
The Parish Echo

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

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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

WORSHIP AT 10:15 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.

PARADISE CORNER



A story about those annual delicious treats seems to be a good way to start this edition of “Paradise Corner,” since we are in the midst of Girl Scout cookie season. Girl Scouts began selling cookies as early as 1917 but did not use commercial bakers until 1936. Writer Angela Tung says, “For a while, each Girl Scout council could choose its own baker, and at one point there were 29 different companies making the cookies. To streamline the process, that number went down to four in the late 1970s, and in the 1990s, it decreased even further to two: ABC Bakers and Little Brownie Bakers.” That is a lot of streamlining!

The Echo hasn’t been around as long as Girl Scout cookies, but we hope that each of our members, friends, and former members looks forward to each issue of *The Echo* as much as they look forward to Girl Scout cookies! And, just like Girl Scout cookies themselves, we have taken the time for streamlining this monthly newsletter. (Although, we won’t go from 29 pages to 2 pages!)

One of the big differences between Girl Scout cookies and *The Echo* is that Girl Scout cookies have a much larger audience. By contrast, certain items in *The Echo* interest only a limited audience and only need to be available to those in that audience. Examples of these limited-audience items include the Lay Reader and Acolyte lists (our office administrator sends those out by direct email to those included) and the financial information (these are available in the minutes of the Congregation Council meetings).

The part of *The Echo* in most compelling need of streamlining is the prayer list. Comparing *The Echo* from March of 2012 to the January of 2023 issue revealed several names that had been on the prayer list for nearly ten years. There are some names on the list whom we have no idea how to contact to see if that person still needs our prayers. Managing the Millcreek

Prayer list has become the same kind of challenge it must have been for the Girl Scouts to manage 29 different cookie baking companies.

As a way to emphasize the expectation that God will answer our prayers, we will streamline the list in *The Echo* to be a list of members, which will repeat from month to month with updates as needed. We still believe it is important to pray for non-members and friends, but we needed a strategy to include them. We will do this through the weekly prayers in worship. To get a non-member or friend on the Sunday prayer list, please give that person's name to the office administrator, Linda Sheetz (610-589-2570 or secretary@millcreeklutheran.com) no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday. They will be listed in the Sunday bulletin (but not *The Echo*) along with a note of who put them on the list. I will name them in the prayers that Sunday. Non-members on the Sunday prayer list will start fresh each Sunday.

USA Today found that the crisp cookies with caramel, coconut, and chocolaty stripes called Samoas® (or Caramel deLites®) are the most popular Girl Scout cookies in Pennsylvania. (The name changes based on the baker.) Likewise, "Paradise Corner" and the monthly calendar are the two most popular items in *The Echo*, so they stay, but we won't be changing the names of those key features because they will be made by the same people: myself in the case of "Paradise Corner" and all of us in the case of the monthly calendar.

Girl Scout cookie season comes around regularly and so does *The Echo*. This gives us plenty of chances to enjoy what we do as God's people and to celebrate the gifts through which God still blesses us as we enjoy all the essentials of this life and the Girl Scout cookies along the way!

Live as children of light! Pastor Scott Paradise

PRAYER LIST

We remember the following **MLC members** in our prayers: Chub (Gordon) Auman, R. Hart Beaver, Donald Collins, Donna Collins, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad and Pat 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 sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of **Lisa Zerbe**, who died on December 12, 2022. She is survived by her mother, **Kathryn Zerbe**.

The sympathy of the congregation is given to **Carol Sova** and her family on the death of her father, Daniel Kopko.

Church Council- January 8, 2023

The next church council meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 5, 2023**. After devotions, Nancy read a letter of resignation from Dale Bentz. After discussion, the council regretfully accepted the resignation.

There was much discussion about the upcoming congregational meeting which is scheduled for **January 29th**. Where should it be held and should a pot luck dinner be part of the day? Over the years there has been a definite decline in attendance at both the meeting and dinner. It was decided that the meeting would **take place in the sanctuary following the 10:15 A.M. church service**. Pastor Scott asked the congregation during the January 15th service if the congregation would like to have a pot luck dinner following the meeting. **Those present voted to have a pot luck dinner**. Times and people change over the years. The council wants to understand the desires of the congregation as we move

forward in the new year with those activities that have existed in the church from the beginning. We look to the congregation to let us know which traditions we want to remain in place and which traditions are no longer important to them.

Before discussing the proposed new budget, there was discussion regarding the new office copier vendor and agreement. Council voted to remain with our current vendor with no maintenance agreement. After discussing the pros and cons of black/white compared to color, it was decided to remain with the black and white copier. The proposed new budget was discussed and approved by council. It will be presented to the congregation for their approval at the January 29th meeting.

