

# Lessons & Carols



*Sunday, December 22, 2024*  
*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Millcreek Lutheran Church  
Newmanstown, Pennsylvania  
[www.millcreeklutheran.com](http://www.millcreeklutheran.com)

## Prelude of Entrance (seated)

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"  
"Coventry Carol"  
"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

## Welcome and Announcements (seated)

## Prelude of Preparation (seated)

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath (standing)

We are a people who seek to be brought together by the love of Christ. Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness. Acknowledging God's free gift of grace, we light the Candle of Love.

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

## Song: "One Candle Is Lit" (stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 4)

**1** 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.

**2** 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.

**3** 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.

**4** Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,  
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

Greeting and Opening Prayer (standing)

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. O Holy One, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. Through the telling of the Christmas story, let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal in that same child, that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Opening Address and Prayer (seated)

At this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to attend once more to the story told of one who was born on this Earth, who ministered to the poor, the rejected, and the brokenhearted, who died speaking truth to power, and whose death signified not the end, but a transformation awaiting all who give their lives, even as he did, to God's vision for the well-being of this world. Let the much-loved words and songs of this season fill us body and soul, giving us hope and helping us respond to that great plea that permeates this season: for peace, peace on earth, peace on earth and good will to all.



Song: "O, Come, All Ye Faithful" (seated)

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain*

First Lesson: Christ's Birth and Kingdom Foretold (seated)

A reading from Isaiah [9:2, 6-7].

<sup>9</sup>2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



The people that walked  
in darkness have  
seen a great light ....

Isaiah 9:2

Song: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (seated)

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
*Refrain*

3 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Second Lesson: The Peace Christ Will Bring is Foretold (seated)

A reading from Isaiah [11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9].

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling

together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Song: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (seated)

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

Third Lesson: The Angel Announces the Birth of Christ (seated)

A reading from Luke [Luke:1:26-35; 38].

<sup>126</sup>In the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Song: "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly (seated)

1 Sing of Ma - ry, pure and low - ly, Vir - gin - moth - er un - de - filed,  
2 Sing of Je - sus, son of Ma - ry, In the home at Na - za - reth.

Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, Who be - came her lit - tie child.  
Toll and la - bor can - not wen - ry Love en - dur - ing un - to death.

Fair - est child of fair - est moth - er, God the Lord who came to earth,  
Con - stant was the love he gave her, Though he went forth from her side,

Word made flesh, our ve - ry broth - er, Takes our na - ture by his birth.  
Forth to preach, and heal, and suf - fer, Till on Cal - va - ry he died. A - men.

3 Glory be to God the Father;  
Glory be to God the Son;  
Glory be to God the Spirit;  
Glory to the Three in One.

From the heart of blessèd Mary,  
From all saints the song ascends,  
And the Church the strain re-echoes  
Unto earth's remotest ends. Amen.



Fourth Lesson: Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus (seated)

A reading from Luke [2:1, 3-7].

<sup>2</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (seated)

- 1 **O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 **For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!**



Fifth Lesson: The Shepherds Go to the Manger (seated)

A reading from Luke [2:8-16].

<sup>28</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Song: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (seated)

- 1 **Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 2 **Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

*continued on next page...*

- 3 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Special Music: "Joy of Christmas"

Sixth Lesson: The Wise Men are Led by the Star (seated)

A reading from Matthew [2:1-12]

<sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Song: "What Child is This?" (seated)

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

Seventh Lesson: The Mystery of the Incarnation (seated)

A reading from John [1:1-14]

<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. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to

testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Song: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (seated)

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*



Closing Prayer (standing)

Let us pray. O God of love and light, at this time of introspection on the nature of divine presence, turn us inward to your indwelling Spirit. At this time of reflection on the nature of divine power, turn us outward to the needs of this broken, but beautiful world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer (singing and 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.**

Blessing (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.

Song: "Joy to the World" (seated)

Printed on the next page....

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Postlude: "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"







"The Church on the Hill"

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### **Our Mission**

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

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**Sunday December 22, 2024**

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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.

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

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

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

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Christine Hopple, mother of Julie Strickler, by Gerry and Julie Strickler.

The bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Daryl Strickler by Gerry and Julie Strickler.

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 YouTube.



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### Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

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**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

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### Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

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**LESSONS AND CAROLS READERS:** Thank you to all the readers who participated in the service today.

**THANK YOU** to the Millcreek Lutheran Ensemble conducted by Stephanie Sheetz, Debbie Tice (accompanist), and Julie Strickler (organizer) for providing the music for our Lessons and Carols service this morning.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: November Electronic Deposits,** Current Offerings-\$790.00, Restore & Renew-100.00, Fuel Oil-500.00. **Total-\$1,290.00**

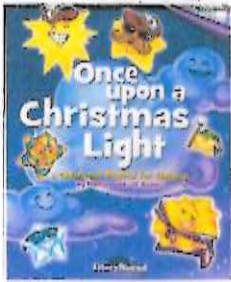
**December 1, 2024,** Current Offerings-\$2,175.00, Plate-78.00, Advent-600.00. **Total-\$2,852.00.**

**Attendance-69, SS-25**

**December 8, 2024,** Current Offerings-\$905.00, Plate—210.00, Advent-20.00, Flowers-30.00, Bulletins,10.00, Restore & Renew-25.00, MP Rental-50.00, Misc.-700.00, Coffee-10.00.

**Total-\$1,960.00 Attendance-72, SS 28**

**December 15, 2024,** Current Offerings- \$1,490.00, Plate-232.00, Misc. Income-12.25, MP Rental-200.00, Memorials-Sylvia Hoffman-150.00, Flowers-190.00, Bulletins-40.00, Advent Offerings-190.00, Initial-10.00. **Total \$2,514.25. Attendance-NA, SS 31**



**THANK YOU** to all who had a hand in the Christmas program last week. The teachers did a fantastic job in preparing the children, as well as the stage and props. Also, thanks to Scott Johnson, Frank Hoffman and Daniel Long for their help with sound and all the little things, Linda Sheetz for the program and parents who helped learn lines and bring the kids to practice. For the teachers, it is a labor of love and our gift to the congregation!

**NURSERY NOTE:** Sunday December 22nd, I will be conducting the MLC Ensemble for the Lessons and Carols service. The nursery will be open for your child or children, but under your supervision. Stephanie Sheetz

**THE MILLCREEK BRASS** will be playing Christmas Eve at 9:45 pm. 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). Please let me know if you can join us. Blessings, Julie Strickler

**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, 610-589-2570 and I will get a box for you.

Thank you for recent updates and for supporting our church. Linda Sheetz

**YEARBOOK 2024-25:** I am requesting information for the 2024-2025 yearbook and would prefer **all reports and information to me by December 31**. If you have changes in addresses, 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. Flowers-\$30.00 Bulletins-\$10.00

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### Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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**Thank you** so much for the cards and gifts. Also, thanks for the delivery of the gift bags by Rachelle and Rachel. Dale, Sandra and Hazel Bashore.

**Thank you to my Millcreek Family** for the lovely Christmas cards and special gifts. Merry Christmas, Violet Hepler

*Lily Sophia McElwee was born on December 16, 2024 to Jocelyn and Trey McElwee in the Ephrata Wellspan Hospital. Grandparents are Cheryl and Jack Stoudt. Congratulations to all!*

**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:**

Ann Welling Rm. 238, Country Meadows 1800 Tulpehocken Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610

**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:** Lorraine Eberly, 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

- ❖ **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.