



BROUGHT TOGETHER THROUGH FAITH

**DEDICATION OF THE MILTON
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

SUNDAY JUNE 26TH, 2022

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us today for this special occasion in the life of our congregation. Today we are reminded that all things have a beginning and an end. In the late 1800's our two founding congregations split establishing a broader Lutheran presence in the Milton community. At the time it was a beginning of a new congregation (Christ Lutheran Church) and an end of just one congregation (Trinity Lutheran Church) in Milton. For over a hundred years our founding congregations and the people in them sought to proclaim the Gospel in the best way they knew how. There were many beginnings, and ends.

Today, we celebrate a new beginning and an end. We say goodbye to our individual identities as Christ Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church and we continue our new beginning as the Milton Lutheran Church.

We have been brought together to foster community through faith, love, and service. All of us are here today, with God, and one another to celebrate the many ways in which God is at work in the world, to experience God's love, and be equipped to share that love with others.

Today is a day of hope, of celebration, and thanksgiving! Thank you for being here and sharing this moment together.

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor



A Brief History of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

The brief history of the church from 1796 through 1996 is taken from the Bicentennial History written by K. J. Reimensnyder-Wagner in 1996. In 1796, intermittent Lutheran worship services were held in Milton by a traveling German Lutheran pastor. These services were held at a schoolhouse built for the purpose of worship and education and was used by any minister who came to town.

In 1802, the Lutherans moved worship to a new school built on Broadway. After joining with the German Reformed Church, a new school and worship site was built on Mahoning Street in 1807. Supply pastors conducted these worship services until 1811. Rev. Phillip Repass was the first regular pastor to serve the congregation from 1811-1817.

In 1817, the Lutheran, Reformed, and Presbyterian congregations joined together to erect the Harmony Church along Mahoning Street. The cornerstone was laid on October 5, 1817, and the church was dedicated on May 23, 1819. One of the fundraisers to help pay for the church building was a lottery. On a clear June day in 1822 with only one cloud in the sky a bolt of lightning struck the church creating a three- inch crack in the structure from the top to the bottom. As a result, fearful parishioners immediately closed the lottery. In 1832, the Presbyterians filed for bankruptcy. The Lutheran and Reformed congregations remained together until 1850 when the Lutherans sold their interest in the church to the Reformed Church for five hundred dollars.

The Lutherans built a new church on Mahoning Street (west of where the Milton towers now stands) which was dedicated by the Rev. J. J. Reimensnyder on May 4, 1851. The church name was changed to "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton and Vicinity" with a membership of 190 confirmed members. In 1865, it was decided to sell the church to the Evangelicals. Apparently, the smell of the livery stable on Lower Market Street drifted into the building on Sunday mornings. On August 25, 1867, the cornerstone was laid for a new church on the corner of Mahoning Street and Garfield Avenue (now named Arch Street). This church was dedicated on May 8, 1870 and was known as having the highest spire in the area at that time.

On May 14, 1880, the Great Fire of Milton destroyed the church and much of the town from Locust to Arch Streets. Three days later May 17, 1880, the decision was made to rebuild on the same foundation incorporating the old brick that withstood the fire. During the construction, worship was held at the Lower Market Street and Center Street School buildings until May 3, 1881, when the first worship service was held in the lecture room of the new church. On March 19, 1882, the first service was held in the audience room with a seating capacity of 700. The dedication took place on March 26, 1882. Under Rev. W. H. Gotwald a restructuring of the church took place. During this process there was opposition by members of the congregation on several matters. Following Rev. Gotwald's resignation and the arrival of Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder in 1887, the divided congregation split and those who supported Rev. Gotwald formed Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In 1915, the council created the Trinity Lutheran Church Building Fund "for the purpose of remodeling, extending or rebuilding the church" to be located at Mahoning Street and Garfield Ave. Enough funds were raised by 1924 to begin construction. During

construction, services were held at the Legionnaire Theatre. On September 5, 1926, the beautifully appointed Gothic structure at a total cost of \$170,044.92, was dedicated. The church continued to grow with the establishment of a kindergarten with student deaconesses, the creation of an altar guild, The Abiding Memorial Register, a newsletter, new Sunday School classes, and greeters. Trinity also underwent additional redecoration, construction of an educational building, and remodeling of the basement.

