



December 2025

The Parish Echo

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

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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Frank Terhune

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Church: 610-589-2570

Office Administrator: Jennifer Miller

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Lay Leader: Jennifer Rosengrant

www.millcreeklutheran.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9AM WORSHIP AT 10:15 AM

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 10:15 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.



Isaiah 61:10-11

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

That unmistakable feeling of Christmas – the feeling of anticipation is in the air. In just a few weeks we will be celebrating! During the days leading up to Christmas, expectations run high. But will it be able to deliver on all the hype?

You know maybe all my life I've been expecting too much out of Christmas and not enough from Jesus Christ. Christmas itself cannot deliver all our heart's desires...but Jesus does.

What are your expectations of Christmas this year? What kind of feeling is in the air?

Christ can deliver a holiday to your home that never fades away; one that doesn't get boxed up and stored away for another year. Christ delivers a Christmas that applies the healing to your life directly in the places where you hurt, one that sets you free.

Isaiah 61:10-11 tells the broken people of Israel about the joy of the Lord, a joy that seemed so far away from them in a world that was filled with bad news of devastation, destruction, and threat. Remember God's promise, Isaiah tells them. Remember how God has clothed us in the clothes of salvation.

Isaiah reminds them of the certainty of God's promises. They are as certain as the ground which brings forth crops, like a garden that makes the seed to grow.

Would you like to have something to celebrate every day? Remember these words of good news from Isaiah, fulfilled in the presence of Christ Jesus, and you'll see what I mean.

Prepare the Way!
Pastor Frank Terhune

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following **MLC members** in your prayers:

Peg Auman	Bryan Breidigam	Joe Buffington
Debbie Hartman	Violet Hepler	Frank Hoffman
Liz Leibig	Barbara Potteiger	Brian Ream
Norm Sharp	Gerry Strickler	Stewart Wolf
Aaron Yiengst	Devon Yiengst	Michael Yiengst, Jr.
Greer Zellers		

PREVIOUS MONTH'S HAPPENINGS:



Russell Dean Laucks 10-23-2024
Terry Arthur Griffe 11-2-2024
Donna M. Reigel 11-15-2024
Josephine M. Belleman 12-10-2024
Edith L. Wike 12-14-2024
Shirley A. Gettel 12-16-2024
Faye A. Trent 12-28-2024
Nancy L. Levandusky 1-10-2025
+Kathryn M. Zerbe 1-21-2025
Tsuyako I. Wilkerson 1-31-2025

Kermit M. Rudy 1-31-2025
+Linda L. Patches 2-1-2025
Jeffrey Lynn Earhart 2-20-2025
Calvin L. Kercher, Jr. 2-25-2025
Nora Mae Smith 3-4-2025
+Lorraine H. Eberly 3-14-2025
+Sarah E. Webber 3-28-2025
Delores Jean Griffiths 3-31-2025
+Ronald S. Merkel, Sr. 5-26-2025
+Gordon D. Auman 9-3-2025

+ Millcreek Lutheran Church Member



The MLC Ensemble performed patriotic hymns for
Millcreek Lutheran Church Veteran's Day Recognition:
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Dale Bentz	Norman Sharp
Gregory Bergman	Patricia Sharp
Craig Evans	Roarke Singer
Brett Flory	Richard Sites
Gene Flory	David Staaby
Stanley Kahl	Michael Stoudt
Karl Keath	Dustin Strickler
Christopher Layser	Brian Webber
Daniel Long	Joshua Weigman
Leonard "Lenny" Ontkos	Gerald Wolf
Gary Sharp	

Cell Tower Presentation

The cell tower presentation occurred on Sunday November 9th. TPG took questions from the congregation immediately following the service.

DONATIONS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Samaritan's Purse



Operation: Christmas Child

We collected a total of 62 shoeboxes this year!



PIE SALE



SWEET
SUNDAY

Toys for Tots Collection



BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday School classes helped assemble 35 holiday food bags for the ELCO School district food pantry.



DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, December 13th at 8:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome and 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



Evangelism Updates

There will not be an Evangelism Committee meeting in Dec. Our committee would like to thank the congregation for participating in the Reverse Advent calendar challenge. Food boxes will be delivered to the Sharing Cupboard in Myerstown.

Christmas Cards & Gift Bags for Shut-In's

Starting Sunday November 16th, the table will be set up in the narthex with the gift bags. There are 10 shut-ins currently on our list. Please have all cards and items in the bags by Sunday December 14th that will allow us time to get the bags delivered by Christmas. Any questions or if someone needs added to the list, please let Nikki Johnson know. Thank you!



Parish Echo

The **deadline** for items for the **church newsletter for January 2026 is December 19**. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to secretary@millcreeklutheran.com. Items may also be submitted by placing a written note in the secretary mailbox in the church office or by phone.

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday December 14 – 3rd Advent – Children's Program – The Shepherd's Story – see the Christmas Story thru the eyes of the shepherds! (multi-purpose room)
- Sunday December 21 – 4th Advent – Lessons & Carols – A very simple but special service with special readings and music.
- Sunday December 21 – 5 pm – Quiet Christmas – we have traditionally been doing this service on the night of the Winter Solstice. A very simple service with communion and candlelight. It is especially geared to those who may have suffered a loss in the past year and do not want to face the standard Christmas services.
- Wednesday December 24 @ 10 pm –candlelight communion service filled with music, candles, and joy!
- Sunday December 28 – Christmas continues with our regular worship service. There will be no Sunday School on this date.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Study

Pastor Terhune continues on Dec. 9th and 16th. There is a sheet in the Narthex to sign up. We are asking for your preferred time in addition to topics you have an interest in. We may have multiple days and times based upon schedules.

THE COFFEE BAR in the Narthex is now up and running! It will be open 9 am to 10:05 am and then closed during service. Be sure to come early to get your coffee, tea, or hot chocolate!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Stewart Wolf	8	Charmayne Balsbaugh
11	Franklin K. Bergman	16	Nikki Johnson
17	Stephanie Gahres	20	Violet Hepler
	Dan Long		Josh Tice
26	Sierra Tice		



If you would like to be included on the birthday list, please email to secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or place a slip of paper in her mail slot in the church office

CARD SHOWER: Elaine Hemperly is turning 90 years old on Dec. 20th!
Her family has requested the congregation to shower her with cards for her special day:

Elaine Hemperly
Linden Village, Stoy Cottage
100 Tuck Street
Lebanon, PA 17042

December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT & HANGING OF THE GREENS	8	9 Bible Study: 1pm & 7pm	10	11	12	13
14 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHILDREN'S PROGRAM	15	16 Bible Study: 1pm & 7pm	17	18	19	20
21 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT Lessons & Carols 5pm Quiet Service with communion	22	23	24 10pm Candlelight Service Communion	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 No Sunday School	29	30	31			