
The Parish Echo

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

February 2025

“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

The month of February begins with a reminder of light. February 2, which is forty days after the birth of Christ, is the day the church marks that Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. This is the annual completion of the keeping of Christmas with 40 being a number with good biblical symbolism. We find the whole story in Luke 2:22–40. The light part, which is important to this little reflection, is at Luke 2:32. There, Simeon (a righteous and devout man from Jerusalem), spoke of the infant Jesus as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to [God’s] people Israel.”

It would be a great sign of God’s power if what God intended—the revelation of salvation for all people—finished all at once. That’s how the ghostly visitors to Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve accomplished their work. “All in one night,” as Scrooge himself says. “Done and dusted” as they would say in England. But, what the story of Jesus began was a process through which even Jesus himself had to go. The biblical story moves through an encounter with Anna (an eighty-four-year-old widowed prophet) and ends summarizing how Jesus grew becoming strong and wise.

We could think about God treats us in the same way God treated Jesus. There is no miraculous all-at-once enlightenment for us just as there was no miraculous all-at-once enlightenment for Jesus. Instead, God invites us into a process of seeing what God is doing for us and through us. That was true for Jesus as well. The introduction to the story of Jesus’ presentation in the temple includes details about purification, designating first-born sons as “holy to the Lord,” and sacrifice at the temple (Luke 2:22-24). These details remind us that this

was a family who followed the traditional Jewish rites as found in the “Law of Moses.” The Holy Family worked within the opportunities God gave them in order to hear about God’s salvation—the light of the nations—revealed—not at once—but in small and unexpected ways like a forty-day-old infant and two people in the temple.

Throughout this month of February, the time of light in each day will grow longer and longer. (In fact, I noticed just recently that it already is!) It is a reminder that God is still working with us to help us see the ways we grow in strength and wisdom as followers of Jesus who celebrate at Christmas and beyond Christ among us as the light of God’s salvation. The gift of Christian practice is that, within these times of growing light, we have opportunities to heed God’s call to faithful and holy living. We do that by encountering God’s Word in all its forms, but especially in our practices of remembering Holy Baptism and celebrating Holy Communion. These are the ways God helps us grow and the means of understanding God’s intentions clearly and at last. God’s grace helps us follow Our Lord faithfully through the darkness and into the great light of God’s promise for the nations. The light of God’s salvation is bursting out around us and within us.

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, Shad Kreitz, the Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Sarah Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, and Michael Yiengst Jr., Greer Zellers.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Weather Alerts

In the event of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen. When church is cancelled due to the weather, there is no one at the church for a service on the Phone Patch.

HAPPENINGS in FEBRUARY:

Souper Bowl of Caring

Mill creek Lutheran Church is continuing to helping tackle hunger by participating in the Souper Bowel of Caring to support the Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM). We continue to to collect cans of soup with a goal of 350 by **Sunday, February 9th**.



If you prefer to make a monetary donation, we can purchase the soup for you. Thank You!



In conjunction with the soup collection for Souper Bowl Sunday, we will be having a luncheon following worship on **Sunday, February 9th**, featuring homemade soups and chili. Look for the signup sheet in the gathering space (narthex). Along with soups, we look for the congregation to bring sandwiches, sides or desserts to have with your soup. As we now know who is playing, feel free to wear your team's jersey that day! To learn more, please contact Debbie Tice (debtice53@gmail.com).

Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, February 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

Sweet Second Sunday will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship on **February 2, 2025**. Please note this is a week early. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

Evangelism

The Evangelism Committee will meet on **Wednesday, February 12th at 2:00 p.m.** The Evangelism committee would like to remind you that there are many opportunities for you to share the WORD with friends and family members. - Evangelism Committee

Parish Echo



Deadline for items you want in the **church newsletter for March 2025 is Saturday, February 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.

Relay for Life Fundraisers

Below are some of the fundraisers being held for this year's **Relay for Life**, if you have any questions please contact Deb Buffington.

