
The Parish Echo

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

November 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 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

One of the resources I use in organizing worship gives what I consider important advice about Thanksgiving. “For some, images of tables full of food and family will be reminders of need, loneliness, or rejection. For those with eating disorders, the Thanksgiving table and conversations around it may be both painful and dangerous.” It goes on to ask, “How can we lay a table in church community that is especially welcoming to those whose experience might painfully contrast with the celebrations that surround them?”

I love the way our tradition provides a faithful response to that question. That is to look to the celebration meal God provides for us in our worship. The fact that our country dedicates an entire day to thanksgiving every November invites us to look closely at the name “Eucharist,” which is one of the many names we give to Holy Communion. The very word “eucharist” means “thanksgiving” in Greek, but we can go farther in allowing Eucharist to shape our work.

For example, the statement our denomination adopted in 1997 for guidance and practice around the use of the Means of Grace (i.e., the shorthand Lutherans use to speak of Holy Scripture, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion) calls us to see that the whole celebration of Holy Communion is a great thanksgiving for creation and for creation’s redemption in Jesus Christ. We celebrate that in our homes on Thanksgiving Day in what is really a small way. We can extend that thanksgiving to include all people because that is what God did in creation’s redemption in Jesus Christ. Extending our Thanksgiving means making sure that the church is a place where nobody feels excluded. (This is why my personal belief is that celebrations like “Mothers’ Day” and “Fathers’ Day” have no place in church. They make too many people feel left out. It is also why my personal stance is much earlier ages for children to begin receiving Holy Communion. Even the youngest children know they are being left out of something important.)

The bottom line is that the church is a place for the needy, the lonely, the rejected to find acceptance by a community that itself finds its acceptance in Jesus Christ. We participate in God’s welcome for the needy, the lonely, the rejected every time we give our thanks in our celebrations of Holy Communion which are possible only because of the Resurrection.

When celebrating at our most faithful, we make sure everyone experiences Holy Communion (which is also the title of our order of worship) as a time of acceptance by Christ and by Christ's community of the holy catholic Church—which we believe, as the Apostles' Creed tells us—is itself “the communion of saints.” That is a fellowship of people made holy by Christ participating in holy things of bread and wine as well as water and the Word of God.

These Means of Grace invite us to lives of thanksgiving not just in November, but all year long. In fact, it is important that every worship service ends with the words “Thanks be to God.” The dismissal from the service sends us in thanksgiving from what we have seen in God's holy gifts to service in God's beloved world. (As the ELCA's 1997 statement reminds us.) Together we celebrate not just a time of thanks-giving, but also a time of thanks-living made possible by Christ who is truly present at every Thanksgiving celebration (no matter how big or small), but especially at every Eucharist.

Live as children of light!
Pastor Scott Paradise

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following **MLC members** in your prayers: Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, 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 MONTHS HAPPENINGS:

Top of the Hill Clean-up

The editors of the Parish Echo apologize for missing the below note in the October Parish Echo.

The “top of the hill clean-up” for 2024 has been completed. I send out a special thank you to those people who were unable to work on Saturday but came in on their own time to complete a job. Stephanie Sheetz, Wade Daubert, Linda Sheetz, Rachel Mock, Dottie & Roy Hogle, David Engle, Terry & Sheldon Frederick & Jamie Keener all gave generously of their time cleaning certain designated areas.

On September 7th, we only had 4 people working. Nancy Deiter, Linda Bump, Pastor Scott & Kristin Heck made up a small group but a lot of work was accomplished & good conversation transpired. Jack Kahl was unable to help with the cleaning but gifted us with a lovely new picnic table to replace the old worn one out on the back patio.

In addition to this group, I would like to express my appreciation to those who worked so hard this summer to help with the weeding & addition of stone to the border surrounding our church. Nancy Deiter, Steph Seldomridge, Roy Hogle, Linda & Harry Bump, Daniel Long, Jeff Rosengrant, David Staaby & David Staaby Sr. all helped with this project. Bryan Breidigam provided the stone. Susan Long planted the bell planter & Barb Heckendorn refinished the heater vent inside the door to the main entrance on that work day.

