
The Parish Echo

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

May 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

My guess is that, over the five years I have served as this congregation's pastor, many have noticed the close attention I pay to language. Finding the right words to say something matters to me. This is especially true for me when what needs to be said is important. My hope is that, over the five years I have been submitting these "Paradise Corner" articles, the fact that these short reflections matter to me comes through in how I say what I have to say. One word is especially important for this article which comes as I am preparing to move toward serving in a different congregation. That word is "cleave."

Cleave is a word language experts call a contranym. Contranymy are single words that have two meanings that contradict each other. For example, mentioning oversight can mean paying close attention to something (as in "providing oversight"). "Oversight" can also mean failing to pay close attention to something (as in not returning a phone call was an oversight). Cleave is the same kind of word especially at we use it in religious contexts.

"Cleave" can mean sticking closely (older translations of the Bible instruct a man to cleave to his wife in marriage). "Cleave" can also mean to split apart (as in the hymn "Rock of Ages, cleft for me...."). I ask myself an important question at this point. What realities from my time at Millcreek will I stick closely to in the future and what realities will I separate myself from following my time at Millcreek?

The things I will cling to include the congregation's charitable responses. (My recollection is that every collection exceeds expectations.) I will cling to the congregation's commitment to those often overlooked in church life (namely, the young and the elderly). Continuing in those practices is an important witness. Figuring out which things I hope to separate myself from remains an ongoing project. Maybe that is the point. In time, as we find ourselves looking at the new, the old fades away and the cleft leaves room for God's healing work not just for me, but for all of us.

I share this here and now because it is literally the Gospel truth. The church is a community of God's people brought together by the Holy Spirit (so that we cleave that good thing), but also called out from all the ways in which human beings can undermine one another (so that we can allow God to cleave us from those mistakes that we make in relationships). This is—and remains—possible because God is at work in all of us—individually and in community. Saint Paul himself said this to some of the earliest Christians. “For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13) That remains true and helps us live into God's plans for all of us. That blesses us and gladdens God.

Live as children of light!
Pastor Scott Paradise

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following **MLC members** in your prayers: Chub & Peg Auman, Bryan Breidigam, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Barbara Potteiger, Mary Ream, Norm Sharp, Steward Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Michael Yiengst Jr., and Greer Zellers.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

As our congregation and council works through this time of transition, we wanted to update you as to the steps that have been taken to date:

- Council has completed the Council Information Sheet for an Interim Pastor and will be discussing with Deacon Marsha Roscoe from Lower Susquehanna Synod this Sunday May 4th at our council meeting.
- Deacon Marianne Brock will be our supply pastor for May 4th and May 11th.
- Sunday May 18th we will be having a brief service with a couple Hymns, Prayer of the Day, Readings and Gospel only. We will use the remainder of the service to hold a congregational meeting to discuss next steps from our meeting with Deacon Marsha Roscoe and to distribute a survey to congregational members. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.
- We will be sharing coverage for May 25th and the month of June on May 18th.

We appreciate your patience as we begin the process of an interim and future pastor. We will keep you informed on a weekly basis as to where we are in the process and the next steps to be taken. Our council is confident that we are on the right path. We must trust in the Lord as he knows the best plans for our congregation.

PREVIOUS MONTH'S HAPPENINGS (APRIL)

Wishing Pastor Scott The Best In His New Calling! Our youth made a wonderful card thanking Pastor Scott for his service the past 5 years. We shared conversation and cake in the multi purpose room following worship.



First Communion Class 2025



Pictured: Pastor Scott, Andrew Keener, Isaiah Keener, Madelyn Johnson, Matthew Long, Brayce Miller, Isabel Rivera, Ariana Warnick, and Laura Long.

HAPPENINGS in MAY:

Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, May 10th 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

A big thank you to all who donated baked goods or cash to Charmayne's efforts to provide us with her quality treats. That being said, there will not be a sweet Sunday in May, and the next one will be Sunday, June 1st. This will be the last one until fall. You can always make special orders to Charmayne at any time. Thanks again to Charmayne for all her efforts. Sweet Second Sunday was started many years ago to support the congregation and we certainly appreciate the efforts. – Deb Tice

Evangelism

The Evangelism Committee will meet on **Wednesday, May 14th 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.

Make A Joyful Noise for LCCM and Save your Change! On **Sunday, May 18th** during service change will be collected to support the LCCM ministry!