David Engle has offered to do some needed painting in the building. He will be painting the large meeting room in the Sunday School wing, the ladies' room after the plaster is repaired and the unpainted copper pipes in the multi-purpose room.

This was my last council meeting before the congregational meeting as your Lay Leader. It has been a pleasure to work with this council and congregation. I, along with you, look forward to an exciting future as Millcreek Lutheran Church takes on 2023. Nancy Deiter, Lay Leader

Additional Information about the Congregational Meeting, January 29, 2023

The format of the annual congregational meeting has been changed. Last year, only 30 people remained after the church service to attend the meeting in the multi-purpose room. Traditionally, a pot luck meal in the multi-purpose room followed the church service. The congregational meeting followed the meal. Council felt more people might stay for the meeting if it followed the church service and remained in the sanctuary.

The next discussion regarded the pot luck meal. Over the years the amount of people participating in the meals has declined. It was decided to let the congregation make the decision as to have or not have a meal tied in with the meeting. Pastor Scott took a vote at the church service on January 15th and the congregation voted overwhelmingly to have the pot luck meal.

As a result of council discussion and a vote by the congregation, the following format was planned for January 29th, 2023.

Church service at 10:15 AM with Communion.

Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary directly following the service.

Pot luck meal in the multi-purpose room following the meeting. Nancy Deiter

Large Gift Giving Planning Committee

As reported in last month's newsletter, this committee met on December 12th to discuss the \$10,500.00 gift made by Layne and Renee Strickler in memory of Charles(Tony), Esther(Jane) and Lance Strickler. Council voted in favor of the committee's recommended use of the money at their January 8th meeting. \$7,500.00 will go into the Restore & Renew fund to use toward the payment of our new sign at the bottom of the hill. \$3,000.00 is designated for 2023 small projects and operation expenses. The two small projects referred to are the plaster repair and painting in the ladies' rest room and the conversion of two recessed coat areas in the Narthex into storage closets. We no longer have a need for so many coat racks and two storage closets would be a much-needed asset...one for the pastor and one for secretarial use. Thank you, Layne and Renee.



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

We had another generous donation made on December 28, 2023. David and Ann Marie Engle donated \$10,000.00 in memory of Richard and Lillian Engle. This donation was a designated donation, thus the committee did not meet but a form was filled in according to the wishes of David and Ann Marie.

\$4,000.00 is to be used for the general operations from 2022. \$6,000.00 is to be used for air conditioning to be installed into the choir/altar area. This is an area that receives little ventilation which makes it very uncomfortable in the heat of summer for those who must spend time there. Thank you, David and Ann Marie.

On behalf of the council and congregation, I thank this committee for working hard to satisfy the intended desire of generous contributors with needs of our church. Last but not least, we thank the Stricklers and Engles for their generosity. Tony, Jane, Lance, Rich and Lil will always be missed but remembered lovingly.

Nancy Deiter, Lay Leader

Restore And Renew

The current total in our Restore and Renew account as of the beginning of January is \$136,281.78. That is an increase of \$14,300.00 since the printing of our last newsletter! The red paint has been added to our thermometer chart in the Narthex. It's unbelievable as to how close we are getting to our \$150,000.00 goal! The church council is extremely proud of this congregation and their dedication to meeting this goal.

As you know, we now have our new sign in place at the bottom of the hill. We thank Gene and Nathaniel Flory for preparing the concrete base for the sign. The church was not billed for this work. Once the weather warms up, they intend to power wash the brick on the wall.

We are so blessed at Millcreek Lutheran Church. When there is a need within the church, our members AND non-member friends step up to the plate with their time, talents and financial support.

Thank you, Nancy Deiter, Lay Leader

Volunteer Opportunities

Last month I reported that we no longer need someone to volunteer to handle the linens and changing of the paraments. **Deb Buffington and Mary Ream have taken on the responsibility of the altar committee. We thank Deb and Mary for taking on this important role.**

Since the last newsletter, **we now have a couple who have agreed to take on the responsibility of keeping the wording on our new sign current. Daniel and Susan Long have agreed to take on this important job.** Pastor Scott is preparing a listing of events he would like to see advertised at the appropriate times throughout the year, in addition to listing the times for the Sunday School and Church Service. The sign came with limited letters so you will have to bear with us until we are up and running as smoothly as we want to be after additional letters are ordered. We are so appreciative of Daniel and Susan for taking on this chore which requires the energy and dexterity of a younger couple.

We are **still looking for someone to take over the Harvest Home display.** This only calls for a set up once a year on the 3rd Sunday in September. This requires the decorative autumn set up of the altar and small risers in front of the altar to hold the donated food brought forward during the service. The food must then be packed up in preparation for Conner and Cole Pennington to deliver to the Lebanon County Christian Ministry Food Bank.

