and sympathy to the family of Josephine Belleman who passed away Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Josephine is the mother of member(s) Theresa Sites and grandmother of Susan Long. Graveside services will be private. Grose Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.*

**WEATHER ALERT:** In case of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen. When church is cancelled due to the weather, there is no one at the church for a service on the Phone Patch.

**THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:** Audrey Putt, 201 West Main Street, Newmanstown, PA 17073

**IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.**

**MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST:** Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

**NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com) or call 610-589-2570**

**NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST:** Mike Nelson, (friend of Kristin Bender)  
Jane Yocum, (friend of Debbie Hartman)  
JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' Mother)

## MILLCREEK LUTHERAN ADVENT CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- ❖ **Sunday December 15 – 3rd Sunday in Advent** - The children's program is one of the highlights of our season – come see our “stars” in *“Once Upon a Christmas Light”*
- ❖ **Saturday December 21 – 7 pm** - Service of healing on the Winter Solstice
- ❖ **Sunday December 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent** Lessons & Carols – hear the lessons that lead to the birth of Jesus--special music by Millcreek Lutheran Orchestra conducted by Stephanie Sheetz
- ❖ **Sunday December 22 – 4 pm** – a new service for those who cannot attend Christmas Eve Service.
- ❖ **Tuesday December 24 – Christmas Eve - 10 pm.** One service with candlelight and communion.



One of the most meaningful parts of Christmas Eve Worship is the singing of “Silent Night” by candlelight. The Congregation Council discussed this treasured tradition at their meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. They certainly would not take away the singing by candlelight. However, they are concerned about the safety issues around having congregants walk while carrying lighted candles. The Council’s unanimous conclusion was that-while the singing by candlelight will certainly remain the practice-the Council also voted to have the acolytes carry the flames to the congregation who will light their individual candles in the pews. To be clear: Everyone will sing “Silent Night” by candle light, but the way the light gets to the congregation will be safer. The Congregation Council sees this as an excellent solution and appreciates your understanding and support.