

*We Warmly Welcome You to*



*Milton Lutheran Church*

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Baptism of Our Lord

Morning Prayer

*Fostering community through faith, love and  
service.*

In Person & LIVE Streamed from the Sanctuary at 100 Mahoning St. at 9:30 a.m.  
on the Milton Lutheran Church YouTube Channel

Visit <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org/> to link to the LIVE worship

*(Bold italic items to be spoken by congregation.)*

Today as you enter the sanctuary please take a moment to be inspired by the beauty of the flowers. This week they have been generously provided by Preston L. Davis in memory loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. McClellan Paul Whitenight and Meg Davis.

We would like to give special thanks to our worship leaders; **Gary Schaeffer- Pastor, John Warfel- Music Director/Organist & Nancy Walters Worship Assistant.** Also our, *Greeters –Rusty Brouse & Linwood Hill,* and our *Communion Assistants - Penny Ulmer & Cindy Coup.*

### **Welcome to Worship**

Thank you for joining us today. Whether you've worshipped with us before or this is your first time, we want you to know that you are welcome. As Christians we recognize that each of us comes to worship just as we are. God loves us and so we love others, no expectations, no judgement, only acceptance, grace, and love.

As a community we have certain traditions in how we worship. You are invited to join with us in those traditions. Please know that there is no pressure and that you can worship in whatever way feels most comfortable to you.

There are times during the service that you will be invited to stand or sit as a way of engaging our whole selves in worship. If you are worshipping online, we invite you to sit or stand from wherever you may be. You will also be invited to join us as we sing our hymns out of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Book- ELW) or With One Voice (Blue Book- WOV). If you are joining us online the songs will be made available to you in this bulletin. You may also participate by speaking the parts of the service that are ***Bold Italicized.***

**Offering-** Everyone is invited to give an offering before or after worship. There are baskets located at the rear of the sanctuary for you to place your offering. If you are worshipping online, you are welcome to send your offering directly to our church office at 100 Mahoning St. Milton, PA. All the offerings we receive are used to accomplish the mission of our church. Please know that you are in no way obligated to give financially. If you are not in a place to give, please know that we are just glad that you chose to worship with us.

**Communion Kits** - We do receive communion each week as a community. If you are joining us in person, you will receive a communion kit when you arrive. Inside the kit is a piece of bread or communion wafer and a container of wine. When it comes time for communion, you'll be asked to open the containers and receive the bread and wine. If you are joining us online you may use your own bread, wine and/or grape juice for communion. If you do not have wine or grape juice you can receive communion with just the bread. We believe communion to be the ultimate expression of God's love and forgiveness in our lives. Anyone that desires to feel that love and forgiveness is encouraged to receive communion, without exceptions.

**Kids in Worship-** We encourage children to join us in worship and participate as best as they can. We believe that all sound and movements are precious to God, especially those that come from our

youngest participants. If your child needs to stretch their legs or their vocal cords, they are welcome to do that in our worship space. If you would rather have them participate somewhere where they have some more freedom, then we encourage you to escort them to the chapel located in the back of the sanctuary. Regardless of your decision, please know that they are welcome here!

Thank you again for joining us today. We pray that this worship sends you out into the world energized to share God's love with everyone you meet!

## **Gathering Music**

### **Weekly Check-in and Prayers**

Gary Schaeffer – Pastor

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Gary Schaeffer – Pastor

The Lord be with you

*And also with you*

Let us pray...

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water, you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

*Blessed be God now and forever.*

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

*Blessed be God now and forever.*

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Blessed be God now and forever.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

## Opening Prayer

Gary Schaeffer – Pastor

O Lord, open my lips,  
*and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*  
*Glory to the Father and to the Son*  
*and to the Holy Spirit:*  
*as it was in the beginning, is now,*  
*and will be forever. Amen.*

Give glory to God, our light and our life.  
*Oh, come, let us worship and praise.*

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

Song "Shall We gather at the River" (ELW 423) - Please sing first and last verses.



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7**

Nancy Walters – Worship Assistant

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

**Scripture Reading: Luke 3:15-17 & 21-22**

Gary Schaeffer – Pastor

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was

praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

### Sermon "Choose Epiphany"

Gary Schaeffer – Pastor

### Song "Hail the Lord Anointed" (ELW 311) Please sing first and last verses .



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.  
pre - cious in your sight.  
hill to val - ley flow.  
king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.  
Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

### Prayers

Nancy Walters – Worship Assistant

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

## Great Thanksgiving

Gary Schaeffer – Pastor

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;

within each cell; with every breath.

*We praise you, O God.*

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;

across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

*We bless you, O God.*

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;

beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

*We thank you, O God.*

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,

we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal;

among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,

by your Spirit, in your church, without end. *Amen.*

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Sung By John Warfel**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **Communion**

### **Communion Song**

### **Communion Blessing**

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and  
blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more  
we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord.

*Amen.*

Closing Song- "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" (ELW 800) Please sing first and last verses.



