



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / MARCH 2026

NEWSLETTER

Fostering community through faith, love, and service

A Letter from the Pastor

As we enter the season of Lent, the Church invites us into a journey—not simply toward Easter, but toward honesty, reflection, and renewal. Few passages guide us into that journey more clearly than John 3:1–17.

In this familiar story, Nicodemus comes to Jesus under the cover of night. A respected religious leader, knowledgeable and devout, he nevertheless senses something is missing. He knows the Scriptures. He knows the law. But he also knows that what he sees in Jesus cannot be explained away. So he comes with questions.

There is something deeply Lenten about Nicodemus.

Lent is the season when we, too, come out of the shadows and into the presence of Christ. We bring our questions, our doubts, our half-formed faith, and our hidden fears. Like Nicodemus, we may be religious. We may be faithful churchgoers. And yet Jesus gently confronts us with the same truth: “No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

To be born from above—or born again—is not about starting over on our own effort. It is not self-improvement or spiritual polishing. It is surrender. It is allowing God to do in us what we cannot do for ourselves. Lent reminds us that repentance is not simply feeling bad about sin; it is opening ourselves to transformation by the Spirit, who “blows where it chooses.”

And then we hear the heart of the Gospel: “For God so loved the world...” In the middle of our reflection on sin and mortality, we are not left in despair. The cross toward which we are walking this Lenten season is not a symbol of defeat but of love. God does not send the Son to condemn the world, but to save it.

Lent, therefore, is not about earning God’s favor. It is about remembering that we already live inside God’s love. The disciplines of prayer, fasting, and generosity are not ways to impress God; they are ways of stepping into the light. John writes that people sometimes prefer darkness because their deeds are hidden there. Lent invites us to live truthfully, to bring what is hidden into Christ’s light—not to be shamed, but to be healed.

Nicodemus begins in darkness, confused and uncertain. Later in John’s Gospel, we see him again—defending Jesus publicly and helping prepare his body for burial. The one who came at night is gradually drawn into the light.

That is our journey too.

As we walk these forty days, may we have the courage to come to Jesus honestly. May we allow the Spirit to give us new birth. And may we trust that the God who loved the world enough to send his Son is still at work in us—calling us out of darkness and into marvelous light.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Gary

Common Ground Worship Series

We are excited to share that MLC will be introducing a new style of worship called Common Ground. Common Ground worship is a style of worship that is intentionally intergenerational. It will give opportunities for people of all ages to engage with one another in worship, provide opportunities for our young people to use their gifts to lead, and help us grow together in our faith.

Our first Common Ground worship will take place on Sunday, April 12th and everyone is encouraged to attend! Members of our worship team will be contacting young people in our church and offering opportunities for them to provide leadership in music, communion, prayers, scripture reading, greeters, ushers, and more!

It is our hope to incorporate Common Ground Worship into our regular worship rotation, happening several times throughout the year.

¹⁴ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)



**COMMON
GROUND**

Connecting Across Generations

**Worship 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, April 12th**

An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Connie Stover

Council news

The search for a new office assistant is ongoing. The committee has interviewed two candidates for the position. Both of the candidates are very qualified to fill the position.

In our process to decide what we will doing with our buildings, the building committee will have finished their report by the end of March. Their report will then be given to the Ministry committee. The Ministry committee will use that report to guide them in their process. The Ministry committee will begin that process after Easter.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be on March 15th.

Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports

Outreach Team

SCS is asking for donations of bar soap during the month of March. Additionally, if anyone has reusable bags and/ or paper bags to please donate them to SCS. We will be participating in assisting with packing bags for Panther Packs on Wednesday, March 11th at 6pm. Easter Candy will be on sale on Sunday, March 15th for \$12/dozen. Red Cross Bloodmobile canteen will be on Wednesday, March 25th. Anyone that would like to donate can sign up in the binder. The Youth Lock In for kids in 2nd-7th grade will be on Friday, April 10th (6pm)- Saturday, April 11th (9am). We encourage kids to bring a friend. Sign Up and permission slips will be in the binder. May 4th, we will have our hoagie sale pick up. The sale will run from April 5th- April 19th and they will be 6.00 each for an 8-inch Italian sub. Lenten Queen Size Challenge is running now through Easter Sunday, where we are collecting queen size bedding for DIG. We will also be doing our college care boxes, with sign ups in the binder. Please sign up by April 5th; the boxes will be blessed on April 12th.

Steph Byers

Fellowship Team

Coming up March 8 is our annual Chili Cookoff and game night from 4:30-6:30. Bring your secret recipe and v for the best tasting chili. You can become the new champion and hold the trophy.

