
The Parish Echo

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

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

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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

This issue of *The Echo* is the one that will come out for March 2024. That means I feel I should be writing about Easter. (This is especially true since I wrote about Lent last month.) The fact of the matter is that more than a full month will pass between the publishing of this little reflection and our actual keeping of Easter. The way the calendar falls this year means we will spend the month of March waiting for Easter. What is convenient, especially for the purpose of this message, is that we are used to waiting. (At least we should be!) This is because the church gives us a whole roughly month-long season of waiting each year during Advent and we kept that season not too long ago.

One of the key figures during Advent is John the Baptist. This is because his primary work is to prepare the way for the first coming of Jesus in his birth at Bethlehem. I have long thought (and written in other places) that John the Baptist can be equally crucial to our keeping of Lent as he is to our keeping of Advent. I say this because John the Baptist's two main themes—Repentance and Baptism—fit just as well in Lent as they do in Advent.

Lent invites us to repent. Repentance is a central biblical teaching. A glossary provided by Luther Seminary in Minnesota, which I often use, gives what I consider a helpful definition of repentance. “All people are sinful and God desires that all people repent of their sins. The Hebrew word for repent means to “turn away” from sin. The Greek word for repentance means to “change one’s mind,” more specifically, it means to change one’s mind about sin. Thus, to repent is not just to feel bad about sin or admit that one is sinful, but to turn away from sin and back to God and God’s way.”

Baptism is the means by which the gift of God's love and acceptance sets us on God's way of living. In fact, Lent has its roots in the time converts to Christianity (called catechumens) spent in intense preparation for their baptism at Easter. After Baptism, they symbolically became new branches on the Christian vine (called neophytes). The Early church reinterpreted Lent after Christianity gained legitimacy under Constantine. This reinterpretation personalized turning from sin and emphasized remembering our own baptisms as one way to help do that since God's way leads through death to life.

Lent—like Advent—emphasizes the arrival of God's salvation. That was true at Christmas when Jesus was born. That remained true when God raised Christ from the dead to give us the harvest of righteousness. In our life together as God's people, we revisit these arrivals of God's salvation as we await God's final triumph at the fulfillment of time. So, throughout this month of March, Repentance and Baptism pave the way of God's path to the joy of Easter.

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.

YEARBOOK 2023-24: The new church yearbook is completed. Thank you, Linda Sheetz, for all the work it takes to complete!

HAPPENINGS IN MARCH

Church Council

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **Sunday, March 3, 2024** following worship. The following council members were installed on February 4: Darryl Bentz, David Engle (Vice President), Debra Hogeland, Susan Long (President and Lay Leader), Conner Pennington, Jennifer Rosengrant, Dara Wolfe (Executive Secretary). Many thanks to Gene Flory, Scott Johnson, and Mary Ream for serving on council as you complete your term.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE!!! Susan Long, our new lay leader, informed me her email address is incorrect. Her updated address is SusanMLong22@gmail.com.

The church council is offering the 4 tables in the large Sunday School room to the first taker. The tabletops are deteriorating but are still quite usable. Please contact any council member or call the office if interested. Please do so before the March council meeting.

Church Breakfast

The March church breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 8 AM.**
Nancy Deiter

SWEET FIRST SUNDAY

***TAKE NOTE OF A CHANGE!**

Charmayne Balsbaugh will have baked goods available for purchase on the **first Sunday of the month, March 3. All proceeds from sales are donated to Millcreek Lutheran.**

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

The girl scouts who meet at our church will be selling Girl Scout cookies after worship on **Sunday, March 10.**



Evangelism

The next meeting of the Evangelism Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM** at the church.

Thank you to those who contributed to our **January tissue collection** for the ELCO elementary schools for a **total of 74 boxes**—37 for Jackson and 37 for Ft. Zeller.

Our February project was collecting money the last 2 Sundays of the month for Subway gift cards, which will be sent to our college students.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS DURING LENT

The Sharing Cupboard food pantry has been a local food resource since 2008. It was started at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren for people living in the ELCO School District who experience food insecurity. Since then, the pantry has seen an increase in the number of families needing help. Now they serve approximately 100 families monthly.

The Sharing Cupboard asked area churches if they'd be willing to choose a month during the year to have a food drive. The Evangelism Committee at Millcreek Lutheran decided to take on this challenge and chose the month of March. Coincidentally, Lent and Easter are in March this year.

The Committee will have an area in our church narthex for you to place your donations. Please pick up a list of foods at that display that the pantry is saying they need. **This project will begin March 1 and end March 31.**

Isaiah 58:10 "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness..."



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY OF CARING

Thanks to all who made our Souper Bowl luncheon successful. Special thanks to the soup makers - Stephanie Gahres, Nikki Johnson, Jen Rosengrant, Carol Merkel, Julie Strickler and Deb Tice. Another thank you to all who helped in the kitchen - we appreciate every one of you! So happy to have this experience back at Millcreek.

Debbie Tice

FINAL COUNT=175 CANS OF SOUP AND 2 BOXES OF SALTINES collected for the ELCO Raider Food Pantry. Thank you!!!

SPANG CREST

Friends of Spang Crest Organization has only three fundraisers a year to help Spang Crest – an **annual membership drive going on now through the end of March**, and two chicken barbeques, one in May and one in September. Please talk with Margie Kriss to contribute. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES sponsored by Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium **March 6**-St. Paul's UCC, Newmanstown, Pastor Matt Grant speaking

March 13-Tulpehocken Trinity, Richland, Pastor Bill Wink speaking

March 20-Grace UCC, Richland, Pastor Jay Heberling speaking

March 27-Elias UCC, Newmanstown, **Pastor Scott Paradise** speaking

March 29-Richland Church of the Brethren, Richland, Pastor Jim Artz speaking

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

Healing Service will take place on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 PM at Millcreek.

