
The Parish Echo

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

June 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

I have been thinking a lot lately about why our church stands out from the other churches around us. The easiest answer is that our church stands out for its beautiful location on the hill. (I can't find it in any of the written histories of our church, but I love the story that the hill at the former Deitrich site was chosen because, from there, a person could see the three churches that merged to form the new Millcreek Lutheran Church in 1962.) I have also come to realize that isn't the only reason our church stands out. The way I have come to say it is that Millcreek is the only sacramental church in Newmanstown-Richland. It is probably helpful for me to clarify what I mean by that and that will be the purpose of this article.

The first thing to say is that we—along with our neighboring churches—are chiefly a church of the Word of God. This means we proclaim God's message centered the person and work of Jesus Christ, who is the living Word of God. Our source for this message is the Holy Scriptures, through which God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world. What makes us stand out, however, is that we believe that God's living word is not limited to spoken words in sermons and the written words of the Holy Scriptures. We believe God's living Word also takes visible form in the sacraments.

Crazy Talk: A Not So Stuffy Definition of Theological Terms is a book I often refer to because it is written by a trusted panel of Lutheran theologians. That book says this about sacraments. "The best way to understand the sacraments is to think of them as visible words. They are the way that God says, 'I love you.' God says this in bread, wine, and water—the simplest things of everyday life." As a sacramental church, we believe and teach that water, bread, and wine are more than mere symbols. We believe and teach water, bread, and wine are

visible words that actually accomplish the blessings God intends for us. Those blessings are forgiveness of sins, redemption from death and the devil, life, and eternal salvation.

We believe water, bread, and wine are real means of God's grace. This is not because of some magic power the pastor has. This is because the Word of God that is spoken with the water, bread, and wine has more power than a pastor (especially this one!) will ever have. This makes for the fullest experience of God's grace that is more complete than mere preaching and teaching. (Good News: We never leave church "un-graced." Even if I preach a lousy sermon, God's grace still comes in Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.) It makes me wonder why many people—even Christians—don't want all of God's grace they can get every Sunday.

God's grace makes us stand out, not just because we have a beautiful location at the top of a hill, but also because God reaches into the common things of our lives to change us for our sakes and for the sakes of those around us. We stand because Jesus stood first and still invites us to follow him down the hill and into the world what needs his love in ways that go beyond mere symbolism.

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

PREVIOUS MONTH'S HAPPENINGS (MAY):

Relay for Life (May 18, 2024)



Peg received a special ride!



Spring Landscaping (May 24, 2024)

Thank you to all who helped with the outdoor beautification of the church. What a great group of workers! Daniel Long, David Staaby Sr., David Staaby II, Harry Bump, and Jeff Rosengrant laid down 5 ton of stone to cover the existing stone around the church in just 1 ½ hours (All due to the expert supervision of the forewoman Nancy Deiter)! Barb Heckendorn and Susan Long painted the heating vent from the Narthex along with maintaining the flower beds!



SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGES

Sunday School and Worship Schedule

Sunday School will end for the summer season on **Sunday, June 9, 2024**. The summer schedule for worship will begin on **Sunday, June 16, 2024** with worship being held at **9:30 a.m.** The regular place for summer worship will be the air-conditioned **Multi-Purpose Room** (Individuals who tend to get chilly should bring a sweater). Worship for the **last Sunday of each month** will be **outdoors on the north side of the building outside the Multi-Purpose Room** instead of a parking lot service (Feel free to bring your own comfy chairs!).

Nursery Update

Nursery



Sunday, June 9th will be the last Sunday I will staff the nursery until I resume staffing again in September. The nursery is open for your use after June 9th but it will be under your own supervision of your children. It is a pleasure having the nursery open to the children and I am looking forward to caring for them again in the fall. Blessings to all, Stephanie Sheetz

HAPPENINGS IN JUNE:

Church Council

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **Sunday, June 2, 2024** following worship.

Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, June 8th** at **8:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome & no advanced notice is needed. Ask the hostess for the Millcreek Lutheran group & you will be directed to our table. We'd love to have breakfast with you...a nice way to start the day.

Nancy Deiter

Sweet Second Sunday...But on the First Sunday

Sweet Second Sunday will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship on **June 2, 2024**. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

Evangelism

Evangelism will not meet in June or July. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 7, 2024** at **2:00 p.m.**

Spang Crest Events and Updates

Thank you to everyone who made the Friends of Spang Crest chicken BBQ a big success on May 3rd. Our Millcreek congregation members donated bbq tickets so that 17 shut-in or church members could also enjoy a bbq meal. Thank you to all that helped deliver the meals. Comments were very positive regarding this little act of caring by the congregation. The shut-



ins truly enjoyed their bbq and were very anxiously awaiting the meals to be delivered. Thanks again to all that made this possible.

