



Milton Lutheran Parish NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Serving God through faith formation, worship, service, evangelism, and fellowship

Pastor Gary's October Message

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

I love the fall! It is my favorite season of the year. I love the colder temperatures, the changing of the colors, all the fall events, and especially being in the outdoors. The fall can be a metaphor for death as the trees lose their leaves, the plants go into hibernation, we get less and less daytime, and so on. It can also be a metaphor for new life as we head back into our routines from the summer, times for fellowship start picking up again, and our wildlife is more active and on the move. It is just a wonderful time of year!

Reflecting on this change in the season has me thinking about the changing seasons in our lives. Have you ever stopped to wonder what season of life you are in or the seasons of life you have gone through? For me I think about my childhood and the joys of growing up, my college years where I met my wife and fell in love, when I first became a parent and learned how to care for children while balancing a new career, and the current season of my life as a father of teens and settling into my calling as a Pastor. We all have different seasons in our life like this. Some of those seasons are filled with joy, hope, and expectation. Others are filled with challenges, opportunities for growth and learning. Some are filled with a combination of all these things.

What season do you find yourself in right now? Is it a season of change? A season of growth? Maybe you are being challenged in ways you have never been challenged before? Maybe you find yourself in a season of new life filled with opportunity and hope. No matter what season you may be in I hope that you know God is right there with you. Feeling all the same emotions we do as we experience these seasons in our life. God cries when we cry, laughs when we laugh, hurts when we hurt, loves when we love, and so on.

As a congregation we have entered a new season in the life of our community. It is a season of growth, change and new life. This month we will choose a new name for our congregation, we will begin to rally around one another as one community of faith and explore how God is calling us to love one another, we will prepare ourselves for new partnerships and new ministries and so much more! And just as God is with us in our seasons of life, God is with our congregation throughout the different seasons of our community. I am excited to see what God has in store for us and what the future holds!

Many Blessings,
Gary



Update on the Getting Ahead Program

This month we investigated 3 more modules.

“Eleven Resources”: We define poverty as “the extent to which an individual does without resources.” Poverty is not just about lack of money. Often people living in poverty are lacking in the important resources that can help them cross the barrier from poverty to self-sufficiency. Our community can do something about poverty by building individual, institutional and community resources.

“Self Assessment of Resources”: each investigator assessed their own resources within the eleven resources.

“Community Assessment”: the investigators looked at a community assessment. In Getting Ahead, there are two main story lines: the individual and the community. The group investigated the community’s ability to provide a high-quality life for everyone, including people in or near poverty.

Next Step: Making plans for our future story – how to build resources for a better life. What’s the difference between “getting by” and “getting ahead” resources?

Graduation – Sat. October 9th 2:00 at Milton Lutheran Parish- Join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our 2021 Getting Ahead class.

We have been very busy evaluating resources. Thank you to all our volunteers and community supporters!

Sincerely,
Rose Williams



Practical peace-building

Lutheran World Federation releases resource on meditation

By [John Potter](#) September 16, 2021

Throughout 2015 and 2016, Patricia Cuyatti was immersed in church conflicts across multiple international regions. As [Lutheran World Federation](#) (LWF) regional secretary for Latin America, the Caribbean and North America at the time, she accompanied churches dealing with internal challenges and was intensely involved in two primary processes of mediation.

Cuyatti dreamed of empowering people from LWF member churches who could identify signs of crisis and work to prevent their escalation. She shared with colleagues her desire for what she called “good dialogue that could help [people see] each other’s faces while sharing their pain and challenging feelings and [help them] be mutually open to overcoming assumptions, ideas or fears that distance people.”

In 2017, the idea of training leaders on peace-building and mediation became part of the communion-building and church growth programs managed by the LWF’s four regional secretaries. In 2018 and 2019, the LWF held training workshops in Brazil. Cuyatti then began planning a resource that could take the [Dialogue for Peaceful Change](#) (DPC) method presented in the trainings and apply it to specific theological and contextual issues to be implemented locally.

Cuyatti served as editor for the new publication *Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Mediation and Reconciliation Skills for the Church* (LWF, 2021). She enlisted LWF leaders who had attended the workshops to write chapters for the resource, published in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

In *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*, scholars and ministers offer their experience of practical approaches to dialogue for change and reconciliation in the church and its communities. Topics covered include biblical visions of equity and inclusion that can help prevent conflict; Christian responsibility for promoting peace; and how to nurture hospitality and welcoming communities.

