



# MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Fostering Community through Faith, Love & Service*

**OCTOBER 22TH, 2023**

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAMED FROM THE  
SANCTUARY @ MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH @  
9:30AM ON THE MLC YOUTUBE CHANNEL. VISIT  
[HTTPS://MILTONLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG](https://miltonlutheranchurch.org) FOR  
LINK TO LIVE WORSHIP.



**MORNING PRAYER**



TODAY AS YOU ENTER THE  
SANCTUARY, PLEASE TAKE A  
MOMENT TO BE INSPIRED BY THE  
BEAUTY OF THE FLOWERS. THIS  
WEEK'S FLOWERS WERE  
GENEROUSLY DONATED BY:

*The Family of Mrs.  
Kathy Sumner*

**IN HER HONOR**

Today we celebrate New Member Sunday and welcome into the MLC family Dave, Leslie, Kellie, Chris, Barb, and James! We are so excited to have you join MLC and celebrate all the gifts you bring to our faith community.

We would like to give special thanks to our worship leaders.

**WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS**

**Pastor:** Gary Schaeffer

**Director of Music:** John Warfel

**Assistant Director of Music:** Nancy Walters

**Worship assistant:** Cindy Coup

## **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

**Greeters:** Chuck Stahl & Helen Billhime

**Communion Asst:** Carol Yost & Kay Dunn

**Worship Setup:** Penny Ulmer

In Person & LIVE streamed from the Sanctuary at Milton  
Lutheran Church at  
9:30am on the Milton Lutheran Church YouTube Channel. Visit  
<https://miltonlutheranchurch.org> to link to the LIVE worship.

## **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 judgment, only acceptance grace, and love.

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

**BELL CHOIR: "Praise the Father"**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

**BAPTISMAL SONG**

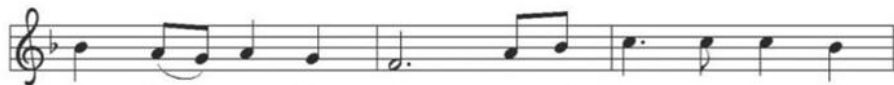
# All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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 all around us. Especially, the West Branch of the Susquehanna River Watershed, you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

***Blessed be God now and forever.***

As we gather for worship today, we remember how you connect each of us to another in time and place. In this place, where people have gathered for thousands of years beginning with the Susquehannock tribe, then the first immigrants in what would become Milton, to today where people of all different backgrounds, traditions, and beliefs gather for worship. You bring us together in remembrance of our baptism.

***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 help them to remember that it is through your love we receive the gift of grace.

***Blessed be God now and forever.***

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

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.*

**HYMN: ELW 834 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

## CHOIR ANTHEM: “For the Autumn Sky”

## SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12: 9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you

are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION

# Listen to the Word of God

Leader(s) Assembly

Lis - ten to the word of God.\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia.

Leader(s) Assembly

Hear the liv - ing word.\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Assembly

Lis - ten to the word of God.\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia.

Hear the liv - ing word.\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



## **GOSPEL READING John 1: 1-13**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

## **SERMON “An Imperfect Family”**

### **PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

## MLC NEW MEMBERS

Dave Guffey

Kellie Palko

Leslie Yocum

Barb Hause

Chris Palko

James from MDS

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.

Sisters and brothers 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 our new members and their life in Christ?

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

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers 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.*

**HYMN: ELW 685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,  
*hear our prayer.*

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,  
*hear our prayer.*

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace,  
*hear our prayer.*

Welcoming God, we give you thanks for Dave, Leslie, Kellie, Chris, Barb, and James 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. God of grace,  
*hear our prayer.*

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, so that they may know your joy. God of grace,  
*hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,  
*hear our prayer.*

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace,  
*hear our prayer.*

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
*Amen.*

# Let My Prayer Be a Fragrant Offering

*Refrain*



Let my prayer be a fra-grant of-fer-ing, as in-cense to you a - rise.



Let my prayer be a fra-grant of-fer-ing, my hands lift-ed up in praise.



- 1 O Lord, I call to you, come quick-ly to my side.
- 2 Please watch my lips, O Lord, and guard the words I say.
- 3 My eyes are turned to you, O Lord, my liv-ing God.

*Refrain*



O Lord, please hear my voice; lis - ten when I cry.  
Please turn my heart to you; chase my sin a - way.  
I look to you for help; be my faith - ful rock.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, *as we gather around this table to receive the gift of your grace, we offer ourselves to you. All 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. Moved by your Spirit we ask that these gifts may be instruments of your love as we seek to love others. Amen.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

*And also, with you.*

Lift up your heart.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

O God most mighty,

O God most merciful,

O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child.

When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.

With infinite love, he granted the people your life. 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 to 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 death, we cry out Amen. ***Amen.***

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. ***Amen.***

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. ***Amen.***

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

***Amen.***

## 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.*

## Come to the Table in Love

Leader




Come,\_\_\_ come,\_\_\_ come to the ta - ble in love.\_\_\_\_  
come to the ta - ble in need.\_\_\_\_  
come to the ta - ble in truth.\_\_\_\_

Assembly



We come to - geth - er in Je - sus' name.\_\_\_\_  
We come to - geth - er in Je - sus' name.\_\_\_\_  
We come to - geth - er in Je - sus' name.\_\_\_\_  
We go to live\_\_\_ in Je - sus' name.\_\_\_\_



We come to the ta - ble in love.  
We come to the ta - ble in need.  
We come to the ta - ble in truth.



# COMMUNION SONG

## One Bread, One Body



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



- |   |            |             |            |            |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | Gen - tile | or Jew,     | ser - vant | or free,   |
| 2 | Man - y    | the gifts,  | man - y    | the works, |
| 3 | Grain for  | the fields, | scat-tered | and grown, |



wom-an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath-ered	to one	for	all.

*Refrain*

## COMMUNION

*The Body of Christ given for you.*

*The Blood of Christ shed for you.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

## HYMN: ELW 705 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

## SENDING

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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND OUR YOUTUBE  
CHANNEL TO CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

**SOURCES:** [Sundaysandseasons.com](http://Sundaysandseasons.com)

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# Prayer Requests



MATT SPANGLER  
KEN GAUGLER  
TERRY & ROSE DEANER  
MARY BILLHIME  
MARY SUDOL- CROMIS  
JACK & PATSY AUNKST  
JULIE BENSHOFF  
GERALD & RUTH GREENLY  
MELVIN CRIST  
TIM BRANDAU  
CHRIS PALKO  
CHARLOTTE MARTZ

# Church Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

Friday- Sunday Office Closed

# Pastor's Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

*Please contact Pastor Gary to make an appointment.*

# Contact Us

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Pastor E-mail- [pastor@miltonlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@miltonlutheranchurch.org)

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