
The Parish Echo

Millcreek Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 399, 221 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown, PA 17073 February 2024

“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

“Old Lutheran” is a small privately held company in Moorhead, Minnesota that creates, produces, communicates, and partners with Lutherans worldwide to share a message grounded in the love and grace of Jesus. The title of one of their product lines is “Walk Dusty.” It is designed for Lent, which begins on February 14 this year. The idea is a good one. This is especially true when we realize (as one worship planning resource I use puts it) that “Lent is a journey. It begins with ashes on our forehead to remind us that we are going to die. It ends with seeing Jesus on a dusty path that will lead to his crucifixion.” Lent is indeed a time to “Walk Dusty.”

Lent, which is the 40-days (not including Sundays) that helps us prepare for Easter, is indeed a dusty journey. Part of our purpose during Lent can be clearing away some of the dust, which we actually do quite regularly. We clear away dust in the places we live using tools like microfiber cloths and vacuum cleaners. We clear away dust in the actual lives we live using other tools, some of which come into especially clear focus during the days of Lent.

The classic tools for Lent are self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, sacrificial giving, and works of love. We hear and talk about these tools especially during Lent. It is easy to let the dust keep gathering and lose sight of God’s promise of resurrection that waits at Easter, which follows Lent. We use self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, sacrificial giving, and works of love to help us plan our own keeping of Lent even as we look ahead to Easter.

However, Lent also looks back on all of the things that brought us to this time and place. God has washed us in Holy Baptism. God has taught us in Holy Scripture. God has fed us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Looking back, these gifts have cleared some of the dust and given us strength. Looking ahead, these gifts will continue to clear the dust and give us

strength. Both looking back and looking ahead require us to get into the dust that (according to the folks at “Old Lutheran”) defines the journey of Lent.

It may be helpful to realize that our feet bring in the majority of our home’s dust in the form of dirt and soot that hitches a ride on your shoes. We walk dusty through Lent by embracing all that Lent offers us—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving, and works of love. We travel the dusty days of Lent while looking ahead to the bright days of Easter when Christ’s resurrection shatters the gloom of death and breathes eternal life into all the dustiest places and invites us to walk in the bright light of salvation. Or, as the folks at “Old Lutheran” might put it—Lent says: “Walk Dusty,” Easter says: “Not Forever.”

Live as children of light!
Pastor Scott Paradise

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following **MLC members** in your prayers: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, the Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, and Michael Yiengst Jr., Greer Zellers.

IN SYMPATHY

The congregation extends sympathy to **Bobby Blumenshine** on the **death of his mother, Lena**, on December 18. Bobby attends Millcreek Lutheran with Rhonda Singer.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS

The 2024 sheets are available for congregation members to sign up for the date(s) they want to sponsor the flowers and/or bulletins for the worship service on Sunday. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2023 Financial Statements may be picked up from the table in the narthex. If you don’t see yours, please talk to Linda Sheetz or David Engle and we will be sure you get one. Thanks for your support of Millcreek.

YEARBOOK 2023-24

Please submit any pertinent information for the 2023-2024 yearbook to me as soon as possible. Updated information may be put in my mail slot in the office, on my desk, or emailed to me at secretary@millcreeklutheran.com. Thank you, Linda Sheetz

Blood Drive Results

39 people signed up to donate blood on January 18 and 33 pints were collected.

HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY

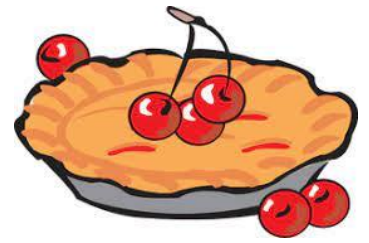
Church Council

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **Sunday, February 4, 2024** following worship.

SWEET FIRST SUNDAY

***TAKE NOTE OF A CHANGE!**

Charmayne Balsbaugh will have baked goods available for purchase on the **first Sunday of the month, February 4**. Thanks to our super baker, all proceeds from sales are donated to Millcreek Lutheran.



Evangelism

The next meeting of the Evangelism Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:00 PM** at the church. **Note change in schedule** due to second Wednesday being Ash Wednesday.

Roses are red, violets are blue. It's **time to collect for our college students' gift cards...**woo hoo! Stay tuned for details in the weekly bulletin!

Happy Valentine's Day! Evangelism Committee

Church Breakfast

The February church breakfast will be on **Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 8 AM**.
Nancy Deiter

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY OF CARING

Please bring **cans of soup** to the MLC Narthex on **Sunday, February 11, 2024** for **donation to the ELCO Raider Food Pantry**. Check expiration dates on the cans to be sure the soup can be used.