Following the June 1972 flood damage, further renovation with the creation of a chapel and balcony and redecorating occurred, during which time services held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church until January 1974. In 1988 the East entrance and elevator were added. The nave was redecorated in 1994 and the exterior brick work was repointed in 1995. Trinity celebrated its bicentennial in 1996 with special activities throughout the year.

A Brief History of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church was first established in 1888 after a conflict ensued between members of the mother church "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church." In September of 1888 a congregational meeting was held to discuss the ongoing conflict and a resolution was passed unanimously agreeing to the split of the congregation. From there 138 members purchased land on Center St. in Milton and began the search process for a new Pastor.

In October of 1889 the charter members held a service of dedication for the new church building with The Rev. Menges and Rev. Drs. P Born, J.R. Dim, and John Wagner presiding. The first several years of ministry came with its trials and tribulations, but the community was able to successfully establish themselves in the Milton Area providing worship and service to the community.

Over the years the church building underwent continued maintenance, upgrades and expansion to meet the needs of a growing community. Like all congregations, Christ Lutheran Church transitioned through new Pastoral leadership and had many years of growth as well as challenges.

In 1968 & 1969 the leadership began conversations about erecting a new church building to meet the ongoing needs of their growing congregation. In 1970 the congregation voted to build a new church and purchased land on Mahoning St. in Milton near where the existing church parsonage was located. Blessing of the new church site and groundbreaking took place in May of 1970. Progress was fast and in September of 1970 the cornerstone of the new building was placed. In May of 1971 there was a leave-taking ceremony offering the opportunity for people to say goodbye to their previous beginning and transition into the new building on Mahoning St. The first worship service at 1125 Mahoning St. took place on May 9th, 1971.

The Journey Toward One Another Begins

Beginning in the 1970's, and intermittently over the years, Trinity and Christ Lutheran congregations joined together for summer worship services and Bible school. Joint summer worship services became a regular occurrence throughout the past two years.

In June 2015, both Trinity and Christ Lutheran congregations found themselves in the unique position of facing the resignation of their respective pastors. Under the direction of Bishop Robert L. Driesen and the Assistant to the Bishop Rev. B. J. Collis, the Rev. William Henderson, the Buffalo Valley Conference Dean, met with each of the congregational councils of Trinity and Christ Lutheran to discuss the possibility of having an open discussion about a possible shared ministry between the two congregations. Both congregational councils agreed to meet to explore the possibilities. From August through October of 2015, both congregational councils met with Bishop Robert L. Driesen and Rev. B. J. Collins to explore options, ultimately deciding the executive teams from each congregational council would work together to create a draft parish agreement.

The congregational councils of Trinity and Christ Evangelical Lutheran Churches in consultation with Bishop Robert L. Driesen and Rev. B. J. Collins approved the terms of the Articles of Agreement for the two congregations to form a parish and share a pastor. On January 10, 2016, both congregations held a special congregational meeting at which time the agreement was approved to form the Milton Lutheran Parish.

A parish council composed of three members from each congregation was formed with at least two of the three members being members of their respective congregational councils. The positions of parish council president, vice president, and secretary would rotate annually between the two congregations. A Ministry Site Profile for each congregation was completed and a parish call committee composed of three members from each congregation was elected. Although several pastoral candidates were interviewed no candidate was called.

Each congregation had their own part-time interim pastor from August 2015 through October 2017. On August 24, 2017, both congregational councils met with Rev. Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop, to interview Rev. Mark Galbraith to discuss the possibility of Rev. Galbraith serving as a fulltime intentional interim pastor for Milton Lutheran Parish for one year with the option to extend the agreement if necessary. The goals were to work on a new parish mission and vision statement, develop goals, and define the steps to achieve these goals, complete a new parish ministry site profile to better position the parish to attract a quality pastoral candidate, and be ready to again interview pastoral candidates. Both congregational councils agreed for the synod to present Rev. Galbraith to the Milton Lutheran Parish council to work out a compensation package. The Upper Susquehanna Synod council approved the package and issued the call to Rev. Mark Galbraith to serve as the intentional interim pastor beginning November 1, 2017.