Fellowship hour will continue to be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Easter Sunday: Breakfast will begin at 8 am, followed by special music at 9 am, Easter worship at 9:30. Immediately followed by the Easter Egg Hunt.

If you are interested in serving on our team, please reach out to me or the church office.

Carol Yost

Hiking Group

The Milton Lutheran Church Hiking Group has just one last minute hike on Saturday, March 21st. It was a beautiful, sunny day for walking in the snow. The hike was a short and easy one, but took a little extra effort because of the snowpack. After the hike we all stopped at the Forest House Hotel for refreshments. Withing the next month Jeff will be releasing the hiking schedule for spring and early summer. We are always looking to add members to our hiking email list. If someone wants added have them send an email to jeffcoup@verizon.net.

Jeff



March 1st
11:30 A.M.- 12:30 P.M.

Self-Care Sanctuary

Free hygiene / self-care products for anyone that needs them.

MILTON
Lutheran Church
1125 Mahoning St.
Milton, PA

For the month of March, we are requesting donations of toilet paper.

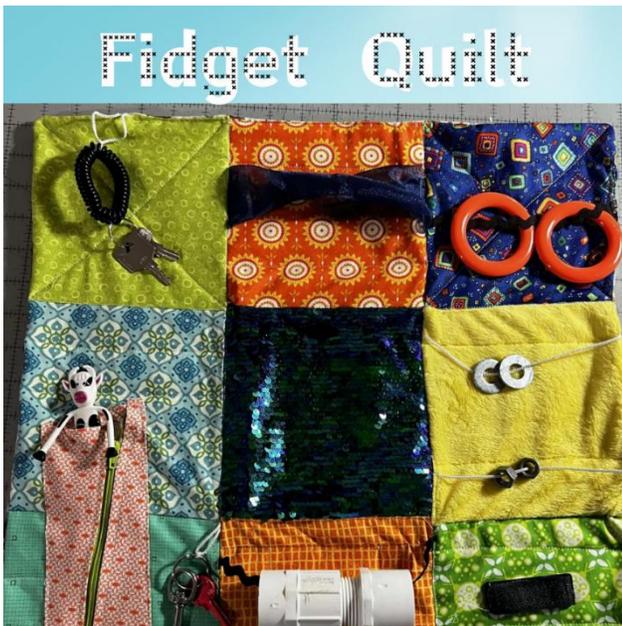
We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!

Free pet food products for anyone that needs them

HAPPY TAILS
PET PANTRY
March 1st 11:30am-12:30pm

1125 Mahoning St.
Milton PA 17847
miltonlutheranchurch.org

Our pet pantry is the first Sunday of the month from 11:30am-12:30pm held in conjunction with our Self-Care Sanctuary. Our next one is March 1st.



Our Fidget Quilt group is next meeting on March 4th.

If you have any questions, contact Connie Stover.



Our capital campaign is still going strong for Camp Mount Luther! Any financial gift you make will be matched for 2026!

You can make a contribution through a weekly/monthly donation in your offering to the church, noting the contribution is for the Camp Mount Luther Capital Campaign; a one-time donation to the campaign through your giving envelope to the church, or by going to the website: <https://www.campmountluther.org/capital-campaign/> and making a donation either by check to the camp or by credit card. It's as easy as that!

By giving through MLC's campaign, you basically double your giving as we match the gifts that come in!

Camp is a respite for so many. A place that spreads love and joy and the Word of God! Your donation will help improve Camp to be the best it can be for all who attend!

The purpose of the Milton Lutheran Church Endowment fund is to further the Mission of MLC by supporting projects, programs, and events sponsored by our members.

Endowments will be granted for areas dealing with children and youth, matching funds for existing fundraisers, service projects, local, national, and international initiatives, and existing church partnerships. Applications will be reviewed by the endowment team and granted upon their approval. Deadlines for requests are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

Applications can be found on the website on the *documents & videos* page, under *Milton Lutheran Church Documents*, and at the church office.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the office and your questions will be directed to whomever can best answer the query.



Bible Study at May's Drive-In
We are taking a break from
Breakfast Club for Lent! Join
us instead for our Thursday
brunch at Silvermoon.



Chili
**COOK OFF &
GAME NIGHT**

**Sunday March 8th
4:30pm-6:30pm
In The Fellowship Hall**

Bring a pot of chili to fight for the coveted chili prize! Winner gets bragging rights and a trophy!
You are also invited to bring games to play!

