



January 2026

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
Cell: 610-751-5472
Email: frankterhune@gmail.com
In Office: Tues. & Fri. 9am-12pm

Church: 610-589-2570
Office Administrator: Jennifer Miller
Email: secretary@millcreeklutheran.com
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.



As an Interim Pastor, I have begun to feel a lot like St. Paul. He traveled throughout Asia Minor, visiting various people of faith for a short time and then moving on to another city. Millcreek is my ninth interim assignment since I “retired” in 2016. A person wiser than myself was said, “Life is filled with hellos and goodbyes. It is what happens in between that matters most.” That to me summarizes what interim ministry is all about.

In our brief time together, I have come to appreciate being a part of Millcreek. In most interim assignments, one of the first tasks is dealing with the grief over the pastor’s leaving. There are a lot of questions. What will we do now? How long before a new pastor comes? What did we do wrong that the pastor left? Why this long process? Those questions lead to a climate that is ruled by the grief. Activity slows. There is a depressed spirit. The future is bleak.

Your situation was compounded by not having an interim for five months. When I arrived, I expected to face the usual anger and depression that usually accompanies grief. There is some of that here, but I have been excited by the spirit that is present. Your ministry did not stop with the pastor’s departure. Your outstanding outreach to those in need continues. This is due to your great leadership. Their focus is beyond, “How will we survive?” Instead they are looking forward to a new future of faith and witness.

There is a lot of future thinking present. The possibility emerged of a cell tower on the property that will not only bring in some income, but also improve cell phone and internet service in the area. The congregation session was filled with good questions and an openness to a new idea.

On Sunday, January 11, following worship, there will be another future presentation. There is a possibility of using our roof as a solar “farm.” This will not only provide free electric for the church, but also generate enough electric for future needs. One of those needs is the replacement of the existing boilers which have a limited useful lifespan of about five years. Looking ahead to that day, the Council and property people have investigated using heat pumps as a replacement. Coupled with the solar panels, this will eliminate the use of expensive heating oil with this solar electric system. An added perk is that these solar panels are a clean energy system that would be beneficial

to the environment, a responsibility that God has given us. Come on the 11th to hear more of this exciting possibility.

In addition to these future possibilities, the Call Committee has completed their first task in the preparation of the Mission Site Profile. This document gives a picture of your congregational life. Interested pastors will read this profile and decide whether or not they might pursue a call at Millcreek.

These exciting developments will be addressed at the Annual meeting on January 25. Be sure to attend this meeting. Your input is important as we move into the future. The Holy Spirit will guide us as we move their together. As we celebrate the Christmas message of God-with-us, we face the future with new hope and new possibility.

Peace, 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	Brian Ream	Norm Sharp
Gerry Strickler	Stewart Wolf	Aaron Yiengst
Devon Yiengst	Michael Yiengst, Jr.	Greer Zellers

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS:



Thanks to everyone that participated in Hanging of the Greens, adoring our church for the December festivities.



The children performed their Christmas Program- A Shepherd's Story- on December 14th.



Christmas gift bags full of goodies were assembled & delivered to MLC members unable to attend services.



The MLC Ensemble played lively Christmas favorites for the Lessons & Carols service on December 21st.

Food Collection- 87 pounds of food were donated to the LCCM from the Advent Food Collection!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Church Breakfast

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



Blood Drive

Millcreek will host the Central PA Blood Bank blood drive on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, January 15th • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive:

- 2 FREE admission vouchers to the Pennsylvania Auto Show
- Certificate for a \$10 coupon at any Good's Store
- Blood Donor T-Shirt

PENNSYLVANIA AUTO SHOW

Good's Store
Traditional Good Family Shopping

3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to 717GiveBlood.org & click on **DONATE NOW**
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code

A form of ID is REQUIRED to donate

Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank
Your Community Blood Bank

Follow Us on Social Media:

We kindly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood.
Appointments help us improve your donation experience.
Walk-ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.

Who Depends on Blood You Donate

Liver transplant	6-10 units of Red Blood Cells 20 units of plasma 10 units of platelets
Kidney transplant	1-2 units of red blood cells
Heart transplant	2-6 units of red blood cells
Adult open-heart surgery	2-6 units of red blood cells 2-4 units of plasma 1-10 units of platelets
Newborn open-heart surgery	1-4 units of red blood cells 1-2 units of plasma 1-4 units of platelets
Prostate cancer surgery	2-4 units of red blood cells
Abdominal aortic aneurysm	4-6 units of red blood cells
Bone marrow transplant	1-2 units of red blood cells every other day for 2-4 weeks 6-8 units of platelets daily for 4-6 weeks
Automobile accident	4-40 units of red blood cells
Leukemia	2-6 units of red blood cells 6-8 units of platelets daily for 2-4 weeks
Sickle cell disease	10-15 units of red blood cells to treat severe complications
Premature newborn	1-4 units of red blood cells while in intensive care

Evangelism Updates



The evangelism committee will not be meeting formally in the month of January. Many thanks to everyone who donated food to ELCO residents. If you need food assistance, please check into this program.

The next evangelism committee will be meeting on February 11th @ 2:00 p.m., focusing on the March food collection for the Sharing Cupboard to help those in need in our ELCO communities. We will have an "idea" list of items available from which you can choose for donations. Blessings to all!