Our April birthday celebration for the Spang Crest residents was a delightful event. Julie and Deb provided the sing-along music and provided extra instruments for the residents to enjoy. Millcreek provided birthday bags for seven of the April birthday residents. We also provided prizes for the sing-along and small snacks for all. Again, thank you to all the people who donated their time to help make that evening truly special for the residents. This evening is definitely a highlight for the residents and certainly look forward to it annually.

Thank you all in the congregation that continue to support Spang Crest in various ways. A special than you to Linda Sheetz who graciously baked cookies not only for our birthday celebration, but also for the BBQ bake sale, thanks so much!

Because of the success of the various fund raisers by Friends of Spang Crest, there will be two free band concerts scheduled for this summer for all to enjoy on the lawn at Spang Crest. Watch for further info in the next newsletter or weekly church bulletin.

Thyme with Debbie



Thyme with Debbie is back with instructional classes about seasonal ingredients and flavors in the kitchen. All classes are held at Millcreek Lutheran Church from 10 AM to 12 PM with a cost of \$23.00. The next class is listed below. To register for a class or for any questions, please contact Debbie at 484-577-6695 or at thymewithdebbie@gmail.com.

June 18, 2024

Topic: Breakfast from a Garden

Description: Tired of the usual breakfast fare? Looking for different breakfast ideas? We will explore some new approaches to familiar meals with a garden flare.

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 Kirchenwald, 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.



Parish Echo

Deadline for items you want in the **church newsletter for July, 2024 is Saturday, June 15**. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com. Items may also be submitted by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS:

Ingathering Project

The Ingathering Project for this year will consist of Personal Care Kits. Collection will be from **July 7th thru August 25th. School kits have been omitted.** Kit lists will be available for those who would like to complete a kit and donate it. You can also donate several items for several kits (ex; 5 toothbrushes) which will be assembled by the committee. This will be accomplished through the use of “sticky” notes, with the various items listed, attached to a foam board from which you can choose what you’d like to purchase. Sound complicated? We will explain again at the start of the campaign. Stay tuned! – Dara Wolf

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Celebrating our High School and College Graduates

It’s time to get your information into Linda Sheetz in the church office so that MLC can recognize your graduation! Just tell us where you are graduating from and your future plans. Thanks in advance! Proud grandparents may also submit information on their grandchildren. You may email her at secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or put the information in the secretary mail slot in the office.

Let’s Celebrate Peg!



Peg Auman will be turning 90 years young on May 26th. Her family would like to invite you to drop in at the Church on Sunday June 30th from 2pm to 4pm to help Peg celebrate those years. Because Peg does not want any gifts, if you would like to make a donation to the church, the American Cancer Society, the Society for the Blind, or an animal rescue in her honor, that would be most meaningful to her along with time spent sharing memories. Cake and light refreshments will be served.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOU LETTERS:

To the members of MLC,

I am so grateful for all of the messages, thoughts, prayers, & cards I received after my recent surgery & recovery. A special thanks to Debbie for her uplifting visit & an array of goodies. We are truly blessed to have a caring church family!! Thank you so much, Julie Strickler

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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



If you would like to be included on the birthday list, please contact David and Aislinn Staaby by email at mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com, or place a slip of paper in the Newsletter mail slot in the church office.

Sometimes Even The Lord Can't Get In

A man, down on his luck, went into a church which catered to the "uppity". Spotting the man's dirty clothes, a deacon, worried about the churches image, went to the man and ask him if he needed help. The man said, "I was praying, and Lord told me to come to this church."

The deacon suggested that the man go pray some more and possibly he might get a different answer. The next Sunday the man returned. The deacon asked, "Did you get a different answer?"

The man replied, "Yes, I did. I told the Lord that they don't want me in that church and the Lord said, 'Don't worry about it son; I've been trying to get into that church for years and haven't made it yet'."



“The Church on the Hill”

June 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Communion Council Sweet Sunday	3	4	5	6	7	8 8:00 Church Breakfast @ Country Fair
9 - 3PM Girl Scouts	10	11	12	13	14	15 July Parish Echo Deadline
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	17	28	29
30						