A series of small group meetings with parish members took place to begin the visioning process. From this feedback, the Milton Lutheran Parish Council developed a parish mission statement and a new ministry site profile. A new parish call committee was elected in 2018. A parish worship team, stewardship team, and a Christian education team

were formed. The parish confirmation class and an adult Bible study class were formed. A partnership with the Hispanic Free Methodist Church was formed, allowing them to hold worship services at Trinity Lutheran Church. Milton Lutheran Parish continued to host and assist with the free community meal and constructed floats for the Milton Harvest Festival parade. There was an increased energy within the parish as fellowship and service opportunities increased. A parish pictorial directory was completed in 2018. The parish logo and parish website were created. Joint congregational council meetings began and rotated between the two church buildings.

Rev. Galbraith resigned in July 2019. Deacon Gary Schaeffer was appointed by the synod to serve the parish as our part-time interim in September 2019. In March of 2020, with the spread of the COVID 19 virus and the beginning of the pandemic, in person worship services, meetings, and events were suspended. Council meetings were held virtually over Zoom. Worship services were pre-recorded and shared through Facebook on Sunday morning. In late June 2020, with a decrease in the number of local COVID cases it was decided to hold small group parish worship services at various times throughout the week at Trinity Lutheran Church. In July 2020 late afternoon worship services were held in the parking lot at Christ Lutheran Church. The services were broadcast over an FM radio transmitter so people could hear the service while sitting in their cars or if they wished to sit in the grassy area with masks and socially distanced services were heard on a portable radio.

Deacon Schaeffer graduated from seminary in May 2020 and was eligible for ordination. During a parking lot service on August 2, 2020, by unanimous vote Deacon Schaeffer was called to be the pastor for Milton Lutheran Parish. When the vote was announced there was a spontaneous beeping of car horns to celebrate the calling of a fulltime pastor after five years without a called pastor. Due to the pandemic, Pastor Schaeffer's ordination service was rather unique in that it was held in September 2020 in the parking lot at Christ Lutheran Church followed by a reception in the parking lot. Parking lot worship services concluded at the end of October 2020.

The central office for the parish was moved to Trinity Lutheran Church. There were upgrades to the internet, wiring, and computer as well as the purchase of equipment for the digital ministry team to provide better quality and livestream broadcasts of the worship service. A premium YouTube channel and Zoom account was purchased. Ministry teams were created for digital ministry, worship, discipleship, outreach, property, finance, fellowship, and ministry planning.

Indoor parish worship services with masks, social distancing, and no singing, resumed in November 2020 at Trinity Lutheran Church. However, this was short lived with the increase in COVID cases. Worship services returned to online services in late November 2020. Christmas Eve services were held in the parking lot at Christ Lutheran Church. On February 21, 2021, in person worship services resumed at Trinity Lutheran Church with masks, social distancing, and no singing required. Services were livestreamed and continue to be so every Sunday.

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ began to lease Christ Lutheran Church's building so they could safely return to in person worship services in March 2021. This led to an opportunity for our parish to work in outreach with this congregation.

In June 2021, Pastor Schaeffer and the combined congregational councils discussed the possible consolidation of Trinity and Christ Evangelical Lutheran Churches into one congregation. The current parish agreement was not conducive to the growth of the parish or in meeting ministry, mission or outreach objectives. The motion "by December 31, 2021, Christ Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran churches will dissolve their status as individual corporations and merge to create one congregation" was passed by the parish council and both congregational councils. Three discussion groups were held with members of the parish to explain the rationale and the steps involved in the process. On August 1, 2021, the two congregations voted to approve the merger. After 225 years as Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and 140 years as Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, the two congregations will embark on a new joint journey of ministry and will once again be one congregation.

The parish council was dissolved in August 2021. A transitional council of eight members, appointed by Pastor Schaeffer, consisted of the executive teams from each congregation and one additional member from each congregation. After receiving suggestions from congregation members for a new name for the church, the transitional council narrowed the list and voting took place in October 2021. The new name of Milton Lutheran Church was chosen. The transitional council and Pastor Schaeffer, along with assistance from the synod and the legal assistance of Attorney Jeffrey L. Mensch, the merger process was completed.

