
The Parish Echo

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

April 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

I imposed ashes on Ash Wednesday as I have done for many years before. In fact, 2025 is officially my twenty-fifth year doing imposing ashes. This year, however, I noticed something I hadn't noticed before. I noticed the grittiness of the ashes. This should not have surprised me. My preference is for "uncut" ashes on Ash Wednesday. (Bonus information: there is debate among pastors about whether the ashes should be mixed with oil or not.) So, the grittiness of the ashes was not a surprise, but I noticed it in a new way this year.

Psychologist Angela Duckworth and her colleagues brought the concept of "grit" to the public with research they published in 2007. They have defined grit as the passionate pursuit of long-term goals. *Psychology Today* shared a list of examples of people with "grit." These include genius Albert Einstein, legendary Hollywood director Steven Spielberg, rock-and-roll icon Elvis Presley, famous author Stephen King, among others.

Adhering to whatever spiritual practice we may have decided on for ourselves during Lent is a shorter-term goal, but, I think, still requires "grit." This is especially true when we note that Angela Duckworth's definition of "grit" includes not only perseverance, but also passion and purpose. Christians usually remember the perseverance required by Lent, but too easily forget the passion and God's purpose that pushes it into our spirituality each year on the way to Easter.

The Passion of Our Lord is the theological term used to describe Jesus' suffering prior to and including his crucifixion. This is the point toward which we are moving. But, such passion also includes our dedication and sense of purpose to the bigger realities that we seek to live into after our keeping of Lent brings us to the bright light of Easter. As Christians, all of our passions find their purpose in the Resurrection of our Lord which was God's way of bringing life that conquered death.

This is another point at which Angela Duckworth's research can be helpful to us. Having "grit" doesn't mean you never change course. The journey to Easter through Lent becomes meaningful to

us when we remember that Christ's gift was staying the course according to God's purpose. Because Christ has done that work, we are free to find our course as we seek out God's loving purpose for us and for all of creation.

The gritty ashes of Ash Wednesday opened that door for me this year. Our Lord's faithfulness reminds me along the Lenten journey that—no matter how my course changes—Christ's cross helps me hold steady. The God who embraced the grittiness of life and death, provides passion and purpose. God's grit helps us find our grit so that passion and purpose help us preserve from death to life through Christ, not just at Easter but always.

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, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, and Michael Yiengst Jr., Greer Zellers

HAPPENINGS in APRIL:

Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, April 12th 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 **April 13, 2025**. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

Evangelism



The Evangelism Committee will meet on **Wednesday, April 9th 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

Sharing Cupboard

During Lent, the Evangelism Committee will help us help our neighbors who use the Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry, which has been a local resource since 2008. It was started at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren for people living in the ELCO School District who experience food insecurity. Since then, the pantry has seen an increase in the number of families needing help. Please consider picking up these items while you are shopping and place the donated items in the boxes in the Multi-Purpose Room.

- Cereal
- Boxed Crackers
- Cookies
- Tuna
- Spam
- Canned Chicken
- Peanut Butter
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta Meals
- Beffaroni®
- Beef Stew
- Chunky Soups
- Granola Bars
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Fruit
- Lance® Sandwich Crackers



2025 Easter Egg Hunt

In preparation for the 2025 Easter Egg Hunt a sign-up sheet for egg fillers and candy is on the table in the gathering space outside the sanctuary. We are also looking for gift cards and prize donations for ages 0-12. Please place the candy, egg fillers, and prizes on the table in the Sunday school room on the right at the end of the hall just past the library.

The egg hunt is on **Saturday, April 19 at 11:00 AM**. We always need help the day of the event and you are welcome to lend a hand!



Easter Bags

Bags to collect Easter cards and treats for our members unable to attend church will be placed under the display case in the gathering space outside the sanctuary from Sunday, March 16 through Sunday, April 13.

There is also a sign-up sheet if you would like to volunteer to deliver a bag or two to our members who cannot attend church.

Please check with Nikki Johnson (blouch1986@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

Parish Echo



Deadline for items you want in the **church newsletter for May 2025 is Tuesday, April 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:

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 lndeiter@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—Giving up...</u>
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)




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|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Lori Strickler | 18 Phil Martin |
| 7 Garrett Strickler | 19 Skylar Johnson |
| 8 Roy Hoglund | 20 Bryan Breidigam |
| Cole Pennington | 21 Kyle Rosengrant |
| 9 Donald Long | 26 Alyssa Keath |
| 13 Conner Pennington | 27 Breah Strickler |
| 14 Kerry Strickler | 28 Baylee Marderness |
| 15 Debra Hogeland | 29 Lisa Martin |

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	3	3	4	5
6 -Communion -Congregation Council	7	8	9 - Evangelism 2PM	10 -Choir 6PM	11	12 - Church Breakfast 8AM
13 - Communion - Sweet Sunday - 3PM Girl Scouts	14	15 -Echo Deadline	16	17 -Choir 6PM	18	19 -Egg Hunt 11AM
20 	21	22	23	24 -Choir 6PM	25	26
27	28	29	30			