Please note the change in time!
The chili cookoff will begin at 4:30pm!



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 8TH & 22ND**

FOLLOWING WORSHIP In our fellowship hall.

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH
1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA

MOVERS & SHAKERS
SENIOR'S GROUP

MARCH 17TH 10:30AM - 12:30PM

MEAL

CONVERSATION

BINGO



WE WILL NOT MEET FOR MARCH

**PUB
THEOLOGY**

FELLOWSHIP & MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Pub Theology will not be gathering for the month of March.

We will be having a potluck along with the annual meeting. Please bring a dish to share!



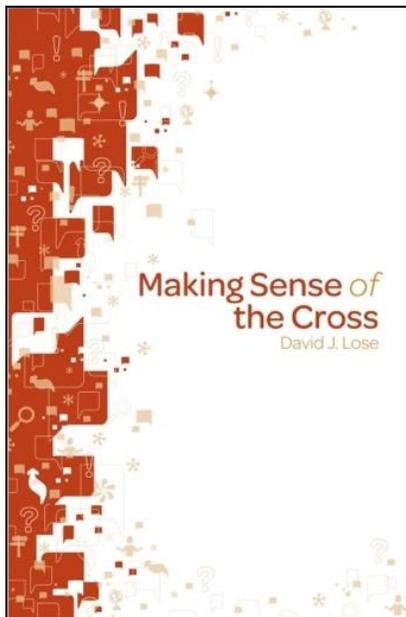
**ANNUAL
MEETING**

March 15th
following worship



You are invited to join us as we dig deeper into our Lenten Worship Series "Tell Me Something Good". Together, Christ Lewisburg, UIC and MLC will delve into our weekly theme and enjoy some great food together. Our discussions will be led by Pastors Justin, Katy, and Gary.

Meeting at 11am!

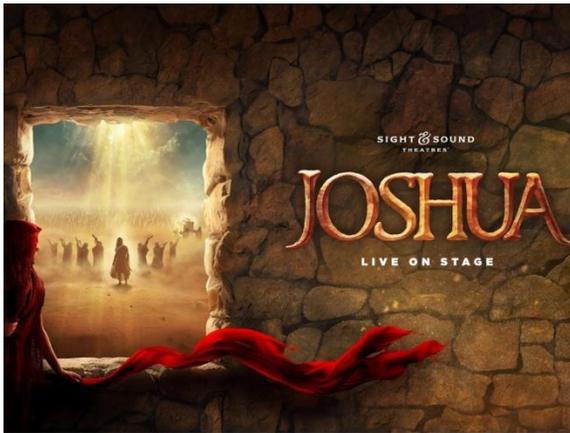


Join us for the start of a new Lenten study series: *Making Sense of the Cross!* Beginning on **Tuesday, MArbruary 24th at 6:30pm**, we will gather weekly at United In Christ (1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg) for a video series that explores how the cross has been understood over time and how we might understand it as Christians today!

For those interested, we invite you to pick up a copy of the accompanying participant book to read at home each week. **Copies are \$15 each and can be ordered through the church office!**

From the publisher:

Listen in on a conversation between two people having an open and candid discussion about the cross. One assumes the role of teacher or coach, someone who has had the time and opportunity to study the faith in some depth. The other is curious, knows a little bit about the faith, and brings a lot of questions: So what's with the cross? What does the cross say about God? What's the big deal? Did Jesus have to die?



SAVE THE DATE
Join us and our friends at United in Christ and
Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lewisburg - Wednesday, April 15th

SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday, April 15th, we are going to see Joshua at Sight and Sound in Lancaster! We will be stopping at Shady Maple on the way home for a late lunch. We hope you choose to join us!

Sign-ups are due March 2nd. Payment is due March 16th. You can pay cash or check made out to Milton Lutheran Church, subject line Sight and Sound.

Ticket price is \$150 per person.