Parish Echo

The **deadline** for items for the **church newsletter for February 2026 is January 11**. 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 January 11- Service in the sanctuary followed by Solar presentation
- Sunday January 25- Annual Congregational Meeting following the service. Please plan to attend as we will be presenting our financials, the 2026 budget, installing new members, & voting on various items. More information will be forthcoming in January.
- Sunday February 8- Souper Sunday soup collection for the food bank and Souper Bowl lunch following the service. Watch for the sign-up in the narthex if you would like to bring soup to share!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Study

Pastor Terhune will continue Bible Study on Tuesdays in January (weather permitting) at 1:00 and 7:00pm. The theme is From the Beginning: A look at the opening chapters of Genesis:

Jan 6	Creation	1 --2
Jan 13	The Human Condition	3 -- 4
Jan 20	A New Beginning	6 -- 9
Jan 27	Confusion and Hope	11 – 12

NURSERY UPDATE: Effective Jan. 4, Stephanie Sheetz has stepped down from directing the nursery. We will update the schedule at the beginning of the year. We are truly grateful for the time Stephanie has volunteered over the years to our Sunday School & Nursery program. The children loved being in her classes.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: We are looking to add 2-3 additional individuals to Council for the coming year. If you have an interest in being part of a team guiding our congregation into the future, please reach out to a current council member for more information.

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE: Our culture of Generosity/Strategic Planning Committee has been very busy this past year. We have been actively pursuing many options that will build a Foundation for the Future of Millcreek Lutheran Church. We have been working on a new mission statement, exploring cost-cutting measures and additional income sources.

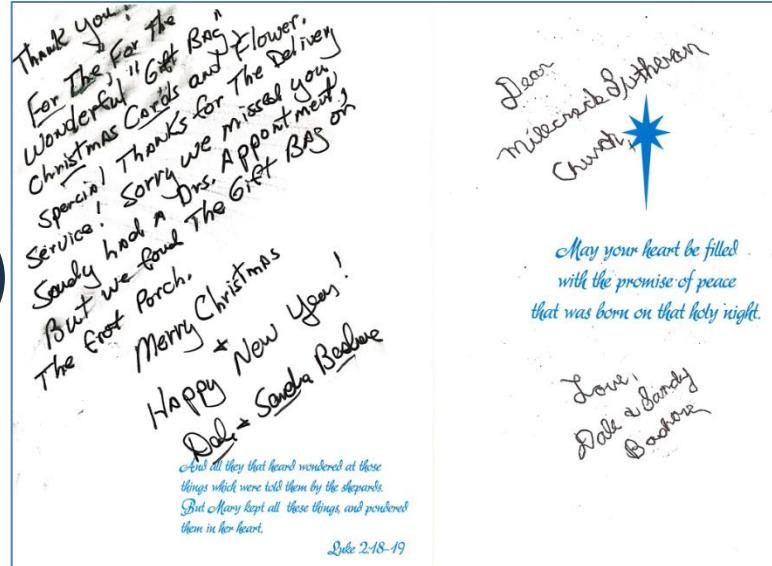
We would like you to join us on Sunday January 11th in the sanctuary for our regular service which will be followed by a presentation by Josh Sheppard of Bright Eye Solar. (Phone patch will also be available for those unable to attend.) We have found an investment opportunity that has the ability to eliminate our future electric costs and provide a path to eventually replacing our electric panels and boilers and upgrading our heating/cooling systems.

The format will be similar to the cell tower presentation, where Josh will share information on Solar, how Millcreek Lutheran can benefit and time for questions and answers. We will keep the meeting to 45 minutes to 1 hour. Two additional mini sessions will be held on Wed. Jan. 14th at 6:30pm and Wed. Jan. 21st at 10am for those who have additional questions. The mini sessions will be led by our committee (Roy Hoglund, David Engle, Steph Seldomridge and Jen Rosengrant). We encourage you to attend or call in.



MANY THANKS to all those that make the special services of Advent and Christmas happen. Many are behind the scenes, like our sound man Frank Hoffman, all around helper Scott Johnson, and secretary Jen Miller, the musicians, the Sunday school teachers, and all of you made this season special, so thanks to all!

"Thank you to our caring congregation for the goodie bag given to Frank B. for Christmas. A special thanks to Lisa & Lenny for delivery."
~Brigitta, Pete, & Doris



From Violet Hepler: Thank you for the lovely Christmas cards & goodies. They are truly appreciated. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Ariana Warnick	4	Pat Sharp
8	Layne Strickler	10	Brett Flory
	Scott Johnson	11	Dotti Hoglund
15	Linda Hable	16	Joseph Tice
18	Mark Sova	21	Brigitta Scheib
23	Angie Bentz	24	Rachelle Keath
25	Stephanie Seldomridge		



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

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Communion	5	6 1pm & 7pm Bible Study	7	8	9	10
11 Communion Solar energy presentation after service	12	13 1pm & 7pm Bible Study	14	15 BLOOD DRIVE	16	17
18	19	20 1pm & 7pm Bible Study	21	22	23	24
25 Communion Annual Congregational Meeting & New Member installation	26	27 1pm & 7pm Bible Study	28	29	30	31