

---

---

# The Parish Echo

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

---

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

**Pastor: Rev. Scott Paradise**  
Cell: 540-335-1693  
Home: 717-628-1241  
pastorscottparadise@gmail.com  
Church: 610-589-2570  
Office Administrator-Linda Sheetz  
Secretary@millcreeklutheran.com



Lay Leader-Scott Johnson  
Website-Frank Hoffman  
[www.millcreeklutheran.com](http://www.millcreeklutheran.com)  
Parish Echo Editors: Roy & Dotti Hoglund  
Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 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.

## WORSHIP AT 10:15 AM

## PARADISE CORNER



Mid-August found me on a working retreat with a ministry team I participate in each year. (In fact, I was on that very retreat when this article was due!) The ministry team’s main purpose is organizing an annual “Learning Ministries Day,” which takes place in eastern Pennsylvania on the last Saturday in January. The January 27, 2024 event will be in Wyomissing, which actually brings it closer to central Pennsylvania. I’m excited the next “Learning Ministries Day” will be nearby because I hope it makes it possible for people from our own Millcreek Lutheran Church to participate and see part of the work I do beyond our own congregation. I will be sure to publicize the information!

I continue to work with this ministry team because, not only do I like to be part of a big well-organized event, but also because it brings me closer to the work of learning and teaching. The church has had a variety of ways to speak of this important work over the years—Sunday School; Christian Education; and, most recently, Faith Formation. These all had their own place in the Sunday morning schedule of even the smallest congregations for many years. Keeping that place has become more challenging in recent years. For a variety of reasons, people are less able to spend all of Sunday morning at church.

The church—including the ministry team I work with—has tried to find ways to address this challenge. Some work better than others. The way I emphasize faith formation is by incorporating learning and teaching into weekly worship. That is the place in which the greatest number of our members are present and allows all of us to benefit from hearing the same information. My hope is that small bits of information shared in context make the information memorable with the result being that our faith is formed for use outside of the worship time. We can then build on that through other opportunities that fit the more “traditional” mold—like Sunday School, which our congregation is still blessed to have.

It seems to me that small bits of information in context are also a good way to shape the experience of prayer, which also happens both inside and outside of worship. Prayer is another way God forms our faith, but people very frequently say, "I don't know what to pray!" Yet, we all clearly have many experiences throughout the day. Each of these can be an opportunity both to speak to God and to allow God to speak to us. What is especially good about that from the standpoint of both faith formation and Lutheran theology is that God both hears us and responds to us. God acts. We learn. We learn more about how to be in relationship to God and to those around us. That, by the way, is also what worship is designed to do. To keep us in relationship to God and those around us. Keeping that in mind teaches us that the thread of faith runs through all that we do and allowing God to teach us while allowing ourselves to be taught truly matters. It is a lesson we never stop learning.

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 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 sympathy to the family and friends of member **Patricia Kreitz** who died on August 11, 2023. Her family includes the following MLC members: husband Earl (Shad), daughter Lynne Ober, and granddaughter Tricia Adams. Pastor Scott officiated at a ceremony at Fort Indiantown Gap for Pat. Memorial donations may be made to Millcreek Lutheran.



### **SPANG CREST**

The annual fall Kauffman's Chicken Barbeque will be held on **Friday, September 1 from 2:30-6:00. The price is \$10 for chicken, roll, baked potato, and applesauce.** The tickets are available from Margie Kriss. There will also be a baked sale table and any donation of baked goods will be greatly appreciated.

### **Church Council**

The church council **will be meeting on August 27 after worship.**

### **CHURCH BREAKFAST**

The breakfast group that meets monthly at Country Fare Restaurant **WILL NOT** be meeting in September. Instead of having a casual breakfast with church friends, we'll be involved in our annual Top of the Hill Clean-Up. Eat an early breakfast at home and then head up to the church ready to work! We'll be back to meeting for breakfast the following month (October).