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-189

**Blessing**

Gary Schaeffer – Pastor

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Amen.*

**Sending**

Gary Schaeffer – Pastor

Together we at the Milton Lutheran Church

*Foster community through faith, love and service.*

Go forth in faith, to live out our mission.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Postlude**



*Please Join Us In Prayer This Week*

Gerald Greenly

Jim Seidel & Family

Doris Heffelfinger

Chole Henderson

Nancy Cochran & Family

Jack & Patsy Aunkst

Joanie Fisher

Ken Gaugler

Karen Smith

Mae Jones

Terry Deaner

Patricia Muffly

Mary Lou Benshoff

Julie Benshoff

Mary Billhime

Jeremiah Bolich

Evelyn O'Connor

## This Week at Milton Lutheran Church

SUN., Jan 9

9:30 A.M. **Worship Service** - Live stream available.

(No Sunday School)

Undecorating Party immediately following worship service.

Please stay and help if you are able.

3:00 PM Community Meal at 1125 Mahoning St –

Menu: Chicken Vegetable Soup, Ham & Cheeses Sandwiches, Pound Cake and Mixed Fruit

All meals will be provided as take out.

WED., Jan 12

7:00 P.M. Bible Study Led by Pastor Gary Schaeffer  
in the library all are welcome to join us!

SUN., Jan 16

8:00 AM **Sunday School** in the Library- Led by Kellie Brouse

Join us for the new worship series “**Bad Girls of the Bible**”.

9:30 A.M. **Worship Service** - Live stream available

## Important Notices

### Gentle Reminders:

- Please remember to make your checks out to Milton Lutheran Church.
- When making a check or cash donation, please remember to write your name on the envelope. We are no longer using envelope numbers previously assigned. You can use whatever envelopes you have, to use them up, but we no longer use the envelope numbers and please be sure to put your name on the outside of the envelope and to make your checks out to Milton Lutheran Church.

THANK YOU for all your patience & support as we journey forward together!

**Updated Mask Policy** As of Jan 2, 2022, we would like to **strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask while they are inside the church building.** As the cases are climbing again in our area it is important to do what we can to mitigate the spread of the virus. This is for worship, all events, and meetings at the church. While we recognize that wearing a mask is uncomfortable our hope is to minimize the possibility of spread, maximizing our opportunities to gather in person.

**Communion Kits:** we will be returning to using communion kits as another safety precaution. Please remember to pick up your kits as you enter the sanctuary.

**Sunday, Jan. 9, Undecorating Party** - we will be taking down the decorations in the sanctuary after worship. We are asking people please to stay and help. Many hands make light work! Thank you all for your time and assistance.

### **Coming Up ...**

**Sunday, Jan. 9, Undecorating Party** - we will be taking down the decorations in the sanctuary after worship. We are asking people please to stay and help. Many hands make light work! Thank you all for your time and assistance.

**Sunday Jan 9, \*3:00 PM – 6:00 P.M. The Community Meal** at 1125 Mahoning St, Milton.

\* Please note the earlier time.

**Menu:** Chicken Vegetable Soup, Ham & Cheeses Sandwiches, Pound Cake and Mixed Fruit

All meals will be provided as take out.

**Game Night & Pot Luck Jan 23 at 6:00 P.M. at 100 Mahoning inside the Fellowship Hall**

(downstairs) Come join us for a fun church family night out! Bring some food to share and your favorite board games, cards or other games your family loves to play.

*Please remember to see the calendar insert for all the interesting & fun happenings this month !*

## Milton Lutheran Church Leadership Team

Pastor	Gary Schaeffer
Church Organist & Music Director	John Warfel
Office Administrator	Robin A. McKean-Power
Digital Ministry Coordinator	Seth Reitz
Sexton/Custodian	Chuck Stahl
Treasurer	Rose Deener
Transitional Council	Kellie Brouse, Krista Yaiko, Don Fisher, Jeff Coup, Penny Ulmer, Crystal Gnidovec, Rose Deener, Seth Reitz
Worship Team	Jeff Coup, Kellie Brouse, Nancy Walters, Sue Warfel, John Warfel
Digital Ministry Team	Aaron Coup, Rick Coup, Seth Reitz, Donna Spear
Outreach Team	Connie Stover, Kay Dunn, Claire Weisner, Lynnette Weisner, Carol Yost, Linwood Hill, Krista Yaiko, Karen Martello
Discipleship Team	Rose Handy, Ed Coup, Kate Budman, Kellie Brouse
Ministry Planning Team	Penny Ulmer, Rose Handy, Lynette Weisner, Ruth Scott, Joe Yaiko and Cindy Coup
Church Property Team	Don Fisher (point person for 1125 Mahoning St.) Chuck Stahl (point person for 100 Mahoning St.), Bob Greenly, Rusty Brouse, Helen Billhime, Bill Heimbach, Seth Reitz, Joe Yaiko

### Office Hours

Monday – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday – Noon to 5 p.m.

Thursday - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday - Office Closed

Please feel free to Email or drop off bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.

**Pastoral Office Hours**

Mon, Tue, Wed & Thursday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please call the office to reserve time to speak with Pastor Gary.

**Office Location:**

Milton Lutheran Church, 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847, 570-742-4601

Office Administrator email: [office@miltonlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@miltonlutheranchurch.org)

Website: <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and our YouTube Channel to connect with us online.



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