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# The Parish Echo

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

August 2024

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

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## **WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM**

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 9:30 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 am thinking about Christmas but writing this in July to be read in preparation for August. This is an occupational hazard for a pastor because pastors think about Christmas and Easter a lot. For me, though, the fact is I think about Christmas every time I drive my car. This is not because I have one of those pine-tree shaped air fresheners (which I don't). The reason I think about Christmas every time I drive my car is because my inspection stickers display "12/24" reminding me to get my car inspected before the end of December of 2024.

I could think that constant reminder will disappear after this year. To most it will. But, as a pastor who thinks in terms of the observations on our church's liturgical calendar the constant reminder won't actually disappear for quite a while.

Next year, my inspection stickers will display "12/25." (This is actually Christmas Day, which we forget because the norm in the United States replaces celebrating the Day with celebrating the Eve.) The next year, my inspection stickers will display "12/26." (This is Saint Stephen's Day—as in "Good King Wenceslas" who looked out "on the feast of Stephen"). The next year, my inspection stickers will display "12/27," which is Saint John's Day. (He gave us the Christmas gospel reading about the Word becoming flesh to dwell among us). The next year, my inspection stickers will display "12/28." (This is the commemoration of The Holy Innocents, who were the boys two years old and under in Bethlehem killed by Herod after he realized the Wise Men had tricked him.) 2029 will finally give this pastor a break from Christmas-related reminder in my car! (While still within the Twelve Days of Christmas, 12/29 is not an actual commemoration on our calendar.)

I find this humorous in a professionally profound way. One of my tasks as the spiritual leader of our congregation is to help us keep the spirit of Christmas alive beyond December 24. Part of my work is to help us to accomplish what Ebenezer Scrooge promised, "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." I still work on this task even though it became clear that "Christmas in July" was an idea whose time came and went. (That's okay! Not every idea we try has to become a permanent fixture!) Even so, helping us keep the spirit of Christmas alive beyond December 24 is a task that I remember every time I drive my car—even in the summer.

My hope is this little article can help me accomplish that task by reminding us that what we celebrate at Christmas—and can celebrate all year long—is that God broke into our world in the small and unexpected form of a baby. Celebrating Christmas all year long can happen when we realize that God still breaks into our world in small and unexpected ways. I believe that is the task of spirituality. Spirituality is not hoping to experience God along a grand journey into infinite space. Spirituality is actually experiencing God in the small and unexpected ways all around us. Even inspection stickers can become reminders of the holy when viewed through the eyes of faith. It's a Christmas miracle—but in the summer!

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 (JULY):**

The annual pool party was held on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Barb Heckendorn for hosting and making it a fun time!





## HAPPENINGS IN AUGUST:

### Church Council

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **Sunday, August 25, 2024**, following worship.

### Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 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

### Evangelism

The next meeting Evangelism meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.**

### Spang Crest Events and Updates

The summer free band concerts sponsored by The Friends of Spang Crest will be held at 7 pm at the outdoor pavilion at Spang Crest. All folks are invited!

August 6: Lebanon Big Swing Band

### Middle Creek Wildlife Art Show

The Middle Creek Wildlife Art Show will be held from August 2–4 at the Middle Creek visitor center. The show features flat art and wildlife carvings by painters and carvers from around the state.

**Roy Hognlund** will be exhibiting his carvings. Show times are Friday, August 2 from 12 – 5; Saturday, August 3 from 9 - 5; and Sunday, August 4 from 10 - 4. Admission is free.



### 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](mailto:thymewithdebbie@gmail.com).

#### **August 20, 2024**

Topic: Those Beautiful Tomatoes

Description: Is there anything as luxurious as a summer tomato? Sweet, tart, velvety, juicy and with, oh, so many uses. We will explore new ideas to use those tomatoes and appreciate the best the summer bounty has to offer.