Nancy Deiter

**Top Of The Hill Clean-Up**  
**Saturday, September 9, 2023 10:00 AM-12:00 NOON**



It's time to start thinking about our annual Top of The Hill Clean-Up. This is the time when we focus on jobs that are a bit more involved than the weekly cleaning and maintenance of our church. A thorough cleaning of specialized areas within the church once a year helps keep the church and grounds looking good. The areas we're able to work on depends on the turnout of helpers. Other than the trimming of the 2 big bushes at the

front of the church, most of the work this year will be done inside. There are a few people within the church who have their own personal spaces. This is a great time for those people to focus on the appearance of that space. It is hard for someone to clean and tidy another person's space without disrupting that person's organization or throwing away needed materials. While volunteers work on common areas, you can work in your personal area. If you are not available on this day, feel free to work quietly on your own when you are able to fit it into your schedule. Since the jobs we will be tackling will be inside, we will not schedule a rain date. Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the kitchen for you to enjoy on arrival, as a break or after completion of your work. Wear your old clothes and bring along the supplies you'll need to take on the task you choose to complete. The tasks needing to be completed that day will be spread out on the kitchen table, available on a first come basis. There are a lot of floor areas that need a GOOD cleaning (brooms, mops, buckets, detergent...whatever you use to clean your bathroom and kitchen floors.) You folks who are good at cleaning windows, we'll be working on those in the Narthex and Sanctuary areas. I hope to see YOU on September 9th ready to make our church sparkle.  
Nancy Deiter



**RALLY DAY & God's Work Our Hands**

We are getting **back to Sunday School** with Rally Day on **Sunday September 10 at 9 AM**. Our day will include activities for the children, possibly a scavenger hunt and a craft. We invite any and all who would like to help put health and school kits together as part of God's Work Our Hands. The items for these kits will be available for assembly. Evangelism committee will be present to help with them.

**Outdoor worship (weather permitting) will follow at 10:15 AM** (includes blessing backpacks and dedication of Sunday School leaders); **followed by the church picnic** with the church providing hot dogs and drinks and **congregants bringing side dishes and desserts**.

When we go to actual classes the next week, we will be changing our set up slightly. We will still have the younger children meeting together in the kindergarten room, but we are adding another

class to accommodate our older kids from 5th grade and up. ALL INTERESTED IN THIS NEW CLASS ARE WELCOME!!

Pastor Scott will begin an adult Sunday School class meeting during the Sunday School time. Look for more information on this.

**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:** The committee's next meeting will be **Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 2:00 PM** at the church.

## **INGATHERING 2023**

The last day to bring your Ingathering donations is **Sunday, September 24.**

### **PERSONAL CARE KIT**

1. One lightweight bath towel (dark color recommended) approximately 20" x 40" to 52" x 27". \*\*\*see note\*\*\*
  2. Three bath size bars of soap, any brand (4 to 5 oz.), in original wrapping
  3. One adult size tooth brush (packaged) \*\*\*see note\*\*\*
  4. One sturdy comb (LARGE TEETH), ---remove packaging---
  5. One "ADULT SIZE" metal nail clippers, with or without file, ---remove packaging---  
\*\*\*If using multi-pack tooth brushes, you may seal one in a business size envelope.  
\*\*\* You can provide the towel if you like. If not, the church will be purchasing towels to complete the kits.
- PLEASE bring items in a plastic bag and we'll assemble at church. The collection will run through September 24. Collection bins will be located in the narthex.