If there are volunteers to make chili or soup, there will also be a luncheon after worship. If you want to volunteer, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

SPANG CREST

Friends of Spang Crest **annual membership drive is now going on until the end of March**. Last year's total of \$456 given by 23 members of the congregation was an all-time high for our church. Millcreek Lutheran was #4 in giving out of all the Lutheran congregations in Lebanon County. The money collected from this membership drive by Friends of Spang Crest helps provide for some of the little extras such as summer free concerts, taking residents to Hershey Lights and even some benevolent funds to help us support Spang Crest. Please consider donating. This year we lost a number of our faithful contributors so we certainly welcome any new folks that would be willing to support this fundraiser. Friends of Spang Organization only has three fundraisers a year to help Spang Crest - this membership drive and two chicken barbeques. Thanks again in advance for helping. Please talk with Margie Kriss to contribute. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

DAFFODIL DAYS

The annual Daffodil sale sponsored by the American Cancer Society is taking place. Orders will be accepted through February 13 with pick up/delivery on March 21. Cost as follows:

Bunch of daffodils \$12; Mini-potted daffodils \$15; Bunch of tulips (assorted colors) \$15; Gift of Hope \$25 (donated to cancer center/hospital/nursing home facility). Contact Debbie Tice or sign up on sheet in narthex of the church.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

sponsored by Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium
Ash Wednesday, February 14 @ Millcreek Lutheran with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking on "A Call to Return to the Lord".

Wednesday, February 21 @ Church of Christian Outreach, Newmanstown with Pastor Mario Madden speaking on "Return to Prayer".

Wednesday, February 28 @ United Christian Church, Newmanstown with Pastor Bruce Farrell speaking on "Return from Betrayal".

All services begin at 7:00 PM. Light refreshments and fellowship to follow each service.

EASTER FLOWERS



Anyone interested in purchasing Easter Flowers this year, please contact **Carol Sova at 717-507-4721**. This is my cell number, you may text me or call. I will confirm all orders if you don't sign-up directly at church. If you don't hear back from me to confirm, please call me.

The flowers will be available on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. The choices of potted flowers are as follows: **tulips (request color), daffodils (regular), hyacinths (one color or pink, blue, white trio), Easter lilies (white), L.A. Hybrid lilies - colored) or mums. The cost is \$8.00 each except for the lilies which are \$9.00.**

I will be available after church most Sundays or you can call me. **I will place the order mid-February.** If you want to specify color, please have your order in as soon as possible for the best selection. (Those I will be ordering as soon as possible as there were some supply issues in the past).

Thank you, Carol Sova

PARISH ECHO

Deadline for items you want in the church newsletter for March, 2024 is Thursday, 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.**

February Birthdays

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

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.



Members of the family celebrate the baptism of Stetson Winfield Staaby on December 24, 2023, along with his parents David and Aislinn. Great grandmother Sarah Webber is in the front looking at Stetson.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to our organist Debbie Tice, choir, and instrumentalists (director Julie Strickler) for providing special music throughout the Advent and Christmas season. We thank our guest musicians as well!

MLC Church members: Thank you so much for the "Beautiful Gift Bag". Also "thanks" for the gifts and cards for my mother Hazel Bashore at Stone Ridge Nursing Home. Everything was so nice! Thank you, Dale, Sandy, and Hazel Bashore

Many thanks to my church family for the beautiful cards, the poinsettia plant, the surprises I found in some of the cards, and the visits from Pastor Scott and Dara Wolfe.

Blessings from Violet Hepler

Thank you very much for the cards, gifts, and goodies from my church family at Millcreek. I loved the candy—I have a sweet tooth. Shad Kreitz

Thank you for all the Christmas cards and ornaments. Lynn was very happy when he got them and I read them all to him. He really appreciated them all and said thank you for all of them. Staff at Selinsgrove Center for Lynn Leibig

We are so grateful for all the prayers, thoughts, kindness, and support during the past years of Daryl's health issues and his passing. Daryl greatly appreciated Pastor Scott's inspiring visits and calls and all the comforting notes of encouragement from our church family. Thank you and blessings to all at MLC!

The family of Daryl Strickler

"Your congregation has been most generous in 2023. You whole-heartedly participated in our Chicken BBQs and Membership Drive. Monies from those projects afforded summer band concerts, patio furniture, entertainments, and Christmas presents for the residents." One resident's response to her present was "What did I do to deserve a present as nice as this?" Excerpt from letter written to Millcreek Lutheran by Karen Kreiser, Spang Crest Activity Manager.



FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00 Choir	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 -Communion -Council -Sweet Sunday 3 PM Girl Scouts	5	6	7 2:00 Evangelism	8 7:00 Choir	9	10 8:00 Breakfast
11 Communion -Souper Bowl 3 PM Girl Scouts	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 7:00 Ash Wednesday service @ MLC	15 Deadline for March Parish Echo 7:00 Choir	16	17
18	19 	20	21 7:00 Lenten service @ Church of Christian Outreach, Newmanstown	22 7:00 Choir	23	24
25	26	27	28 7:00 Lenten service @ United Christian Ch, Newmanstown	29 7:00 Choir 		

"Every leap year I like to jump. It's a good way to get my daily exercise in every four years."
Jarod Kintz