The ministry planning team created a new mission statement that was approved by the transitional council. Four meetings with the congregation occurred in April and May of 2022 to identify what the mission statement means to them, to create a new vision statement, identify core values, and form goals for the congregation in the coming year.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly in June 2022 officially recognized our new congregation, Milton Lutheran Church. The new permanent nine-member congregational council was elected during the congregational meeting on June 26, 2022. The dedication celebration service for Milton Lutheran Church was held on the afternoon of June 26, 2022, followed by a meal in the fellowship hall of 100 Mahoning Street.

Building a Future for the Milton Lutheran Church

In 2021, our leadership formed a ministry planning team for the purpose of helping us to build a future for the Milton Lutheran Church. Through several months of discernment, conversations, prayer, study, and research this team guided our congregation through a process resulting in a new mission statement, vision statement, core values, and goals. Recognizing how far we have already come and the unknowns of the future we decided to focus on the next year of our ministry together while also looking ahead to the years to come. Special thanks to Joe Yaiko, Rose Handy, Penny Ulmer, Lynnette Weisner, Ruth Scott, and Cindy Coup for their commitment and faithfulness in leadership of the ministry planning team.

Mission Statement

Foster community through faith, love and service.

Vision Statement

The Milton Lutheran Church will express our faith through an active presence in our community by service, worship, and fellowship that is open to all.

Core values

Faith

Inclusivity

Innovation

Stewardship

Community

Goals

1. RENEWING: In the next year, every decision our leadership will make will be based on our mission, vision and core values.
2. WORSHIP/YOUTH & FAMILIES: Starting in September of 2022, we will have an inter-generational worship service occurring once a month for six (6) months.
3. INVOLVEMENT: We will establish a welcome strategy and engagement strategy by November 2022, resulting in deeper involvement with at least 10 people.
4. SMALL GROUPS: Start two (2) small groups beginning in September of 2022 with at least 5 people.
5. OUTREACH: Start collecting items for a community outreach program once a month to reach at least 100 people beginning in the fall of 2022.
6. RELATIONSHIP BUILDING: Have a fellowship activity each month, beginning with the fall programming year, with the expectation to have a fellowship planning team by December.

Thank You!

There are so many people that have faithfully served our community and partners in Ministry that we would like to say thank you too.

Council Leadership

Krista Yaiko- Co-Chairperson
Kellie Brouse- Co-Chairperson
Penny Ulmer- Secretary
Crystal Gnidiovec- Secretary
Rose Deaner- Treasurer
Jeff Coup
Seth Reitz
Donald Fisher

And our newly elected council members who take over the reins in September of 2022.

Ministry Teams

Property
Outreach
Worship
Digital Ministry
Ministry Planning

Staff

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor
Terri Cromwell, Office Administrator
John Warfel, Director of Music
Nancy Walters, Assistant Director of Music
Seth Reitz, Digital Ministry Coordinator
Chuck Stahl, Property Manager

Upper Susquehanna Synod

Bishop Barbara Collins
Reverend Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop

Ministry Partners

Scout Troop # 605

The Ark

The Getting Ahead Foundation

TOPS

Rotary Club of Milton

Red Cross

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ

United In Christ Lutheran Church

Saint Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Milton Developmental Services

Meal

Food graciously provided by The Breaking Bread Company

Desserts graciously provided by Cin-ful Treats

Baptismal Font

Thank you to Rusty Brouse for the creation of our new Baptismal Font.

Thank you to the Heimbach family for their generous donation in loving memory of Raymond & Shirley Pentycofe.

Thank you to the Poeth family for their generous donation in loving memory of Dorthi Jean Poeth.

A Celebration of Faith and Music

- ¹ *Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.*
- ² *The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.*
- ³ *He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.*
- ⁴ *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;*
- ⁵ *make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,*
- ⁶ *with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King. (Psalm 98: 1-6)*

A special thank you to the following musicians for sharing their gifts with us
on this day of celebration!

