
The Parish Echo

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

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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9 AM THROUGH JUNE 18

SUMMER 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



There is frequently a difference between formal and informal definitions. For example, the first day of summer arrives with the solstice on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 10:58 A.M. EDT. That is the formal definition. Yet, the fact is that, for most Americans, summer arrives some time over Memorial Day weekend, which comes at the end of May. Likewise, the first day of fall arrives with the autumnal equinox Saturday, September 23, 2:50 A.M. EDT. Yet, the fact is that, for most Americans, fall arrives some time over Labor Day weekend, which comes at the beginning of September.

Few of us track things like the summer solstice and the autumnal equinox. (In fact, I had to check *The Farmer's Almanac* to get the formal definitions I cited above.) This means most of us operate according to the informal definitions of the beginnings of summer and fall. We might even gloss over the fact that—in order for fall to begin—summer has to end. We can make very formal definitions about the end of one season and the beginning of the next, and we do. In reality, however, most seasons simply blend into one another. The true definition of summer and fall becomes whether or not we have to wear a jacket when we go outside—and that definition is definitely an informal one.

On every Sunday of the church year, we praise our triune God, and as Lutheran Christians, we do that in particularly formal ways. The month of June begins with Trinity Sunday, when we attend especially to the mystery of our three-in-one God. We can mark the reality of the Holy Trinity formally or informally, just as we mark other realities in our lives. Theologians have produced a showcase of various models to define the wonder of relationship with God. Nobody loves those models as much as I do. The challenge is that such formal definitions eventually leave us distinctly dissatisfied. They only emphasize our limited

understanding of God. The result is most of us rely on informal definitions as a way of relating to God.

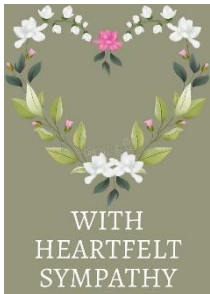
The time of year we are entering—the season of summer—is a chance for us to embrace those informal definitions of God. I say this because summer is that one season of our year where the world is fully alive. Finding ways to give glory to God in the midst of things that are fully alive is not only a life-filled exercise (Summer should be full of life!) but also a way forward based on informal observational studies. We see God in the summer simply by looking around. We do not even need to look closely, but, when we do look closely, we find more of God fully alive in the wonders of creation. When it comes to seeing the full glory of God, summer is such an ideal embodiment that it is easy simply to enjoy God without trying to understand God.

We will take time out on June 5 to mark the Holy Trinity. Those attempts may be very formal. God's creation gives us a whole season—either formally or informally defined—to celebrate God's eternal presence that shapes the wonderful seasons in which we live.

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, 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 congregation extends its sympathy to the family of member **Mary Lou Bergman** who died on April 28, 2023. Her children are: **Greg Bergman, Gary Bergman, Greer Zellers, and Greta McMullan**. Services were private.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to grandson **Dan Long** and the other family members of **Donald Collins** who died on May 14, 2023. Services were held at Grose Funeral Home on May 19, 2023.

SUMMER MUSIC

It's time to begin thinking about booking friends or family for Summer Music at Millcreek. Please note that we are looking for folks to do no more than 1-3 selections. Contact Debbie Tice when you have a date in mind.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Millcreek's Sunday School will continue through Father's Day (June 18) with some different activities. We are still in the planning stages, but any older youth that would like to help with games or other outdoor activities, please check in with Nikki Johnson to volunteer on June 4, 11, and 18.

Many thanks to our teachers who serve so willingly all year long – Nikki Johnson, Cheryl Batdorf, Cheryl Stoudt, Deb Buffington and Stephanie Sheetz. Your love for the children is strong!

We are also trying to plan some family events throughout the summer when there is no Sunday School. Save these dates for now:

Sunday, June 25 - 6 PM - mini-golf at Kauffman's BBQ

Saturday, July 15 - time to be announced later - swimming at the home of Barb Heckendorn

These events are open to all MLC families.

Church Council

The next church council meeting will be on **Sunday, June 4, 2023 following worship.**

CHURCH BREAKFAST

Our next church breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, June 10, 2023**. We continue to meet at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at **8:00 AM**. No reservation is needed; just show up with an appetite and desire to share time with your church friends. I hope you can join us! Nancy Deiter

SWEET SECOND SUNDAY

Pick up some sweets baked by Charmayne Balsbaugh on Sunday, June 11, 2023 after the worship service. April's total raised for the church was \$330!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: The committee's next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 2:00 PM** at the church.

"Pa. Byway 6, Gems and Treasures" June 28, 2023 2:00 PM MLC multi-purpose room

Once again, Millcreek will be hosting a presentation by Paul Brandt. This one will introduce us to Byway 6 which runs across the northern tier of our state. It includes four subsections: "Pa Great Lakes", "Pa Wilds", "Endless Mountains" and "Pocono Mountains". Highlights include Allegheny National Forest, PA Grand Canyon, Susquehanna River Valley, French connections, Scranton's historic industrial hub, Scranton's historic architecture district and much more.

