
The Parish Echo

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

March 2025

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

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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

I don't usually give these short reflection pieces titles. Maybe this one can be different because Lent is on the horizon. Let's call it "Lent: Fool's Errand or Errand into the Wilderness?"

I thought of the fool's errand option while driving on 422 in mid-February. This was posted on a roadside sign. "Technically, eye drops are blinker fluid." It has never happened to me (thankfully!) but people have told me it is a common practical joke for long-time employees to send new employees for "blinker fluid" or "striped paint" or "a left-handed plunger." The new employee dutifully heads out to the hardware store (more likely Walmart today) and everyone has a laugh when they return from the fool's errand empty handed and embarrassed.

I thought of the Errand into the Wilderness when I remembered it as a title of a book I read in my seminary class on American Religious History. *Errand into the Wilderness* by Perry Miller is a classic historical analysis of the underlying aims that brought the first colonists to seek religious freedom in what was then wilderness, but is now the United States. Harvard University Press (the publisher of the book since 1956) notes that the title, *Errand into the Wilderness*, comes from the title of a Massachusetts election sermon of 1670 about how the word "errand" can have multiple meanings. Perry Miller wondered how these multiple meanings of the word "errand" played out in the colonizing of America.

I wonder how these multiple meanings of the word "errand" play out when it comes to our keeping of the liturgical season of Lent (i.e., the forty days that precede Easter, not

including Sundays). Remember my suggested title. “Lent: Fool’s Errand or Errand into the Wilderness?”

What we make of Lent depends on how we see God at work. Does God send us to complete pointless tasks for God’s own amusement? Does God invite us to enter a wilderness to seek understanding of our purpose for being there? Lent can be a time to explore our purpose in relationship to God’s purpose. Unfortunately, some are less trusting—even suspicious—of God and God’s intentions. The gift of Lent, as I see it along with our own spiritual heritage is to remember that “As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor.” The discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—along with the gifts of word and sacrament help us—even guide us—in the wilderness time of Lent. Most important, however, is Lent’s destination. The wilderness of Lent brings us to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day. This is good news for us. In the end, Lent is no fool’s errand at all. Instead, it is a welcome. The wilderness welcomes us to God’s gift of life beyond all boundaries.

Live as children of light!
Pastor Scott Paradise

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following **MLC members** in your prayers: Gordon (Chub) Auman, Peg Auman, Lorraine Eberley, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, the Leibig family, Ron Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Rehm, Norm Sharp, Sarah Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yeingst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., and Greer Zellers.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Weather Alerts

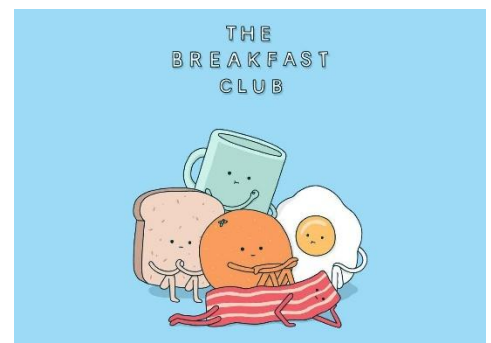
In the event of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across 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 MARCH:

Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, March 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 Sunday will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship on **March 2, 2025**. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

Evangelism

The Evangelism Committee will meet on **Wednesday, March 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

New Church Secretary

Starting March 1, the new church secretary will be Jennifer Miller. The email address for the secretary will remain the same. Enjoy your retirement, Linda!

Sharing Cupboard FOOD Alert

Let's do our "spring thing", let's roar into March. Giving as we've been blessed....surely God will take care of the rest!

Last year we adopted "March" as our yearly commitment to supplying what we could to those in need throughout the ELCO school district. Our committee will deliver weekly to the Myerstown Church of The Brethren which is where Sharing Cupboard has its home. Join us in giving; when you can and what you can. A list of needed items will be provided in early March.
Blessings, Evangelism Comm.

Parish Echo



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

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



Easter Flowers



Anyone interested in purchasing Easter Flowers this year, please contact Carol Sova at 717-507-4721. This is my cell number; you may text me or call. I will confirm all orders if you don't sign up directly at church. If you don't hear back from me to confirm, please call me.

The flowers will be available on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.

The choices of potted flowers are as follows: tulips (request color), daffodils (regular), hyacinths (one color or pink, blue, white trio), Easter lilies (white), L.A. Hybrid lilies) or mums. The cost is \$8.00 each except for the lilies which are \$9.00.

I will be available after church most Sundays, or you can call me. I will place the order mid-March. If you want to specify color, please have your order in as soon as possible for the best selection. (Those I will be ordering as soon as possible as there were some supply issues in the past). Thank you - Carol Sova

Friends of Spang Crest



Sadly, the official last meeting of The Friends of Spang Crest was held on January 27th when our organization officially dissolved with the selling of Spang Crest by Luthercare to a for-profit company and the name change to Tri Valley Post/Acute Healthcare Center. The Lutheran churches in Lebanon County will no longer be affiliated with the new name nursing care.