### **SCHOOL KIT**

- 4 70 SHEET NOTEBOOKS OF RULED PAPER  
APPROXIMATELY 8" X 10-1/2"
  - 1 - BLUNT SCISSORS (SAFETY SCISSORS WITH EMBEDDED STEEL BLADES WORK WELL).
  - 1 - 30 CM RULER WITH CENTIMETERS ON ONE SIDE and INCHES ON THE OTHER.
  - 1 - PENCIL SHARPENER
  - 5 - NEW UNSHARPENED #2 PENCILS WITH ERASERS; SECURED WITH RUBBER BAND.
  - 5 - BALL POINT PENS; BLACK OR BLUE (NO GEL INK) , SECURED WITH RUBBER BAND.
  - 1- ERASER APPROXIMATELY 2-1/2" LONG
  - 1 – BOX OF 16 OR 24 COUNT CRAYONS
  - 1 - DRAWSTRING BACKPACK STYLE CLOTH BAG WITH SHOULDER STRAPS.
- \*\* THE BACKPACKS ARE PROVIDED FOR YOU BY THE CHURCH ☺**  
PLEASE bring items in a plastic bag and we will assemble at church. The collection will run through September 24. Collection bins will be located in the narthex.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

*Beginning Wednesday, September 13, there will be choir rehearsals at 7 PM each Wednesday.*

*Please consider making a joyful noise with us. Our first Sunday to sing will be September 24.*

*As we get back to school and a more "normal" schedule, we still have some special music coming up. We look forward to Hope Wagner playing for us on September 17. She is a teenage violinist who has played on many local and statewide stages.*

**Parish Echo:** Deadline for items you want in the church newsletter for October, 2023 is Friday, September 15. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to either [Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com) or [millcreek.echo@gmail.com](mailto: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.



## SHARING OUR FOOD

"Harvest Home" will be on **Sunday, September 17**. Please share God's bounty of food by bringing at least 1 or more items for donation. Jen Rosengrant will handle the decorating and food collection details. Conner and Cole Pennington will deliver the collected food.

## CHURCH NURSERY NEWS

The Nursery at Millcreek will once again open **Sunday, September 17, 2023** during the church service. Ages accepted are 0-8 years old (once your child moves to third grade, they are encouraged to sit in the church with their parent(s)). Care is given to every child in all forms. If the parent(s) can bring diapers, and pullups for their children, that would be preferred and appreciated. Other items recommended to bring are snack foods, bottles already made for the really little ones, and any comfort items your child may want/need during the service. If you would like to reach out to me personally, either to help volunteer in the Nursery, to ask questions, or speak with me regarding specifics for your child/children, I can be reached by phone at 717-639-4767, or by email at [stephselah0125@gmail.com](mailto:stephselah0125@gmail.com).

I am looking forward to caring for your child in the nursery. Stephanie Sheetz

## September Birthdays

- 1 Stephanie Seldomridge
- 4 Judy Engle Seely
- 5 Carol Merkel
- 11 Anderson Stoudt
- 15 Dale Bentz
- 21 Lynn Leibig



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**

We are excited about putting out a new, updated pictorial of our congregation. The last pictorial was in 2011. If you are a member of Millcreek Lutheran Church or a long-term attendee, you belong in this pictorial directory. We at Millcreek are one big family and the best family photos include EVERYONE! Regardless of what your church attendance may be, please make it a point to register and be sure you are included in this directory. There are two ways to register for your photography "sitting time". You can schedule your time online by going to the Universal website [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) and clicking on the yellow sunburst icon. Enter "PA 1035" in the church code field and enter "photos" in the church password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family appointment time. That site has been activated and you can begin to register at any time. Should you be more comfortable registering in person, we will have before and after church sign ups in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, September 17th. Universal Church Directories, out of Ohio, are producing this directory. They have provided us with 3 days in which their photographer will be here to photograph our members. Please select the day and time that suits you and your family: **Thursday, October 12th - 2:00-8:30 p.m. Friday, October 13th - 11:00-5:30 p.m. Saturday, October 14th -10:00-4:30 p.m.**

Not able to come for a sitting: The best and easiest way for us to be sure your photo appears in our pictorial, is for your photo to be taken by the designated church photographer. If that is not a possibility, send \$15.00 and a vertical photo printed on photo paper. For photo resolution, always use 300 dpi or higher. If you use a digital camera or cell phone, always shoot on the highest setting available. Identify your printed photos with a photo safe writing tool (on the back of the photo) We need to know your name, home address, phone number: home or cell, and your e-mail address. Non-photo paper photos are not accepted.