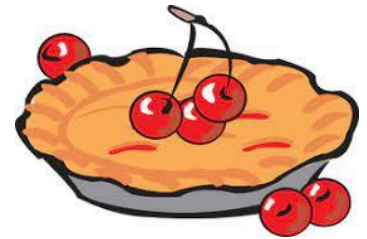
It is exciting to see people stepping up to meet the needs of the church. If you have any questions regarding these volunteer positions, please contact Pastor Scott or Nancy Deiter. Thank you.

Nancy Deiter, Lay Leader

SWEET SECOND SUNDAY

***TAKE NOTE OF A CHANGE!**

Charmayne will have her baked goods available for purchase on the **first Sunday of the month, February 5.**



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

Reverse Advent Calendar

The evangelism committee would like to thank the congregation for donating **20 reverse advent boxes** to the **Myerstown Church of the Brethren Sharing Cupboard** food pantry. Our donations were **delivered by Conner and Cole Pennington** on January 2, 2023 (thanks, men)! They were given a "tour" of the operation and were told that everything will be put to good use as donations to the pantry were a bit slim in the month of December.

SPANG CREST: The Friends of Spang Crest membership drive will be starting the end of January for the 2023 year. Last year Millcreek Lutheran collected almost \$300 from our congregation. All the money collected from the Lutheran churches is used either toward benevolent funds or to purchase items that can be used by the Spang Crest residents. Thank you to the congregation for all the calendars that members have given me to be donated to Spang Crest.

CHURCH BREAKFAST: Our next church breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, February 11, 2023.** We continue to meet at the Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at **8:00 AM.** No reservation is needed; just show up with an appetite and desire to spend some informal time with your church friends. There's always room for one more at our table...hope to see you on the 11th.
Nancy Deiter

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY OF CARING: Please bring cans of soup to the MLC Narthex on **Sunday, February 12, 2023** for donation to a food pantry. Check expiration dates on the cans to be sure the soup can be used.

Parish Echo: **Deadline** for items you want in the **church newsletter for March, 2023 will be Wednesday, February 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.**

CHILI SUNDAY: There will be chili to eat on **Sunday, February 19, 2023.** The details still have to be worked out, so stay tuned for the weekly announcements.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES: Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023** with a **service at Millcreek at 7:00.** The schedule for community services has not been finalized yet.

"It is assuredly better to go laughing than crying thro' the rough journey of life."
George Washington

February Birthdays

- 1 Loretta Gromis
- 3 R. Hart Beaver
Ryan Gahres
- 6 Portia Lindermuth
- 8 Theresa Sites
- 9 Michael Yiengst Jr.
Aaron Yiengst
- 11 Sheldon Frederick
- 12 Brandy Gahres
- 24 Cheryl Stoudt
- 28 Joseph Tice Jr.
Laura Long



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

THYME WITH DEBBIE COOKING CLASSES: If you are interested in Debbie Hartman's cooking classes, please go to her website thymewithdebbie.com for the latest information.

THANK YOU NOTES

“Dear Millcreek, Thank you for all the lovely Christmas cards my Millcreek family gave me and for the wonderful booklet the youth made for me. I also want to thank Nancy, Rachel, Dara and Pastor Scott for visiting. Blessings to you all.” **Vi Hepler**

“Thank you all for the Christmas cards and the gift prepared by the youth of Millcreek Lutheran Church--the church on the hill. Will be saved forever.” **Barbara Potteiger**

“Dear Church Members, “**Thank you**” for all the cards and gifts. A special thank you to the Keath Family for the delivery of the gifts & cards.” **Dale and Sandy Bashore**

On behalf of the Sharing Cupboard at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren, we thank you kindly for the generous donation of groceries to our Sharing Cupboard. Your donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for thinking of the less fortunate in our ELCO community. The Cupboard is designed to help those in need. If you know anyone in need, please let them know of our services. God bless you all. **The Volunteers at the Sharing Cupboard**

Blood Drive Results from January 18, 2023

68 people registered

55 units/pints collected

165 lives saved!






Next blood drive is Thursday March 16, 2023.



“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.” **Abraham Lincoln**



February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29 Communion Congregational Meeting -Lunch follows	30	31	1 7:00 Choir	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4
5 Communion Council -Sweet Second Sunday	6 Girl Scouts	7	8 2:00 Evangelism -Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	9	10	11 8:00 Church Breakfast 
12 Souper Bowl 	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 7:00 Choir -Deadline for March Newsletter	16	17	18
19 Chili Dinner 	20 Presidents' Day -Girl Scouts	21 10:30-12:30 Cooking Class	22 -Girl Scouts 7:00 Ash Wed. Community Service @ MLC	23	24	25
26	27	28				

"TRUE LOVE IS INEXHAUSTIBLE; THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE YOU HAVE." Antoine De Saint-Exupery