Brass: Chad Miller, Liam Cummings, Linwood Hill, Matt Wagner

Bells: Brett Hosterman, Jeff Brouse, Matt Wagner, Penny Ulmer, Sue Warfel, Carol Yost, Bridgette Coup, Anne Picatta, Sandy Trate, Kellie Brouse

Piano: Nancy Walters

Piano: Brett Hosterman

Organ: John Warfel

Vocal Soloists: Gabe Schaeffer, Jaydon Cottage

Praise Band: Jeff Coup, Aaron Coup, Gavin Russell, John Warfel, Gabe Scheffer, Cindy Coup, Jaydon Cottage, Valerie Gardner

Choir: Karen Martello, Helen Billhime, Cindy Coup, Debbie Owens, Kellie Brouse, Kate Budman, Rich Handy, Dave Robinson, Clyde Drumheller, Joel Deibler, Mark Nase, Jaydon Cottage, Gabe Schaeffer, Ellie Schaeffer, John Warfel, Valerie Gardner

"Here I am Lord"
By Schutt Arr linker

Nancy Walters, Piano and John Warfel, Organ

"On Eagles Wings"
By Michael Joncas

Gabriel Schaeffer, Soloist and John Warfel, Organ

"Immortal, Invisible"
Arranged by D. Wagner

Bell Choir

"Poor Wayfaring Stranger"
Arranged by Waldrop

Bell Choir

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"
By Elvey , Arranged by Larson

Brass ensemble & Organ

"10,000 reasons"
By Matt Redman

MLC Praise Band

"He is Exulted"
Arranged by Mark Hayes

Brett Hosterman- Piano

Fantasie and Chorale on "Ein Feste Burg"
By J Warfel

John Warfel- Organ

"We are a church"
By J Althouse

MLC Choir & Nancy Walters- Director

Worship and Dedication of the Milton Lutheran Church

WELCOME

BAPTISMAL FONT DEDICATION

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we gather to dedicate this baptismal font to the praise and glory of God.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
as we dedicate this font to your glory and praise. Today and every day, we are reminded of the gift of Baptism. The recognition of your grace as our sins are washed away and we are brought together through faith. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

(Please stand as you are able)

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 HYMN: *The Church is One Foundation*



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms. . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be-ing of the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

C Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

☐ Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

☐ A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless-ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and Mighty God, today as we gather, we are reminded that we gather as your people. Grounded in our baptism and brought together through faith you have knit us together as the body of Christ. Be with us today, as you are each day, as we worship, as we celebrate, and as we dedicate the Milton Lutheran Church to your glory.

Amen

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 21:1-6

Our first scripture reading comes from the book of Revelation the 21st chapter.

¹Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please stand as you are able)



GOSPEL READING: Matthew 28:16-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 28th Chapter
Glory to you O Lord

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Word of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

(You may be seated)

SERMON: Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(Please stand as you are able)



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

(You may be seated)