Come, bring a friend, and enjoy an afternoon with Paul, his lovely pictures and accompanying music while enjoying light refreshments and leaving your worries at the door!
Evangelism Committee

SPANG CREST: Our April night of entertainment/April birthday celebration was a huge success. We received many favorable comments from everyone at Spang Crest, especially the 23 residents in attendance. The addition of instruments for the residents to play along with the music was a big hit. It was great to see the residents getting involved and singing along. Thanks for the people who volunteered to help with the evening: Barb Heckendorn, Dara Wolfe, Deb Buffington, Mary Ream, Pastor Scott, and especially our youth, Sierra Tschudy and Anriana Robertson, who were great helpers. Thanks as always to Julie Strickler and Debbie Tice for providing the great music. Margie Kriss



SAVE THE DATES

Friends of Spang Crest organization is again sponsoring two free band concerts this summer on the lawn at Spang Crest, both at 7 PM. In case of inclement weather, concerts will be held indoors. Great free entertainment to put on your summer calendar.

July 18 - Perseverance Band - 7 PM

August 8 - Lebanon Big Swing Band - 7 PM

Parish Echo: Deadline for items you want in the church newsletter for July, 2023 is Thursday, June 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.

GRADUATES: We would like to publish MLC's list of high school and college graduates in the next issue of the Parish Echo (July). Please submit your information to Linda Sheetz in the church office ASAP! Just tell us where you are graduating from and your future plans. Proud grandparents may also submit information on their grandchildren.

CENTRAL PA BLOOD BANK--MAY 18 TOTALS

We had 44 registered, 34 units of blood donated and 102 lives saved. Thanks to everyone!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

		17	Patricia Ontkos
1	Norman Sharp	18	Gordon Auman
2	Jordan O'Connor	20	Logan Sheetz
3	Rhonda Singer	23	Susan Long
	Amanda Batdorf	25	Ashley Tice
	Pam Flory	27	William Batdorf
10	Devon Rosengrant	29	Greer Zellers
11	Cheryl Batdorf	30	Tereasa Hogeland
15	Debra Ream Buffington		



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

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



Our committee met again on Friday, May 6, 2023 to discuss plans for our 2023 church pictorial directory. The dates that have been designated to our church for the photography sittings are:

Thursday, October 12, 2023- 2:00-8:30 PM

Friday, October 13, 2023- 11:00-5:30 PM

Saturday, October 14, 2023- 10:00-4:30 PM

We're hoping that having the dates known this far in advance will be helpful to those with busy schedules and those who no longer live in the area to plan on scheduling a sitting and being part of the new directory. You will be able to register in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or register online beginning

on September 17, 2023. Those choosing to register online will be able to do that from Sunday at midnight through Friday. More information will be made available closer to the September 17th date.

It is preferred that you come in for a sitting but we understand that for some that may be difficult. Digital submissions can be accepted for a \$15.00 fee. JPG, TIFF, EPS and PDF file formats are acceptable.

The members of this committee are: Nancy Deiter, Chair, Deb Buffington, Barb Heckendorn, Mary Ream and Pastor Scott as our consultant. Any of these people will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this project. The main thing at this time is to inform you of the dates and to encourage you to make an effort to be included in this directory of our church family.

Nancy Deiter

THANK YOU

Dear Millcreek Lutheran Church Members, "Thank you" so much for all the wonderful gifts and cards. Also, for the Great Yearbook! A special thanks to the Keath Family for the delivery of all the goodies. Also, Thank You" to Pastor Paradise for his visits and giving us communion. Thank you, **Dale & Sandy Bashore and Hazel Bashore**

Thank you to my Millcreek Lutheran friends for the lovely Easter cards they send me, the youth craft and to Rachel Mock for bringing the palm branch on Palm Sunday. It means so much. Blessings to all of you, **Vi Hepler**

Dear Millcreek Family, All your cards, messages, and prayers during my recent hospitalization and surgery are so appreciated. I am blessed in many ways, including having you in my life. Thank you, **Stephanie Gahres**

Thank you so much for the gift card! I will definitely be putting it to good use.
Cole Pennington

Card received! Thank you so much, love the paint! Sorry I only saw it now, I don't get much mail so I never check the P.O. Box. Thanks again, see you all soon! **Erik Heck**



Autism acceptance month (April) was observed on April 30 at Millcreek Lutheran Church. **Matthew Engle's** family provided bags of his favorite snacks to treat the congregation. Thank you! During worship, testimonies were given by **Cheryl Stoudt, David and Ann Marie Engle, and Stephanie Sheetz.**

Richland Community Library

There will be a ceremony at the Richland library to honor the contributions of **R. Hart Beaver on Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 2 PM.** This event will be open to the public. If you would like to attend, please call 717-866-4939 or email the librarian, **Mary Weigley, at mweigley@lelibs.org as soon as possible.**



Millcreek
LUTHERAN CHURCH

“The Church on the Hill”

JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Communion Council 2:00 Richland Library to honor R. Hart Beaver	5	6	7	8	9	10 8:00 Church Breakfast
11 Sweet Second Sunday	12	13	14 2:00 Evangelism	15 Deadline for July Newsletter	16	17
18 	19	20 Cooking Class	21 FIRST DAY 	22	23	24
25 6:00 Mini-golf at Kauffman's Chicken BBQ for MLC families	26	27	28 2:00 Program by Paul Brandt	29	30	

The father of a couple of teenagers called the telephone company and announced, “I want to report an obscene phone bill.”
– Vern McLellan

Father to teenage son: “No, you can’t use the car—but please feel free to use the lawnmower.”
– Vern McLellan