- Something new: Tomato taste testing. Do you have a favorite tomato that you would like to share with others? Bring a few (size dependent) of your favorite tomatoes to the class. We will wash and cut them for everyone to taste. And I know they will all be the best! *This is optional but everyone is welcome to share.*

### Parish Echo

**Deadline** for items you want in the **church newsletter for September, 2024 is Thursday, August 15.** Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to [mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **ONGOING & FUTURE HAPPENINGS:**

### **Ingathering Project**

The Ingathering Project for this year will consist of Personal Care Kits. Collection will be from **July 7<sup>th</sup> thru August 25<sup>th</sup>**. **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

### **Lebanon Singing Cedars Barbershop Chorus**

The Lebanon Singing Cedars Barbershop Chorus will present its annual show on Saturday, September 14 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1500 Quentin Road, Lebanon. Show time is 7:00 PM. This year’s show has a Mardi Gras theme. Tickets are \$10.00, and can be purchased from Roy Hoglund (717-228-8175), any other chorus member, or at the door.

### **MLC Summer Music Schedule**

Aug 4 – Barry Wenrich, vocalist  
Aug 11 – Woodwinds at Millcreek  
August 18 – Jamie Keener, dance  
\*August 25 – Megan Field, flute  
\*September 8 – Picnic

\* Denotes Outdoor Service

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord!*

### **Top Of The Hill Cleanup**

Saturday, September 7, 2024  
10:00-12:00

It’s time, once again, for our annual Top of The Hill Clean Up. This is the time when we rely on volunteers to focus on jobs that are more involved than the weekly cleaning of our church & grounds. A thorough cleaning of special areas within the church once a year helps keep the church & grounds looking good. The amount of work we’re able to accomplish depends on the turnout of helpers. There are a few people within the church who have their own personal spaces. This is a great time for those people to devote a couple of hours to cleaning that workspace. It’s hard for us to clean & tidy another person’s area without disrupting that person’s space.

Some of the jobs we’ll be doing this year:

1. Sweeping the furnace room
2. Trimming bushes
3. Cleaning the bell/wheel & winterizing the flower bed planter
4. Cleaning the glass doors & light fixtures at the S.S entrance
5. Cleaning the glass doors & glass above doors & light fixtures-main entrance
6. Clean Sanctuary windows inside & outside
7. Clean kneeling pads & linoleum under pews in Sanctuary
8. Clean & organize shelving & floor in Narthex utility room.
9. Clean wax off brass, floor candelabras used at Christmas

We hope you'll join our work crew this year. Coffee & doughnuts will be available along with a carefree work environment in which we get a lot accomplished while getting to know each other a little better. Wear your old clothes & bring the cleaning supplies you prefer to use. Some supplies will be provided but the church is limited in the amount of ladders, buckets, brooms & cleaning supplies we have on site.

Thank you...Nancy Deiter

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Four New Books Added To The Church Library**

If you're doing any reading this summer, you may be interested in the four books recently added to the church library. Three of them have been featured in the past as "Lebanon County Reads" books. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini is a fictional book set in Afghanistan, the author's home country, and written in 2003. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak is a novel set in Nazi Germany and written in 2005. *People of the Book* (2008) by Geraldine Brooks is inspired by a true story about an early Jewish writing. In addition to these three, the fourth book is *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. Written as fiction in 2003, the main character is autistic.

## **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Charles Lindermuth | 22 Julie Strickler |
| 2 Amber Blessing     | Liz Leibig         |
| 4 Kathryn Zerbe      | 23 Erin Stettler   |
| 5 Linda Ream         | 24 Darryl Bentz    |
| 12 Harry Bump        | 26 Zachary Batdorf |
| 17 Mary Meyer        | 27 Jodi Hoffman    |
| 18 Matthew Long      | 29 Melanie Warnick |
| 19 Ronald Merkel Sr. | 31 Matthew Bentz   |
| 20 Morgan Hoffman    |                    |



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](mailto:mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com), or place a slip of paper in the Newsletter mail slot in the church office.

Historical Computer Fact  
(Courtesy of Harry Bump)

Did you know the oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve? It was an apple with extremely limited memory. Just one byte and everything crashed!



**Millcreek**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

“The Church on the Hill”  
**August 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Communion	5	6 Spang Crest Concert @ 7pm	7 Evangelism @ 2pm	8	9	10 Church Breakfast @ 8am
11 - Council - 3PM Girl Scouts	12	13	14	15 August Parish Echo Deadline	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Outdoor Service	26	27	28	29	30	31