Cuyatti contributed a chapter and, for the others, sought leaders who “are involved in research, leaders ready to rethink the DPC method from Lutheran and theological perspectives, and [leaders] involved in certain topics like [peace-building](#), migration, ecological matters.”

The gift of peace

James Henricks, pastor of Summer Memorial Lutheran Church in Newberry, S.C., attended the workshops and was asked to write a chapter on migration and how the church can serve as a mediative presence and a mitigator of conflict. “Building on the conflict resolution and mediation training all of the participants received, the idea behind the resource was to take what we had learned, apply it to issues the church around the world is facing and share what we had learned with others in a practical way,” he said.

Through Lutheran Services Carolinas, Henricks and his wife are transitional foster parents for unaccompanied minors who cross the border. “It’s been very meaningful to produce something that might help others have better conversations surrounding migration, so that we can get out of the harmful bickering and really understand our neighbor, their struggles and what it is God is calling us to do as the people of God in this present situation,” he said.

For Henricks, empathetic listening is an area of both study and practice. He received his Master of Theology degree from the University of Helsinki, where he studied in the Religion, Conflict and Dialogue program, and has helped congregations work through their conflicts. “From my research and experience, I’d say being able to deeply listen to someone—even if you disagree—is one of the most powerful things you can do in a conflict,” he said. “It’s a skill anyone can improve with practice.”

“Being able to deeply listen to someone—even if you disagree—is one of the most powerful things you can do in a conflict.”

In his chapter, Henricks lists steps for engaging in empathetic listening, applicable to different dialogue contexts. Speaking about his experience in guiding difficult conversations, he said, “The recognition that we are, together, standing at the foot of the cross and asking what it is Jesus might have to say to us is what I observed led to growth and getting out of our preordained political talking points.”

In providing steps to readers, Henricks hoped to “allow for people who come in with opposing viewpoints to ask the theological question together and discern God’s call. I’ve observed those moments to be very powerful in generating self-reflection and growth.”

Cuyatti believes that in our current global context—the impact of COVID-19, the increase in violence she has seen, and the rise of radicalization in political and social issues—dialogue is more needed than ever. “It is not a simple seating and exchange of ideas,” she said of the kind of dialogue explored in *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*. “It is to practice living embracing our diversity.”

In order to live out that embrace, she said, “one has to come to know others who are completely different [from oneself] in order to [expand] understanding, to embrace mutually through agreeable actions that can contribute to overcoming fear, pain, loss, grief, etc.”

Cuyatti’s goal for the resource is to “motivate people about the gift of peace.” She hopes it will help readers “to grow and mature while working [through] difficult situations and being enriched through dialogue.”



[John Potter](#)

John G. Potter is a content editor of *Living Lutheran*.

Local News and Events

NEW - Life After Loss - Thursdays, April 21 thru May 26, 2022 2-3:30 PM at 235 Hospital Dr. Lewisburg. Fee \$20.00.

Coping with the loss of a loved one can be difficult, especially during these challenging times. So, we would like to let you know about a local program presented by Hospice of Evangelical and Community Health and Wellness. It is a 6-week bereavement class called “Life After Loss” Your program facilitator is Andrea Runkle MSW. Anyone over 18 or older who has experienced a loss is invited to attend. It is recommended that the loss be longer than 6 months ago. Pre-Registration is required, the cost is \$20.00, scholarships are available. Registration is limited so please contact the hospital at 570-522-2157





Blanket Sunday - Saturday, October 9, 2021 * 9:00 A.M.. to 12:00 P.M. * Bring all donated items to the Upper Susquehanna Synod Office, 500 Rietz Road, Lewisburg. If you are not able to be there at this time, Please contact Robin in the Milton Lutheran Parish office or call Sue Baylor at sueb12@ptd.net or 570-279-4766. Sponsored Jointly By The Women of the ELCA and The Committee for Global Missions Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA ***please note the time**

Milton Lutheran Parish News



Masking Policy

Starting Sept 6th Masks must be worn by everyone while inside the church building. As the cases continue to climb 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. Keep in mind that exposure to the virus either by a member or the staff would require us to quarantine for 10 days as a congregation which would close the office and place all church ministry online. 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. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

Confirmation and Youth Group

We are excited to share that we will be working with United In Christ Lutheran Church in West Milton to provide the opportunity for our teens in grades 7th-12th to gather together and enrichen their faith experience. Pastor Justin Lingenfelter and Pastor Gary together will be to leading these experiences for our families.

Confirmation (Grades 7th and 8th)

1. Confirmation instruction the **first Sunday of every month at 5:00pm.**
2. Summer Servant Trip- Working together with Camp Mount Luther and other congregations in the synod we will provide a summer servant trip for junior high students.
3. Shared Ministry Event- The teens from MLP and UIC will work together to plan and lead a shared ministry event for both congregations.
4. The confirmation program itself will be a two-year program.

Youth Group (Grades 7th-12th)

1. We will be holding Youth Group (grades 7-12) **on the first and third Sundays of each month beginning around 6:00pm and ending by 8:00pm.**
2. Youth Group will begin with a meal for students, so those attending confirmation beforehand will have dinner provided those evenings.

The launch date will be our first night of Youth Group on Sunday, September 19th at 6:00pm! The first formal Confirmation class will then be Sunday, October 3rd at 5:00pm.

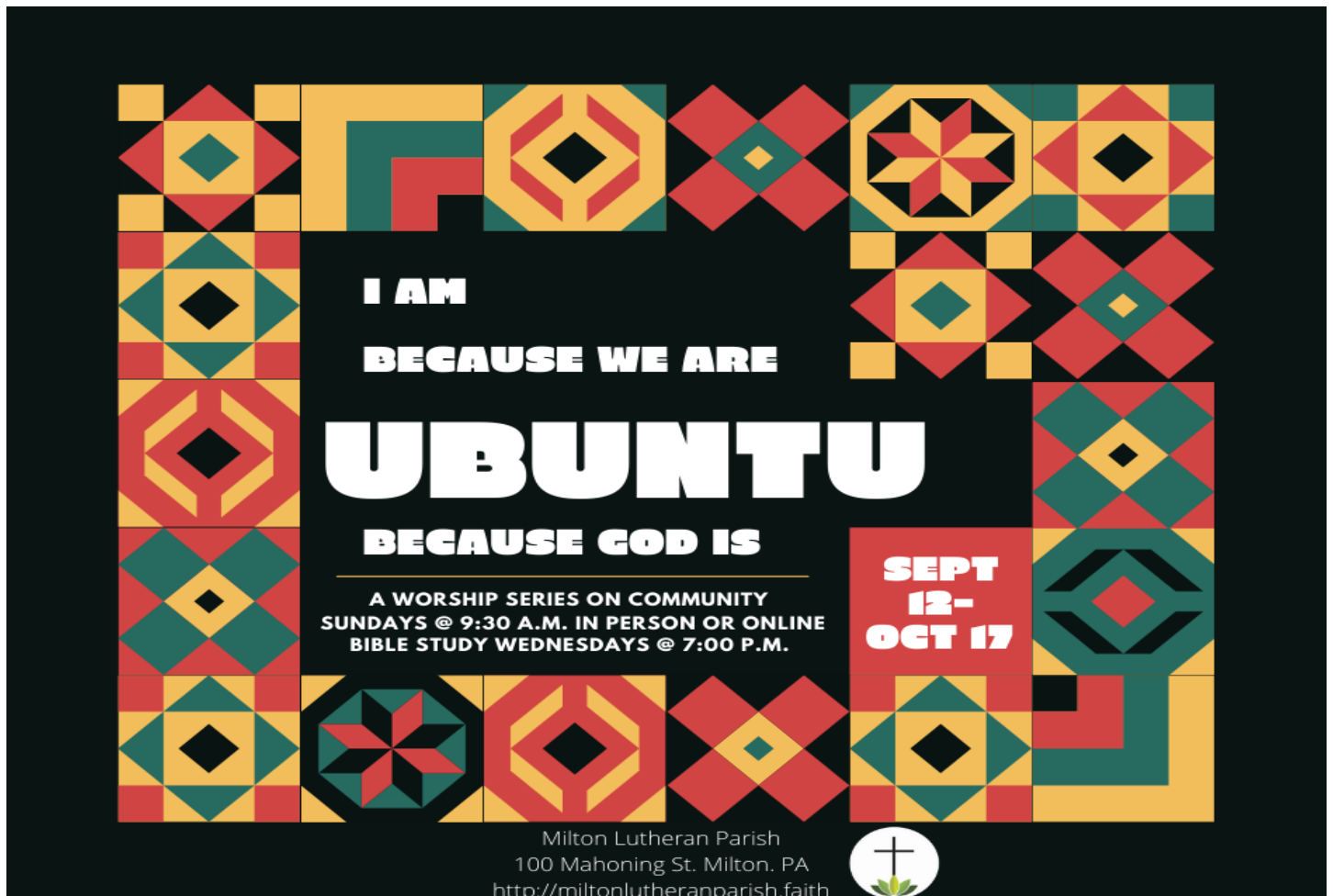
To keep things simple, we will be meeting at United In Christ until we are able to help establish a routine for our teens. Following our first youth group time there will be brief meeting for parents that will start at 7:30 P.M.