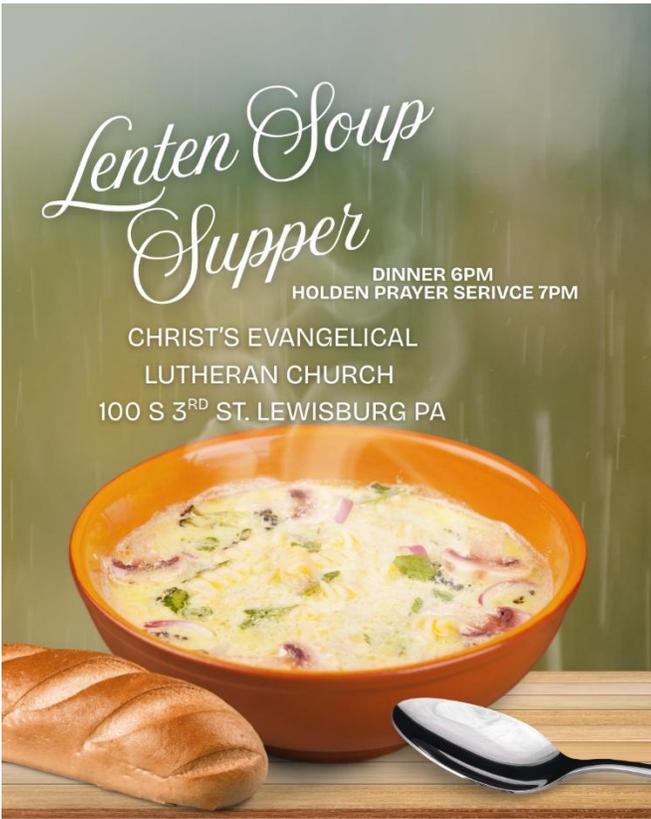
Join us this Lent as we center ourselves on a new worship series: *Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent*. Join us for this series in worship on Sunday mornings as we move through our Lenten journey seeking out the good news, even in the wilderness. This year, we will be making this journey alongside our neighbors at United In Christ (UIC) and Christ's Evangelical Lutheran (CELC), as all three communities move through this series together!

In addition to the lenten brunch, we invite you to join us for the opportunity to be told something good from new perspectives as we gather for midweek worship. Beginning on **Wednesday, MArbruary 25th, we invite you to join us weekly at CELC (100 S. Third St, Lewisburg) for a time of soup and fellowship at 6:00pm, followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.** Each week, we will hear "something good" from a lay leader from one of the three congregations. We hope you will come out to be renewed by the perspectives that bring!

As we hear "something good" each week this season, we will be *sharing* "something good" with the neighbors around us.

Each week, all three congregations will collect much needed household items to be donated to DIG Furniture bank in Milton. These items will go to support families getting a fresh start in our community! Keep your eyes peeled for which items we will be collecting each week (ex. bath towels, throw pillows, etc.) to share in something good! Items can either be gently used or new!

We hope you will join us for any or all of these opportunities in the weeks ahead!



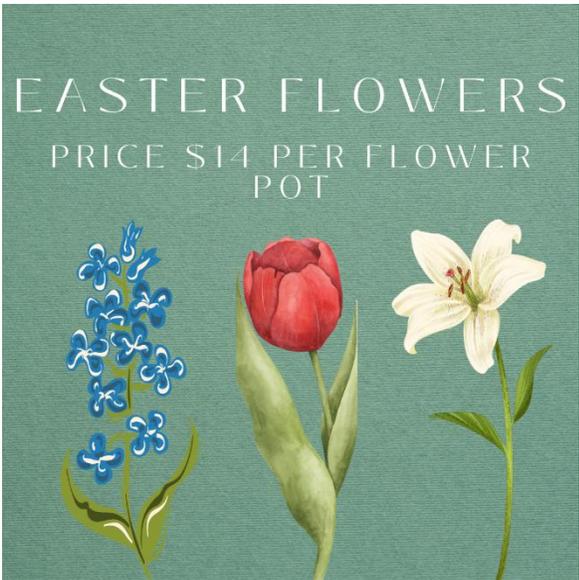
On the Wednesdays in Lent, we are joining with Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lewisburg for their soup supper and Holden Prayer.

Dinner is at 6pm, followed by a Holden Evening Prayer service at 7pm.

Each week, we will hear "something good" from a lay leader from one of the three congregations. We hope you will come out to be renewed by the perspectives that bring!



We are beginning our Easter Candy Collection for our Easter Egg Hunt! Please consider donating! Donations are due by March 22nd.





Healing
SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST
7:00 P.M.



Maundy
Thursday
Dinner Church
Thursday, April 2nd 6:00 P.M.
MILTON
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Good Friday
Worship**
Friday, April 3rd
— 7:00 P.M. —



**EASTER
SUNDAY**
BREAKFAST
8AM
SPECIAL
MUSIC 9AM
EASTER
SERVICE
9:30AM
EASTER EGG HUNT
IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP
APRIL 5, 2025
1125 MAHONING ST
MILTON, PA 17847
MILTON
Lutheran Church

Both/And

Real people don't fit
inside boxes.