Thanks to all who donated during Lent to the LCCM Sharing Cupboard. The Sharing Cupboard of Myerstown netted 213 items to share with the less fortunate in our ELCO community. – Blessings!
Evangelism Committee



Parish Echo



Deadline for items you want in the **church newsletter for June 2025 is Thursday, May 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.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

Celebrating 50 Years of Ordination for Pastor Beckhardt

Friedens Lutheran Church will be celebrating 50 Years of Ordination for the Rev. Parris Beckhardt on June 29th, 2025 at 10:30. A luncheon will follow at 11:45. Cards will be collected here at the church or can be mailed to Frieden's Office with "Ordination Anniversary" in the bottom left corner. If you are interested in attending the luncheon, see the signup sheet in the Narthex. Nancy Deiter will coordinate the luncheon reservation.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Thank you to my church family for the Easter cards and the goodies sent with them.
- Violet Hepler

Many thanks to all those who helped to make our Holy Week and Easter services special: all the special musicians, readers for the Passion, and our amazing men - Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson - who set up and tear down microphones, communion and so much more. Each service was meaningful and well-planned thanks to Pastor Scott. Kudos also to Jen Miller who got her first taste of a holiday as secretary. Thanks to Carol Sova for the flowers and the beautiful display. He is risen! He is risen indeed!" - Deb Tice

Dear member of Millcreek Lutheran,

A heart felt thank you for all of the thoughts, prayers, cards, and visitants during the illness and death of our mother, Sarah Webber. And a special thank you to the ladies who helped in the kitchen at her funeral luncheon.

Although she wasn't able to attend church in the last several months, she listened to the phone patch almost every Sunday and she thought of each of you as her family.

Blessings to all,
Susan, Brian, Bruce, and Families

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Update

MLC first quarter financials include a deficit of \$6,800 compared to the first quarter of 2024 of \$26,900. We are hopeful that the cost cutting measures we implemented for 2025 along with our upcoming fundraiser so that we can keep the deficit manageable going forward.

Council met on Sunday April 6th and is in the process of completing a lengthy questionnaire for an interim pastor. We have secured coverage for emergencies during the month of May and are working on supply pastors for May.

Summer Camp

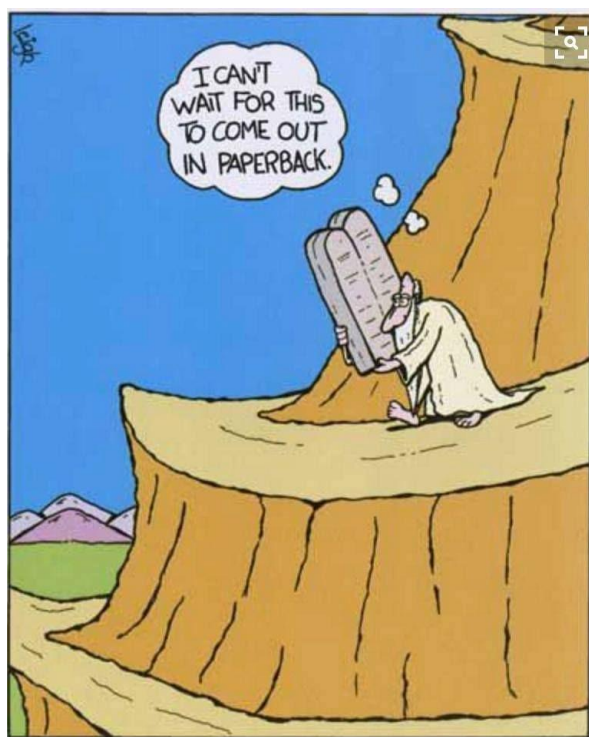
Summer camp registration is open at Camp Kirchenwald! If your children are interested please see Jen Rosengrant as we have scholarships available to reduce the cost.

2 Gene Flory
5 James Balsbaugh
Leonard "Lenny" Ontkos
9 Rachel Mock
10 Lourdes Kahl
12 Liam R. Gahres
14 Jack Kahl
Maddie Johnson

18 Linda Bump
Abbie Keith
20 Robert Stettler
22 Stetson Staaby
23 Christina Strickler
24 David Engle
26 Peg Auman



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	3
4	5	6	7	8 -Choir 6PM	9	10 - Church Breakfast 8AM
11 - 3PM Girl Scouts	12	13	14 - Evangelism 2PM	15 -Choir 6PM -Echo Deadline	16	17
18 - Congregational Meeting	29	20	21	22 -Choir 6PM	23	24
25 - Communion	26 	27	28	29 -Choir 6PM	30	31