[Upcoming Meetings & Events](#)

Thursday, Oct 7 at 7:00 P.M Ministry Team Meetings

Our next ministry team meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7nd at 7:00 P.M. We will gather all the groups together in the fellowship hall then break into our individual ministry teams after that. If you are not a member of a team but are interested in joining you are most welcome to come to our meeting time.

Ubuntu Worship Series




**I AM
BECAUSE WE ARE
UBUNTU
BECAUSE GOD IS**

A WORSHIP SERIES ON COMMUNITY
SUNDAYS @ 9:30 A.M. IN PERSON OR ONLINE
BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 P.M.

**SEPT
12-
OCT 17**

Milton Lutheran Parish
100 Mahoning St. Milton. PA
<http://miltonlutheranparish.faith>



Our worship series, Ubuntu starts continues. Join us as we spend some time learning from South African culture about how to better live with one another in community. The series will be for six weeks. There are a few different ways you can participate.

1. Worship- the sermon and scripture text will focus on a different concept of Ubuntu each week.
2. Bible Study- Our bible study group meets on Wed. nights at 7pm starting on Sept. 15th. The group will use the book, "Everyday Ubuntu"
3. Book Study- You can get your book from the church office or purchase it on your own. Even if you are not able to participate in the bible study group you can still read the book.

4. Online- We will continue to worship online, and you can join the bible study online. Contact the office for the Zoom link if you want to join the bible study online.



Sunday School 8:30 AM every Sunday in the Library. Kellie Brouse will be leading Sunday School for anyone that would like to attend.

Fellowship Hour have been temporarily suspended in an effort to stem the spread of the of Covid. We will let you know when we will be restarting the Fellowship Hour. It has been so much fun getting to chat with you all and sharing our time together as a congregation! We are looking forward to being able to hold them again soon!

Wednesday Bible Study

Begins, **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 P.M.** in the library. Pastor Gary will be leading bible study each week. We are continuing our study using the book "**Everyday Ubuntu**" by **Mungi Ngomane**. You can join us in person or online. If you want to join us online for Bible Study please let the church office know so we can send you the Zoom link.

Update on the Harvest Festival



The Harvest festival was such a fun event for us this year! As you may know we made fresh beignets. We made around 500 and actually sold out at the festival! Thank you to everyone who came out and tried our delicious treat. Also, a big **THANK YOU** to all who helped, from setting up the booth to coming in the night before and mixing the dough to frying, sell, and cleaning up! You all worked so hard and made this event a true success! We are so lucky to have people so dedicated to our Parish! I can't wait to see what we can accomplish next!

Sunday, Youth Group & Confirmation our first night of **Youth Group on Sunday, September 19th at 6:00pm!** The first formal **Confirmation class will then be Sunday, October 3rd at 5:00pm.** For a more in-depth description see the Milton Parish News section above.





Wednesday, December 1st, 2021 Blood Drive 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

The blood mobile will be at 1125 Mahoning St. They will be there and ready to accept blood donations from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Please stop by to give blood if you can. With so much going on in the world your donation is needed now more than ever. Next Blood drive will be February 2, 2022.

Sunday Oct 3rd -Blessing of the Animals from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

MILTON LUTHERAN PARISH

BRING YOUR PETS!

United In Christ Lutheran Church

Pet Blessing

Done in partnership with United In Christ Lutheran Church and the Milton Lutheran Parish. Come anytime between 6-7 P.M. Look for our tent when you arrive. Donations of pet food and supplies are being accepted for the Danville SPCA

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
6:00 P.M.- 7:00 P.M.**

**MILTON STATE PARK
205 PA-642, MILTON, PA**

All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man. God wants us to help animals if they need help. Every creature in distress has the same right to be protected.