The ordered flowers for Daffodil Days will be ready for pick up/delivery on March 21.

Palm Sunday Service will be March 24 when we will be reading the Passion. Readers will be needed. Rehearsal for this will be the week prior after church, if that works for everyone.

EASTER CARD PROJECT

We are asking church members for Easter cards to add to a craft and palm branch for those members who are unable to attend worship. The list of names of those folks is on a table in the narthex. We will also need volunteers to deliver gift bags. Delivery sign-up will be located next to the gift bags in front of the display case. **Cards can be dropped in the gift bags from February 18 until before the service on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.**

Thank you, Nikki Blouch, SS Superintendent

Millcreek's Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 0-12 on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 11:00 AM at the church. This will be held rain or shine.

Volunteers are needed to escort each group to their egg hunting area.

We are asking the congregation to donate age-appropriate prizes and put them in the church kitchen by March 24.



Easter Service will take place at 9 AM on March 31. No Sunday School that day but there will be a special activity for the children during the service.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you ordered Easter flowers, they will be available on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. **Carol Sova at 717-507-4721**

PARISH ECHO

It is with great pleasure and thanks that we announce the new editors for the Parish Echo. David and Aislinn Staaby will be taking over those duties beginning with the April newsletter.

Deadline for items you want in the **church newsletter for April, 2024 is Friday, March 15.** Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com. Items may also be submitted to the **Staabys** by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone.

CAMP Kirkenwald

There will be an Open House for Camp Kirkenwald on Sunday, **March 17 from 2-4:30 PM.**



MISSION TRIP

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lebanon is organizing a local mission trip for the **week of June 23-29**. Participants will work on various projects at **Camp Kirkenwald**, which is right here in Lebanon County.

They would love to see members from Millcreek participate as a way to show our community working together to support our local Lutheran camp. All ages and skill levels are welcome. You can pick any or all of the days to participate according to your schedule. (There will be a \$10 per-person cost for each day to cover food and drink.)

If you are interested, please let **Pastor Scott** know and he will connect you with the folks from Holy Trinity.



7 Nancy Deiter	12 Sandra Leidich
10 Brady Keath	17 Dan Hogeland
Earl Kreitz	Arianna Robertson
	21 Dustin Strickler
	23 Lucas Strickler
	26 Devon Yiengst
	30 Barbara Potteiger

If you want to be included on the birthday list, please contact the Staabys by email at Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com or place a slip of paper in the newsletter mail slot in the church office.

Golden Raider Award



Maddie

The Golden Raider award is given to students who demonstrate qualities of being respectful, responsible, ready to learn, are helpful and thoughtful of others, and who go above and beyond in being good citizens in the classroom.

Congratulations to **Maddie Johnson** for receiving the Golden Raider award at the ELCO Intermediate School for the month of February, and to **Arianna Warnick** for receiving the Golden Raider award at the ELCO Intermediate School for the month of December.

Arianna

Congratulations to **Ryan, Brandy and Liam Gahres** on the birth of **Wesley Ryan Gahres**, born February 15 at 11:30 AM at Hershey Medical Center. He weighs 8lb.10oz. and is 22 in. long. All are doing well, including "GG" Stephanie Gahres!





Congratulations to **Gerry Strickler** and **Grundsau “Uni”** on their February 2 prediction that Spring is right around the corner!



Congratulations to **Morgan Hoffman** who was among the band students chosen to participate in the LLMEA County Band Festival. She is first on the left in the back row.

I would just like to thank the congregation of Millcreek for all the prayers, texts, beautiful cards, notes and letters received by mail. Your support has been overwhelming to us. I cannot tell you how much it means. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. ❤️ Greer Zellers

LEBANON COUNTY
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES

LENTEN BREAKFAST

Pancakes, bacon, eggs, pastries & more!
\$30 TICKET

8AM
DOORS OPEN AT 730AM
MARCH 16, 2024

South Lebanon Community Church
13 Evergreen Rd, Lebanon PA

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE:
\$3000 PREMIER EVENT SPONSOR
\$1000 BREAKFAST SPONSOR
\$500 UPLIFT TABLE SPONSOR

Obtain tickets by ordering online: www.LCCM.us or send payment to LCCM 250 S. 7th St., Lebanon PA 17042. Please write "Lenten Breakfast tickets" in the memo line. Please indicate if you are with a church or group for seating purposes.
A free-will offering will be taken to help LCCM continue its mission.
DEADLINE TO ORDER: March 9, 2024



MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Food collection for Sharing Cupboard begins	2
3 -Communion -Council -Sweet Sunday	4	5	6 7:00 Lenten service @ St. Paul's UCC, Newmanstown	7 7:00 Choir	8	9 8:00 Breakfast -Turn clocks ahead 1 hr. at bedtime
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins -Girl Scouts will sell cookies 3 PM Girl Scouts	11	12	13 2:00 Evangelism 7:00 Lenten service @ Tulpehocken Trinity, Richland	14 7:00 Choir	15 Deadline for April Parish Echo	16 8:00 LCCM Lenten Breakfast @ S. Lebanon Comm. Ch.
17 St. Pat's Day 2-4:30 Camp Kirchenwald Open House	18	19 1 st Day of Spring	20 7:00 Lenten service @ Grace UCC, Richland	21 11-7:00 Blood Drive -Daffodil orders arrive 7:00 Healing Service MLC	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Communion -Deadline Prizes for Egg Hunt 31 Easter 9AM Communion -Easter Flowers	25	26	27 7:00 Lenten service @ Elias UCC, Newmanstown, Pastor Scott	28 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service @ MLC	29 Good Friday 7:00 Lenten service @ Ch. of Brethren, Richland	30 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt

