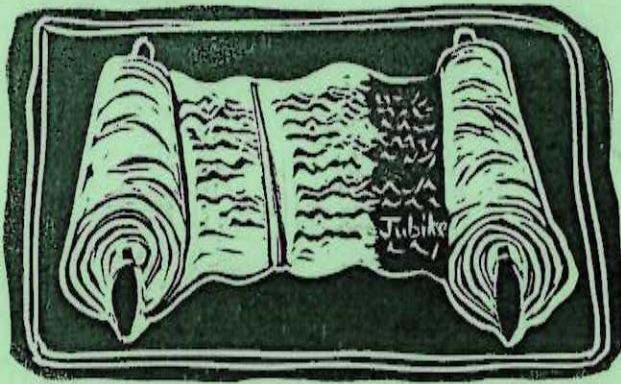


# The Third Sunday after Epiphany

## Sunday, January 26, 2025



*We now return for much of this liturgical year to hear the gospel according to Luke. Today we will hear that Jesus is filled with the power of the Spirit, and so are we.*

*In addition, today, the church invites us to remember the witnesses of Timothy, Titus, and Silas, who were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem (recorded in Acts 15), and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake (recorded in Acts 16:16-40).*

Millcreek Lutheran Church  
Newmanstown, Pennsylvania  
[www.millcreeklutheran.com](http://www.millcreeklutheran.com)  
717.589.2570

Prelude of Entrance (seated)

Announcements (seated)

Prelude or Preparation (seated)

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### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness (standing)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: "Hark, the Glad Sound!" (standing)

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

The Apostolic Greeting (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.**

The Prayer of the Day (standing)

Let us pray. Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. **Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading (seated)

A reading from Nehemiah [8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10].

8<sup>1</sup> All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19, please read responsively (seated)

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> **One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup> Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup> **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup> It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup> **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup> The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup> **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup> **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading (seated)

A reading from First Corinthians [12:12-31a].

<sup>12:12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

*Continued....*

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

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

Gospel Reading (standing)

The Holy Gospel according to Luke [4:14-21].  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>4:14</sup> Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

*Continued on next page ...*

<sup>20</sup> And [Jesus] rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

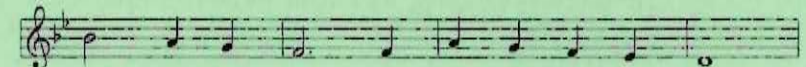
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon (seated)

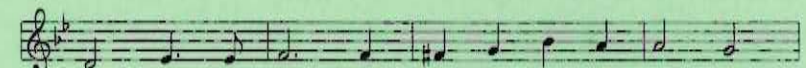
Hymn of the Day: “O Zion, Haste: (seated)



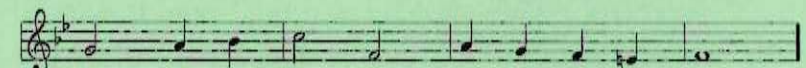
1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high - ful - fill - ing,  
 2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion  
 3 Give of your own to bear the mes - sage glo - rious,  
 4 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



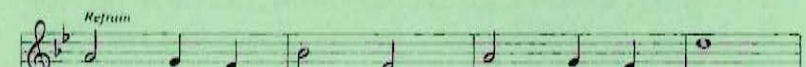
to tell to all the world that God is light;  
 that God, in whom they live and move, is love;  
 give of your wealth to speed them on their way,  
 make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing  
 tell how he stooped to save his lost ere - a - tion  
 pour out your soul for them in prayer vic - to - rious,  
 let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night,  
 and died on earth that we might live a - bove.  
 and haste the com - ing of the glo - rious day,  
 through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.



*Refrain*  
 Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

### The Prayer of Intercession (standing)

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery and struggling with illness—especially those on our congregational prayer list—Lorraine, Debbie, Violet, Abbie, the Leibig family, Ron, Barbara, Norm, Renee, Deb, Stewart, Aaron, Devon, Michael, and Greer. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world especially hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As you weep when you see your people speak or act against one another. Forgive us for the times we let our differences become more important than our work as disciples. Grant us the bravery and opportunity to seek forgiveness, so that we can once again work together as your hand and feet in this world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church—especially Timothy, Titus, Silas—and our beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

### The Peace (standing)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

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### **MEAL**

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

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### Musical Offering (seated)

### Offering Prayer (standing)

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving Dialog (standing)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

In the night in which he was betrayed...Again, after supper...Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
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.**

Invitation to Communion (standing)

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness. **Thanks be to God.**

Distribution of Holy Communion (continuous line)

Table Blessing (standing)

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion (standing)

Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

Blessing (standing)

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

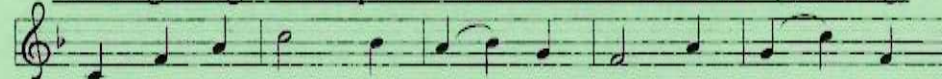
Dismissal (standing)

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

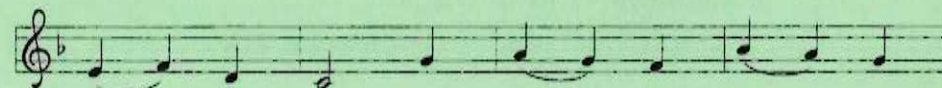
Prayer for the Annual Meeting (standing)

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "The Spirit Sends Us forth to Serve" (standing)



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel,



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim, God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim,  
share a dream and help the blind to see,  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed,  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Moments of Meditation (seated)



"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

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

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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 January 26, 2025

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#### Serving You This Morning:

<b>Pastor,</b>	The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
<b>Lay Leader,</b>	Susan Long
<b>Organist/Pianist,</b>	Debbie Tice
<b>Lay Reader,</b>	David Staaby II
<b>Ushers/Audio,</b>	Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Ronald and Selah Sheetz and Hauck Family members. With love, Logan, Linda and Stephanie Sheetz.*

*The bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in celebration of the 27<sup>th</sup> birthday of Stephanie Sheetz, love Mom and Dad. Happy Birthday!!!*

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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Millcreek Lutheran's Winter Beach Party is right around the corner. Please share with your neighbor's, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and co-workers!