April 19th-May 10th

April 19th-May 10th

Clearcut categories can be helpful and make life easier to understand. But people are different. What we believe, our values, our upbringing, experiences, and future goals all shape who we are. Sometimes we can be tempted to label people, make assumptions about them and place them inside nice, neat boxes. But people don't belong inside boxes. We are full of tensions and paradoxes that – when embraced – can bring immense depth and beauty to life. Through this series, we will explore how faith in Christ calls us away from simplifying our experience of one another into an “either/or” perspective and embrace the beauty of the “both/and.” Join us as we learn how to celebrate the diversity of being Children of God.

Week 1: Heart & Head | Mark 12:30-31, Acts 8:26-30

Having faith is not just about believing the right things or feeling a certain way. Faith in Jesus brings together both head and heart, understanding and experience.

Week 2: Sacred & Secular | Acts 10:9-16

Sometimes we divide up the world into “sacred” and “secular,” places where we expect and accept God's showing up – like church on Sunday morning – and places where we don't. But God reaches into all areas of life, leading us to live with compassion and grace no matter the time or place.

Week 3: Us & Them | Galatians 3:28-29, Hebrews 13:1-2

Categories like “us” and “them” can give us a false sense of identity and community based on who is inside and who is outside. But through Jesus, we no longer must identify ourselves this way. We are called to reach across those boundaries with God's love in action.

Week 4: Saint & Sinner | 1 Timothy 1:12-17

In our divided world, it can be easy to cast blame on those we think have it wrong, seeing ourselves as “holier-than-thou.” But Paul reminds us that we are all sinners in need of God's grace and that Jesus is continually working in and on all of us – saints-in-progress.

Announcements from our Friends



**BUFFALO VALLEY
FAITH LAB**

Scan to sign up!

1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month
4:30pm-6:30pm
September-May
Grades K-6
Free family dinner!

1st Sunday @ Christ's Lutheran
100 S. 3rd Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837

3rd Sunday @ United In Christ
1875 Churches Rd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

The graphic features a yellow background with various icons: a molecular structure, a bar chart, a cross with radiating lines, and gears. A QR code is located in the top right corner. Logos for Christ's Lutheran and United In Christ are at the bottom.



- SUN, MAR 1**
- 9:30am Worship
 - 10:30am Choir Practice
 - 11:30am Self-Care Sanctuary and Pet Pantry
- MON, MAR 2**
- 6pm Boy Scouts
- TUE, MAR 3**
- 10am TOPS
 - 6:30pm Book Study at United in Christ (UIC)
- WED, MAR 4**
- 1pm Fidget Quilters
 - 6pm Boy Scouts
 - 6pm Soup Supper and Holden Prayer at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC)
- THU, MAR 5**
- 11am Lenten Brunch at Silvermoon
 - 1pm Worship Team Meeting
 - 7pm Outreach Team Meeting

SUN, MAR 8	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour 11am Fellowship Team Meeting 2pm Open Mic/Talent Show by Synod Youth 4:30pm Chili Cookoff
MON, MAR 9	Executive Committee Meeting 6pm Boy Scouts
TUE, MAR 10	10am TOPS 6:30pm Book Study at United in Christ (UIC)
WED, MAR 11	6pm Boy Scouts 6pm Soup Supper and Holden Prayer at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC)
THU, MAR 12	11am Lenten Brunch at Silvermoon
SUN, MAR 15	9:30am Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting
MON, MAR 16	6pm Boy Scouts 7pm Council Meeting
TUE, MAR 17	10am TOPS 10:30am Movers and Shakers 6:30pm Book Study at United in Christ (UIC)
WED, MAR 18	6pm Boy Scouts 6pm Soup Supper and Holden Prayer at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC)
THU, MAR 19	11am Lenten Brunch at Silvermoon
SUN, MAR 22	9:30am Worship

10:30am Choir Practice

11am Fellowship Hour

MON, MAR 23

6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, MAR 24

10am TOPS

6:30pm Lenten Book Study at United In Christ (1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg)

WED, MAR 25

6pm Boy Scouts

6pm Lenten Soup Supper and Holden Prayer at CELC (100 S. 3rd Street, Lewisburg)

THUR, MAR 26

11am Lenten Brunch at Silvermoon

SUN, MAR 29

9:30am Worship

10:30am Choir Practice

MON, MAR 30

6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, MAR 31

10am TOPS

6:30pm Lenten Book Study at United In Christ (1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg)

Please Contact the Office if You Have Any Questions About Any Upcoming Events

Donations Made in the Names of Loved Ones to the Abiding Memorial Fund

No Donations were received for the month of February