St. Francis of Assisi

Join us on Sunday October 3rd from 6:00pm-7:00pm for our Blessing of the Animals on the island at Milton State Park. Together with Pr. Justin Lingenfelter and the community of faith at United In Christ Lutheran Church, we will gather to give thanks for the blessing of all God's creatures. Traditionally falling close to the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4th), this time will be an opportunity to give thanks for the creatures and critters in our own lives! All are invited to stop by the park any time in that hour window with their pet friends to receive a pet blessing! If Fido or Snowball can't make it, feel free to bring a collar, food bowl, or picture as we give thanks for the blessings they are in our lives! **In addition, we will be collecting pet food/litter/supplies that will be donated to the Danville SPCA as we seek to reciprocate the blessing that these critters provide in our lives! Come and see!**

“Love Was Born a King”

Bringing Hope for the Hopeless & Strength for the Broken

Created by Joel Lindsey and Jeff Bumgardner

Arranged and Orchestrated by Daniel Semsen

Performance: Sunday, December 12, 2021

7:00pm Saint Paul’s UCC

1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, Pa.

Rehearsals begin Sunday October 3, 2021 @ 2:30pm

(\$10.00 donation requested to cover the book cost)

Also at Saint Paul’s UCC, 1125 Mahoning Street

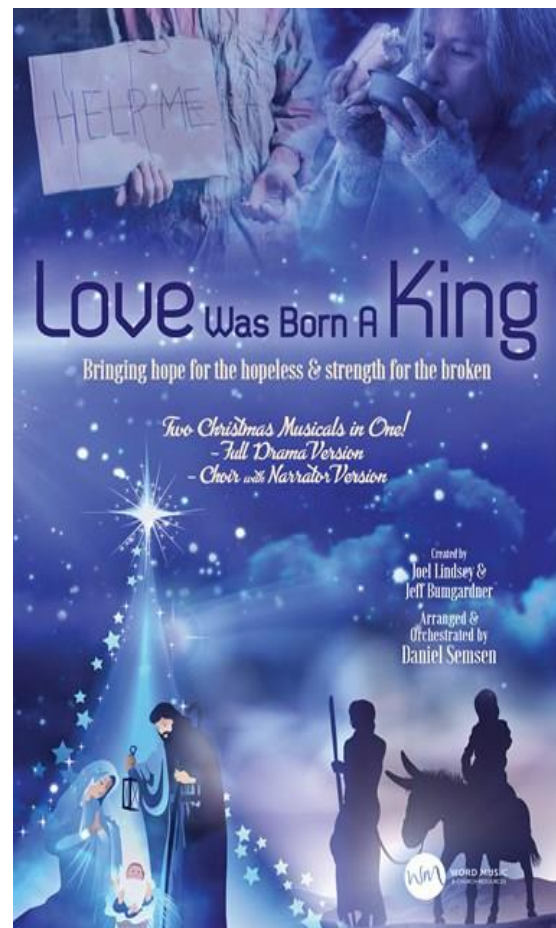
Join us! Anybody High school age to Senior Citizens is welcome!

***NEW TO THIS YEAR’S PRODUCTION:**

Don’t want to sing, but would like to act? In need of several adult or older teenage actors!

Questions? Contact Russ Wynn (570)490-5897

russlw@gmail.com



Sunday, October 10, 2021 - Community Meal at 5:00 PM In partnership with Bethany United



Methodist Church, The Milton Lutheran Parish & Saint Paul’s United Church of Christ. All meals will be provided as take out, either by drive up or walk up. Menu to be announced soon, so watch this section for more information

A Note From Our Outreach Team

The Outreach team would like to focus the month of October on Disaster Relief. While we all know there are disasters happening all around us, our main focus this month would be for those affected by Hurricane Ida in Louisiana. We are asking you to consider making a donation either via check/cash (marked specifically for disaster relief) in the offering plate or by reaching out to any member of the Outreach team. We will see that the funds are deposited and forwarded to the relief program set up through the ELCA for Hurricane Ida. I also am including a link if you would want to make a donation directly to them through the ELCA.

<https://community.elca.org/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=20e3e4c8-dde1-40b6-9dcd-1047cbcd5290&trid=20e3e4c8-dde1-40b6-9dcd-1047cbcd5290>

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Blessings, The Milton Lutheran Parish Outreach Team



Recipes from the Archives

These recipes are out of the cookbooks that each church created; these recipes were shared by members. Here are some recipes for some fall favorites! Enjoy! As we move forward we'd like to feature recipes from the current parish members as well. So if you have a recipe you'd like to share please submit it to info@miltonlutheranparish.faith. We look forward to seeing your new recipes!