A lawyer has worked with our friend's organization to sever all ties with Luthercare. Discussions were held in regard to our remaining money in our account and what could be a good way for these funds to be used regarding the residents. With idea input from Karen Kreiser and our officers and key church representative from the churches it was decided to use the \$16,000 remaining in our account in the following ways: 1 - To continue to maintain the fish aquariums on both floors; 2 - To maintain the bird area in the 2nd floor; 3- To have a summer band concert this summer for the residents and possibly next summer. Our funds should then be used up within two years. But this way our Friends of Spang Crest organization is ending by giving something to the residents.

It's a sad time for our churches but hopefully our church may still decide at one point to do something special for the residents. As the activity director told us "Our doors are open to have activities and hope I'll still hear occasionally from the churches." – Margie Kriss

Funeral Lunches

Below are the individuals currently on the list to help with funeral lunches at our church. If you would like your name to be added or deleted to the list, please contact Nancy Deiter at (717)866-4665 or email her at Indeiter@comcast.net.

Rachel Mock
Barb Heckendorn
Lisa Martin
Steph Gahres
Pat Ontkos
David Engle

I am also updating the list of people who are willing & able to bake a dessert for these luncheons when requested by the family. If you are interested in baking but have not signed the sheet in the church Narthex, please contact me & I will add your name to our list of bakers. We usually only need 3 or 4 people to help in the kitchen with each luncheon, depending on the type of food & preparation involved, thus I will alternate with the "helpers" called.

Thank you for your help! - Nancy Deiter

2025 LENT SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE NEWMANSTOWN-RICHLAND MINISTERIUM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Church</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
March 5 th	Millcreek Lutheran	Bruce Pharell	Popularity
March 12 th	Coco Church	Scott Paradise	Death
March 19 th	Elias	Tad Barnhart	Superiority
March 26 th	Richland	Jay Heberling	Lives
April 2 nd	Milbach	Jim Artz	Control
April 9 th	Tulpehocken	Jay Heberling	Enemies
April 16 th	United Christian	Bill Wink	Expectations
April 18 th	Grace UCC	Mario	(Story)

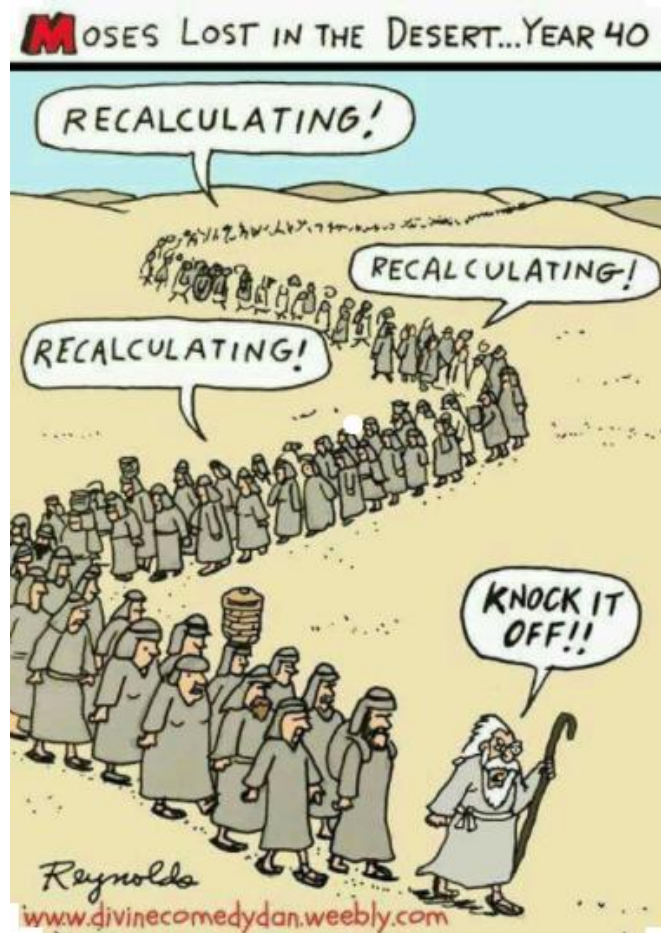
THANK YOU LETTERS

Renee and Layne Strickler wish to thank the members of MLC and Pastor Scott for all the prayers, cards and well wishes during Renee's recent double-knee replacement surgery and physical therapy process. It was greatly appreciated!

March Birthdays

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

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.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 -Communion Sweet Sunday	3	4	5	6 -Choir 6PM	7	8 - Church Breakfast 8AM
9 - 3PM Girl Scouts	10	11	12 - Evangelism 2PM	13 -Choir 6PM	14	15 -Echo Deadline
16	17 	18	19	20 -Choir 6PM	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 -Choir 6PM	28	29
30	31					