The church & property look good. Thank you everyone for taking good care of our church on the hill.
- Nancy Deiter

Ingathering Project

The ingathering Project this year resulted in 59 personal care kits delivered to our collection point which was Salem Lutheran Church in Lebanon. These items will help wherever needed. Thanks to Everyone from the Evangelism Committee!

Blessing of the Pets



HAPPENINGS IN NOVEMBER:

Church Council

The next church council meeting is **Sunday, November 3, 2024**, following worship.

Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, November 9th at 8:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome & no advanced notice is needed. (Please note: For November only, we will be meeting in the little cottage next to the main restaurant.) We'd love to have breakfast with you...a nice way to start the day!

Nancy Deiter

Sweet Second Sunday

Sweet Second Sunday will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship on **November 10, 2024**. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

Evangelism

The next meeting Evangelism meeting is **Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.**

Thyme with Debbie



Thyme with Debbie continues 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.

November 19, 2024

Topic: Worth Its Weight in Gold, Saffron

Description: This class will look at the world of saffron, from growing to harvest to cooking. This remarkable spice is special to the PA Dutch as well as the Middle East cuisine and beyond. A special thanks to Lucie for not only sharing her saffron with the class (in 2023) but requesting this topic. I hope those of you who were gifted with some of her saffron have harvested your own.

Parish Echo

Deadline for items you want in the **church newsletter for December 2024 is Friday, November 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.

Newmanstown-Richland Community Thanksgiving Service

The churches of the Newmanstown-Richland Ministerium will gather for our annual community Thanksgiving service at the Church of Christian Outreach (101 West Main Street in Newmanstown) at 4:00 PM on Sunday, November 24. The pastors hope this new day and time will make it easier for more to participate in this important annual tradition. (The Eagles play at 8:20 PM on Sunday, November 24, so there's time for church and football!)

ONGOING & FUTURE HAPPENINGS:

Operation Christmas Child

Millcreek Lutheran Church will continue our annual participation in Operation Christmas Child providing simple gifts outside the United State to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

Brochures, pre-printed shoe boxes, and labels are available at the church. **The last day to bring in completed shoe boxes is Sunday, November 3rd**. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610-589-5501) or Pat Ontkso (610-589-4350).

Musicians Requested for Veterans Sunday

Calling all musicians to play for Veterans Sunday on November 10. Rehearsals will be on the following days at 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, November 2

Saturday, November 9

Please contact Julie Strickler at juliestrickler66@gmail.com for music or any questions. Thank you for your consideration!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lay Readers Requested

We have a nice group of readers on the lay reader list, but I would like a few more lectors in addition to the present list. If you enjoy reading, please consider adding your name to the list and share in reading to your Millcreek family members. I will be sure to give you the date you are to read well in advance. If you require a larger print copy of the lessons, I will accommodate you at your request. In the event you are not able to read on the date you are scheduled, you may switch with another reader on the list or contact me and I may be available to read for you. If you prefer "seasonal reading" I will be more than happy to put you on the list as you advise me. Biblical names may be difficult to pronounce, but don't let that deter you. Pastor Scott is more than willing to help with pronunciations. You may put a note in my mail slot, email me at Secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call 610-589-2570 if you are interested in becoming a lay reader.

Thank you - Linda Sheetz

2025 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2025 will be prepared for distribution on or about **November 24, 2024**. PLEASE let me know of any changes in information or if you **do or do not** want to remain on the envelope list. The information is needed ASAP. Contact me by putting a note in my mail slot in the office, see me personally, email secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call 610-589-2570. Thank you – Linda Sheetz

Synod Disaster Response Team Announcements

The Synod has begun preliminary conversations with contacts in the Fort Myers, FL area for the 25th Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutheran Disaster Response mission trip in early April 2025. Those plans are dependent upon how well the current infrastructure holds up to host and work with volunteers in long-term recovery following the recent storms. There will be an initial trip planning meeting on Sunday, November 10th, at 2:00 p.m., in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz. Anyone over the age of 18 is invited to participate in the trip. For more information, please contact The Rev. Glenn Beard at 717.626.1171 Ext. 1669 or at GBeard@luthercare.org.

Also, on Saturday, November 16th, the kitchen crew at Swamp Lutheran Church, 275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, will be hosting a buffet breakfast from 7-10 a.m. All donations from the breakfast will support the work and ministry of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Disaster Response Team.