Our event will be on Friday January 31st at 6 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. We have a signup sheet in the Narthex for items needed for the event and volunteers.

We look forward to another FUN event on the Hill!

If you have any questions, please see Jen Rosengrant or Nikki Johnson.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: January 12, 2025**, Current Offerings- \$805.00, Plate-190.00, Initial- 38.00, Flowers-60.00, Bulletins-20.00, **Total 1,113.00** Attendance-55, Sunday School-18  
*Church canceled due to snow-January 19, 2025. No report.*

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING:** Millcreek Lutheran Church is excited to once again participate in the Lebanon County Christian Ministries Souper Bowl of Caring.

We are kicking off this Sunday with a goal of 350 cans of soup by Sunday February 9, 2025.

A display will be in the Narthex for you to drop your soup. We will provide a weekly update toward our goal.

If you prefer to give a monetary donation, we can purchase the soup for you.

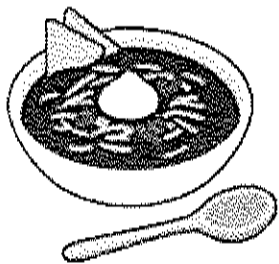
We look forward to helping tackle hunger in our community over the next 30 days!

Go Team Millcreek! Contact information-Jen Rosengrant, [jrosengrant1200@comcast.net](mailto:jrosengrant1200@comcast.net) or 717-228-8857

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## Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

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**SOUP AND CHILI LUNCHEON:** In conjunction with the soup collection for Souper Bowl Sunday, we will be having a luncheon featuring homemade soups and chili. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex for this. Along with the soups, we look for the congregation to bring sandwiches, sides or desserts to have with your soup. This has become a popular luncheon here and we hope to see many of you here. We don't know who will be playing yet, but feel free to wear your favorite team jersey that day! Debbie Tice

We will share in the **Celebration of Holy Communion** today, January 26, 2025 and Sunday February 2, 2025.

*February 2<sup>nd</sup> the children participating in communion classes will receive Holy Communion for the first time with their families.*



## **OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Millcreek Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting will be held following the worship (i.e., about 11:30 am) on Sunday January 26, 2025. The agenda consists of several important items:

1. Election of 4 adult council members
2. Adoption of the proposed budget for 2025
3. Amendment to the gift acceptance policy

Please direct questions regarding these items to Lay Leader Susan Long or Pastor Scott Paradise.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOTE:** There are open positions on the council that need to be filled. Serving on the council is a wonderful opportunity to bring new ideas to life and have your voice heard. I strongly encourage everyone to consider taking on a position, especially if you feel you can contribute to the future of our amazing little church! Thank you, Susan Long, Lay Leader

**2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** are available for you to pick up from the table in the narthex.

**FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025** are available in the narthex. Flowers-\$30.00, Bulletins- 10.00

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### **Important Notice for Keyholders**

The Congregation Council has contracted with Reed's Locks to have the exterior locks changed to a system that will allow us to keep better control of keys to the church building. This change will take place on Thursday, January 2.

- If you have a key to the church, you will need a replacement key for the exterior locks, which you can get from the church office. Please make sure the office is staffed ([secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com) or 610.589.2570) before coming to get your key.
  - If you have a key to the church, please keep it. You will still need it for the interior locks. (After January 2, this key will not work for the exterior locks.)
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**Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves**

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**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 tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen or WLBR 1270 radio station. 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:**

Sandy Bashore, 604 West Franklin Street, Womelsdorf, PA 19567

**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 Iberly, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Debra Webber, Sarah 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 Kristi Bender), Jane Yocum, (friend of Debbie Hartman),  
JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' Mother)



## EASTERN LEBANON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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180 Elco Drive, Myerstown, PA 17067  
717-866-7447  
<http://www.elcosd.org>

Kelly Smith, M.Ed., MSW  
*Home and School Visitor*

December 18, 2024

Greetings!

I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest appreciation for your contribution to the 2024 ELCO Holiday Program and the ELCO School District Family Fund. Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to assist 73 families over the holiday season. Each participating family received a gift card for food, and more than 210 children received gift cards, stockings, and warm winter items such as coats and socks.

Additionally, we replenished funds in the ELCO School District Family Fund and continued stocking the ELCO Caring Closet. The Family Fund is used throughout the school year to provide necessities for ELCO families facing various difficulties.

Your donation has made a tremendous impact on our community, and we are incredibly grateful. Thank you for supporting ELCO families!

Kelly Smith  
ELCO School District  
Home and School Visitor

Thank you so much for  
the generous donation! It  
goes a long way to help  
our families in need!

Kelly