\*\*\* Submitted Photo

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The above form along with \$15.00 should accompany your photo. MAIL TO: Nancy Deiter, 220 W. McKinley Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067

### **Blood Drive Results**

The July 20 blood drive held at Millcreek had 62 people registered, 54 pints collected, and 162 lives saved. Outstanding!

The **next blood drive at MLC is scheduled for Thursday, September 14 from 11 AM-7 PM.**

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

This group coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies carrying out their mission to: remember fallen veterans, honor those who have served, and teach the value of freedom. Locally, a ceremony will begin at **12 noon on Saturday, December 16, 2023 to place wreaths at Richland Cemetery** where 156 local veterans are laid to rest. If you would like to **sponsor a wreath (\$17)**, please contact **Gary Althouse at 717-866-7050**.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pool party at Barb Heckendorn's on July 22



**MILLCREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH** now has automatic open doors at the main entrance. For entry, just press the button/plate on the brick wall to the right, the doors will open and close behind you automatically. When leaving the church, there is another button/plate on the right on the inside wall to push for easy exit. This is another way Millcreek is accommodating those in need of assistance to enter and exit the church, as well as for everyone coming into the church. If you choose to enter or exit manually as before, you may still do so, but the doors are rather heavy for all ages.



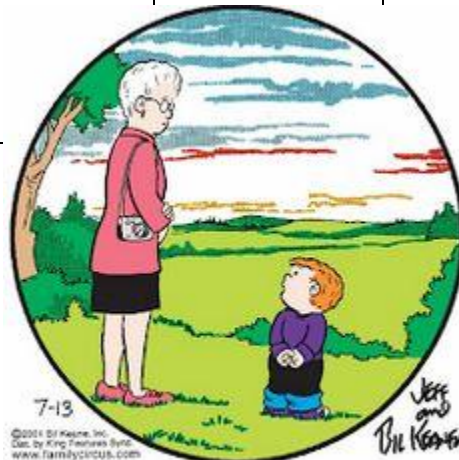
**Please keep this note in mind:** For anyone who has keys to the church, or for those holding a function at the church, in order for the doors to open automatically **BOTH DOORS MUST BE UNLOCKED**. If they are not and only one door is unlocked, the button/plate when pushed, will not open the doors. This practice is very hard on the motor and if done repeatedly, will eventually ruin it, so please be sure you **unlock both doors** whenever the automatic doors are to be used. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Engle or Pastor Scott.

## SINGING CEDARS BARBERSHOP SHOW

The **New Lebanon Singing Cedars Chorus** will present its **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show** at **7 PM** on **Saturday, September 16** at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1500 Quentin Road, Lebanon. The chorus will perform songs that have been favorites over the years, and we will feature two guest quartets: Midnight Society, a women's quartet from Hershey; and Razmatazz, a comedy quartet making a return to the Lebanon show. **Tickets are \$10. See Roy Hoglund for tickets (717-228-8175).**

## SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 2:30-6 PM Kauffman's Chicken BBQ at Spang Crest	2
3 Communion Council	4 LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8	9 10 AM-12 NOON Top of Hill Clean-up
10 Rally Day-Sun Sch begins @ 9 -10:15 Outdoor Worship/Comm -Picnic	11	12	13 2:00 Evangelism  7:00 Choir	14 11 AM- 7 PM Blood Drive	15 Deadline for October Newsletter	16 7 PM Singing Cedars Concert, Lebanon
17 Harvest Home	18	19 10 AM-12 NOON Cooking Class-Sweet Talking, Sweet Herbs	20 7:00 Choir	21	22	23  FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
24  Ingathering ends	25	26	27 7:00 Choir	28	29	30



7-13

©2021 by Keene, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

“Was the world in color when you were little, Grandma, or was it still just black and white?”