All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Buffet



**Saturday, November 16, 2024
7:00-10:00 AM**

BREAKFAST INCLUDES: EGGS, HOME FRIES, CREAMED CHIPPED BEEF, PANCAKES, FRENCH TOAST, BACON, SAUSAGE, HAM, COFFEE, TEA, JUICES, VARIOUS PASTRIES AND FRUIT.

**ADMISSION BY DONATION
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE
TO: NORTH LANCASTER
CONFERENCE DEAN'S FUND**

*PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD LUTHERAN
DISASTER RESPONSE MINISTRY IN 2025*

**SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD,
REINHOLDS
PHONE 717-336-2849**



GOD'S WORK...OUR HANDS.

Wreaths Across America



www.wreathacrossamerica.org/PA0679
PARISH-Richland Cemetery
Richland Post 880 & Heritage Society

2024

We are starting our Campaign
"Sponsor a Wreath" for are 165
Veterans 2024 we need your support!
Buy 2 get one free!

Sponsorship Group ID PA0679
Coordinator's contact
26 N Race St. POBox 509 Richland Pa. 17087
Gary Althouse Sr. 717-866-7050
Charlotte Peffley 717-507-7152

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time will end on Sunday,
November 3rd at 2 a.m., don't forget to turn your
clocks back before bed on Saturday!



THANK YOU LETTERS

We are so grateful to everyone who gave toys for **Toys for Tots** in memory of Stacey Pennington, our Daughter, Mother, and Sister. The generosity from family, friends and especially our Millcreek family is overwhelming. We have received 173 toys to take to Maryland. Thank you everyone from all of us!

Stephanie, Conner, Cole and Lindsay

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Barbara Heckendorn	19	Nathan Tice
14	Renee Strickler	25	Tom Tice
	Carol Sova		Paul Zimmerman
16	David Engle	29	Matthew Engle
17	Jullianne Strickler	30	Terry Griffe

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.





MILLCREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH VETERAN'S DAY RECOGNITION

Our most current list of veterans includes:

*Gordon "Chub" Auman
Dale Bentz
Gregory Bergman
Dale Bentz
Craig Evans
Brett Flory
Gene Flory
Terry Griffe
Stanley Kahl
Karl Keath
Christopher Layser
Daniel Long*

*Leonard "Lenny" Ontkos
Gary Sharp
Norman Sharp
Patricia Sharp
Richard Sites
David Staaby
Michael Stoudt
Dustin Strickler
Brian Webber
Joshua Weidman
Gerald Wolf*

Please remember to thank them for their service to our country throughout the year.

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made, and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

VETERAN'S DAY THOUGHTS
(Submitted by Dara Wolfe)

The following poem was written by one of our members, Gerald (Jerry) Wolf; brother of Doris Bergman while on tour during the Vietnam War. I don't know if Jerry was drafted or enlisted, BUT I do remember from school that he was a "good looking" upper classman!

After reading his poem, one main thing came to mind, war is hell. Serving, no matter in what capacity, is worth being thanked and prayed for. Thank you, Jerry, and EVERYONE in our church family and beyond for your service and sacrifices on our behalf. God bless you!

THE SUN CAME OUT TODAY

*The Sun came out today.
To shed its radiant beams on the soil.
What a curious sight to behold,
Amid all this trouble and toil.*

*The Sun came out today,
But it may as well not have come out at all.
It brought along blue skies and white clouds.
What nerve, what gall.*

*Yes, the sun came out today.
But it may as well not have come out at all.
It came not for warmth, it came not for hope,
It came to watch men fall!!*

PVT. Gerald Wolf
HHC 1st Bn, 501st Infantry
April 1969



“The Church on the Hill”

November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 - Veteran's Service Music Rehearsal 9:30AM - Turn your clocks back!
3 - Communion (All Saints Sunday) - Council	4	5 - Election Day 	6 - Choir 7PM - Evangelism 2pm	7	8	9 - Church Breakfast 8AM - Veteran's Service Music Rehearsal 9:30AM
10 - Veteran's Service - Sweet Sunday - 3PM Girl Scouts	11 	12	13 - Choir 7PM	14	15 - Parish Echo Deadline	16
17	18	19	20 - Choir 7PM	21	22	23
24 - Communion (Christ the King Sunday)	25	26	27 - Choir 7PM	28 	29	30