- **Mardi Gras for a Cause Purse Bingo**
Sunday, March 2, 2025
Doors Open at 11am and Games Start at 1pm
\$25 for 20 Games
Additional Games/Cards Available at door
Raffle Baskets, 50/50 Drawing, Survivor Game, Vendors, Food, and More!
Eagles Banquet Hall, 116 N. 8th Street, Lebanon, PA 17046
- **Daffodil Days**
Deb Tice will be taking Daffodil order through February 18. Daffodils will arrive on March 20. See the order form on the table in the narthex.
- **Luminaria Orders**
Luminaria orders can be taken anytime, please check with Deb Buffington for details. There are times when they are on sale for \$5 each instead of the normal \$10. Lanterns are also available for \$30.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Church Choir Seats Available!

It's a new year and a great time to join the choir!! If you are interested, we have seats available! We are currently meeting on Thursday nights at 6 pm but are always willing to change our time/date to accommodate our members. Thanks! – Debbie Tice



THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Church Family, Thank you for the cards, "goodie" bag and plant for Christmas. A special thank you to Lisa and Lenny for delivery. Lenny was one of Frank's childhood friends. We think Frank had a memorable visit. Thanks to Pastor Scott for his visits! As the saying goes-it takes a village. You are all part of that village. Sincerely, Frank and Doris Bergman

Thank you from ELCO School District!

Greetings!

I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest appreciation for your contribution to the 2024 ELCO Holiday Program and the ELCO School District Family Fund. Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to assist 73 families over the holiday season. Each participating family received a gift card for food, and more than 210 children received gift cards, stockings, and warm winter items such as coats and socks.

Additionally, we replenished funds in the ELCO School District Family Fund and continued stocking the ELCO Caring Closet. The Family Fund is used throughout the school year to provide necessities for ELCO families facing various difficulties.

Your donation has made a tremendous impact on our community, and we are incredibly grateful. Thank you for supporting ELCO families!

Kelly Smith
ELCO School District
Home and School Visitor

Thank you so much for
the generous donation! It
goes a long way to help
our families in need!

Kelly

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Ryan Gahres	12	Brandy Gahres
6	Portia Lindermuth	23	David Staaby II
8	Theresa Sites	24	Cheryl Stoudt
9	Michael Yiengst Jr. Aaron Yiengst	28	Joseph Tice Jr Laura Long
11	Sheldon Frederick		

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.



A Poorly Planned Sermon

A Pastor, who had a bad habit of procrastination, was throwing together a sermon late on Saturday night. The Pastor did not have time to review the content of the entire service, so he decided to throw together a generic, but fiery sermon on temperance, something he was passionate about.

That Sunday, while giving his sermon the Pastor bellowed out, "If I had all of the beer in the world, I would take it and throw it into the river!" A few minutes later in the sermon the Pastor yelled, "If I had all of the wine in the world, I would take it and throw it into the river!" During the sermon, the choir director, as well as the rest of the choir, began to smirk, smile, and in some instances started to giggle and quietly laugh. The Pastor, rather confused by the choir's behavior ended the sermon by bellowing out, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I would take it and throw it into the river!"

Having concluded the sermon and thinking that his fiery sermon had made up for his procrastination, the Pastor began to take his seat while at the same time looking at the choir members while still being confused by their behavior. As the pastor took his seat the choir director stood up, looked at the Pastor, then smiled while addressing the congregation and said, "Please open your hymnals for the hymn of the day titled 'Shall We Gather By the River'.

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 -Communion	3	4	5	6 -Choir 6PM	7	8 - Church Breakfast 8AM
9 - Sweet Sunday - Souper Bowl Sunday - 3PM Girl Scouts	10	11	12	13 -Choir 6PM	14 	15 -Echo Deadline
16	17 	18	19	20 -Choir 6PM	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 -Choir 6PM	28	