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Prayer"
by David Foster

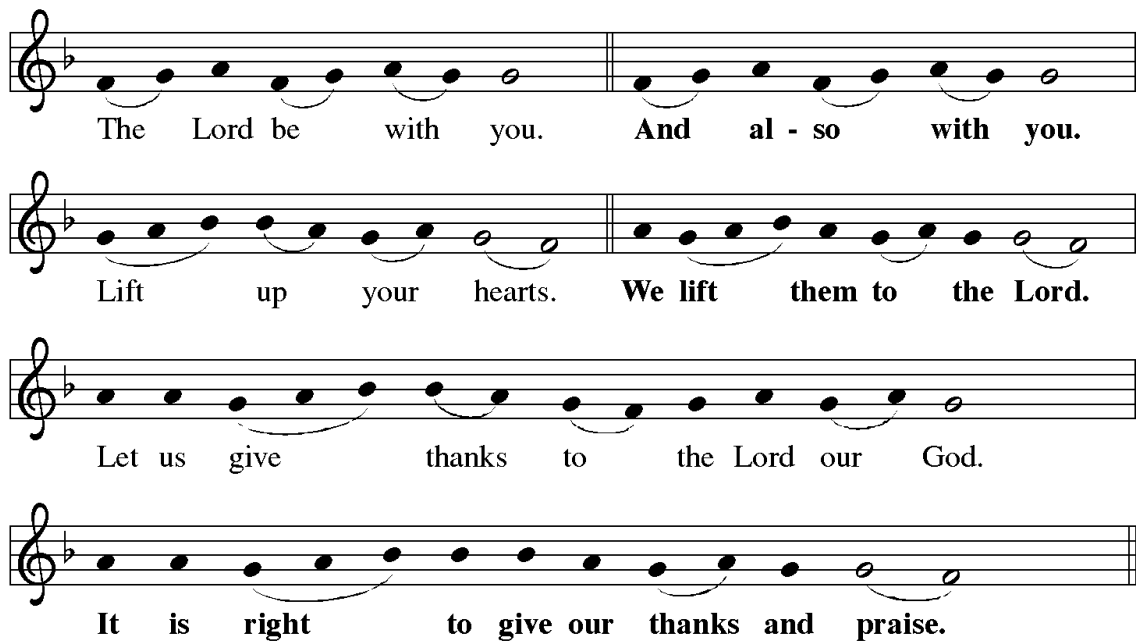
Jaydon Cottage and Gabriel Schaeffer

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God,
as we gather around this table to receive the gift of your grace, we offer ourselves to you. All that we have, everything we are, and everything we will be comes from you. We give you thanks, offer our time, gifts, and resources as people of God. Trusting in your mercy and moved by your Spirit we ask that these gifts may be instruments of your love as we seek to love others. Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

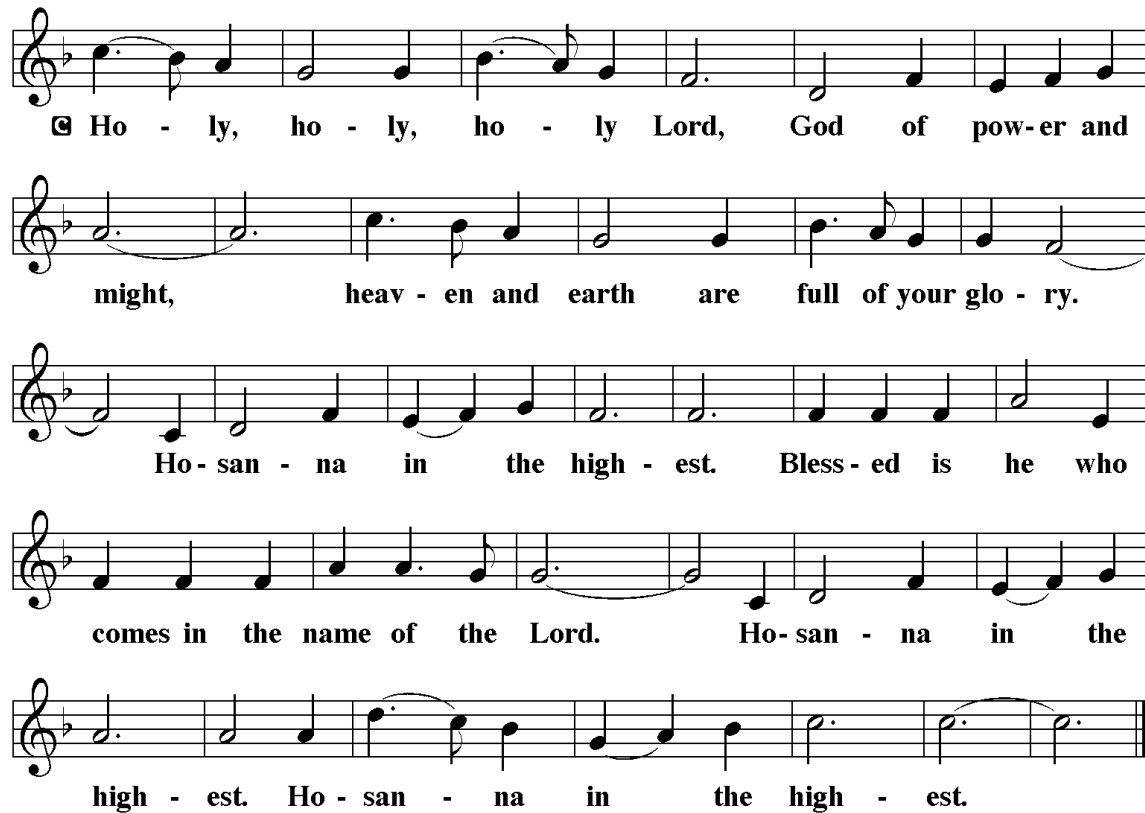
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Gracious God, you are indeed holy. For from the beginning of time God created everything around us. All of creation, the people we encounter, the emotions we feel, and of course God's only son, Jesus.