Sour Cream Banana Bread

Shared by Sandy Trate

- 1/2 Cup Butter
- 1 1/2 Cup Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- 3 Large ripe Bananas – Mashed
- 1 Teaspoon Lemon Juice (fresh)
- 2 1/2 Cup Flour
- 1 Teaspoon Baking Soda
- 1 Teaspoon Salt
- 1 Cup Sour Cream
- **1 Cup Chopped Nuts (walnuts or almonds)
- ** Optional

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cream butter and sugar together, add eggs, vanilla, mashed bananas and Lemon juice. In a separate bowl mix flour, salt, and baking soda, then add the flour mixture to the Banana mixture alternating with adding in the sour cream, finally mix in the nuts (if using.) Do not over mix but, do make sure all the flour is well incorporated, you don't want uncooked clumps of flour in your finished bread. Pour batter into two greased loaf pans and bake at 350 degrees F for 45 – 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

Apple Cake

Shared By Joyce Fredrick

- 6 Large (Tart) Apples (sliced thicker than for pie)
- 5 Tablespoons White Sugar
- 2 Teaspoons Cinnamon
- Mix the above together well and set aside.

Then combine in a separate bowl:

- 3 Cups Flour
- 3 Teaspoons Baking Powder
- 2 Cups Sugar

Form a well in the flour and add to the well:

- 1 cup vegetable or a light olive oil
- 4 eggs
- 1/4 cup Orange Juice
- 2 1/2 teaspoons Vanilla

INSTRUCTIONS:

Grease an Angel Food cake pan (Bundt pan) and line with parchment paper, leaving an edge of paper at the top to help lift cake out when cooled. Alternate apple mixture and batter in about equal layers, until all is used. Bake at 350-degrees F about 75 minutes or until done. When cooling cake DO NOT turn upside down. This cake is wonderful with the top glaze recipe below!

TIP: The tarter the apples the better the cake will taste, so try some tart Granny Smiths for this recipe.

Glaze For Top -1/2 cup confectioners' sugar and 1/2 cup orange juice, heated until the sugar dissolves. Drizzle over completely cooled cake.

Please Join Us in Prayer For...

Kimberly Dill

Mary Ellen Bartholomew

Stephanie Byer & Family

Joanie Fisher

Ken Gaugler

Karen Smith

Patricia Muffly

Patsy Aunkst

Mary Lou Benshoff

Julie Benshoff

Gerald Greenly

Nancy Cochran

Doris Heffelfinger

Chole Henderson

Kathy Longenberger

Florence & Pete Ishler

Mae Jones

Terry Deaner



Please let the office know of anyone who needs added or can be removed from the monthly prayer list.

October Birthdays



10/2 Isaac Yost

10/5 Sharon Greiner

10/11 Deb Greenly

10/12 Rick Coup

10/13 Austin Mitch

10/14 Jared Moser

10/16 Rich Handy

10/21 Amy Solomon

10/26 Paul Stover

10/ 27 Craig Lawler

10/27 Norm Showers

10/31 Stephen Moll

Did we miss you on the birthday or anniversary list? Please let us know! Call the Parish office.

October Anniversaries



10/5 Wayne & Deb Liebscher- 13 years

10/12 Terry & Linda Valiquette – 59 years

10/15 Bean & Carol Yost - 38 years

10/21 Ron & Kathy Moser- 43 years

10/22 Charles & Kim Mitch – 26 years

10/24 Stephen & Shannon Moll – 6 years

Online Worship and Resources



Have you checked out our parish website recently? If you haven't, we hope you will take some time to visit the site. You can find worship service links, weekly bible studies, the church calendar, pictures, and resources to deepen your spiritual life. Feel free to invite others to stop by the website as well! <http://miltonlutheranparish.faith>

Milton Lutheran Parish Leadership Team	
Pastor	Gary Schaeffer
Parish Organist & Music Director	John Warfel
Parish Office Administrator	Robin A. McKean-Power
Digital Ministry Coordinator	Seth Reitz
Sexton/Custodian	Chuck Stahl
Treasurers	Rich Handy, Carol Yost, Craig Lawler, and Lorraine Lawler
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, Stephen Moll, 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
Parish 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

Parish 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

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:

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

Parish Office Administrator email: info@miltonlutheranparish.faith

Website: <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

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

Email or drop off bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.



Inspirational Thoughts:

“Notice how the trees do not cling to their leaves. Fall is about releasing the old to make way for the new.

Unknown Author

Be Like A Tree

Stay grounded.

Connect with your roots.

Turn over a new leaf.

Bend before you break.

Enjoy your unique beauty.

Keep growing.

Joanne Raptis