Who sacrificed himself on our behalf so that we could experience the love and forgiveness that sustains us each day and that we could be free from sin to show that love to others.

And so we remember how thousands of years ago, Jesus sat down for a meal with his disciples. How he 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.

So we gather around this bread and wine, as a community and as individuals, remembering this sacrifice and being reminded of his love for each of us. Send your Spirit upon this meal so all that are gathered here may experience your grace. As we eat of this bread and drink of this wine let us celebrate this gift as together we pray.....

LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

Our Father, which 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. Amen.

(You may be seated)

TASTE AND SEE

Refrain – All



Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,



taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

COMMUNION

*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.*

*When it comes time for communion you are invited to come forward in two lines.
Please take an empty glass or a glass pre-filled with grape juice.
You will then receive the bread and process to the left or right where you will receive the wine.*

*Gluten free wafers are available for those that need.
Please let Pastor Gary know when you come forward.*

COMMUNION BLESSING

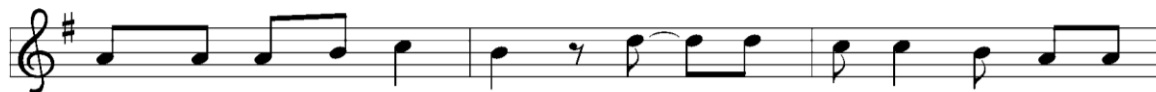
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Refrain— sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Dedication of the Milton Lutheran Church

Bishop Barbara Collins

With thanksgiving to God for guiding us to this day and trusting in God's promise to lead the church into the future, we are bold to proclaim the intent of the people of God gathered here to become a congregation of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
(Acts 1:8)

Let us pray.

By your word, eternal God, your creation sprang forth,
and we were given the breath of life.

By your word, eternal God, death is overcome,
Christ is raised from the tomb,
and we are given new life in the power of your Spirit.

As you have called each of us by name,
claim this community as it declares its new name and identity.

As you have revealed the vision of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ,
uphold your servants as they set forth the vision
for your work among them and your mission through them.

May your church in every place proclaim your good news in word and deed,
rejoicing always in your powerful presence;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MISSION STATEMENT: Kellie Brouse, Transitional Council Co-Chairperson

The Milton Lutheran Church seeks to foster community through faith, love and service.

VISION STATEMENT: Krista Yaiko, Transitional Council Co-Chairperson

The Milton Lutheran Church will express our faith through an active presence in our community by service, worship, and fellowship that is open to all.

I declare to you now in the presence of God and everyone gathered here today the establishment of the Milton Lutheran Church. Let us give Thanks to God!

Let us pray.

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples,
together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life,
together serving in Christ's mission to the world,

and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and grant wisdom to the people gathered here,
that they may discern your gracious will

for this community of faith and for themselves.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

The following people have been elected to the church council. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these people will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*The names of the elected Church Council Members are shared,
and each person is invited to come forward.*

You have been elected to serve as leaders in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?
I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?
We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.
Amen.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

The following people have decided to join our community of faith as new members.

*The names of the people who have indicated an interest to join
our congregation are shared, and each person is invited to come forward.*

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Friends in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us welcome our friends in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

We give you thanks for new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

CLOSING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great,
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:



and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for - ev - er.

DISMISSAL

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	1 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Tuesday	2 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Wednesday	1 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Thursday	1 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Friday	Office Closed

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

Website: <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

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

SOURCES: Sundaysandseasons.com.

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