



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / DECEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER

Fostering community through faith, love, and service

Where are We in the Strategic Planning Process?

Strategic Planning Team

The Strategic Planning Team met on December 8 with consultant Keith Johnson attending via Zoom. The SWOTT Analysis data is to be completed by December 29. The information gathered from the SWOTT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats & Trends) will help us identify the strengths of MLC's ministry and areas in which we can improve and expand. The feedback will help us to; identify the needs and opportunities for ministry within the Milton community, identify current trends and changes taking place in ministry, identify any underlying issues that would pose a threat to MLC's ministry. Pastor Gary reported that several ministry teams and individuals have completed their analyses and submitted the information to CarolAnn. The responses from the 'God at the Core' questionnaires are also being compiled and incorporated into the data gathered.

The deadline for the Community Assessment Research is January 9th. Team members are conducting interviews with community leaders associated with various organizations and agencies which provide services within the Milton community. The team is using a detailed questionnaire during the interview process that focuses on the needs within Milton and how we could partner with the organizations in order to carry out our mission. It was noted that several organizations have been added to the contact list and volunteers are being asked to help complete this task.

The Facility Assessment Team held an organizational meeting December 9th with consultant Keith Johnson joining via Zoom. The group also met on Dec. 13th with an architect to discuss both facilities.

A Visioning Retreat will be held January 17th and 18th for all those involved in the ministries of MLC. The focus of the retreat is to take the data and information gathered from the 'God at the Core' questions, SWOTT Analysis, Community Assessment Research and draft a long-range strategic vision for MLC as well as to establish the goals for ministry. Our consultant, Keith Johnson, will be in attendance for the weekend retreat and help facilitate the activities. Keith will also conduct a walk-through of both buildings with members of the Facilities Assessment Team.

A tentative schedule for the retreat was developed and will be implemented by Keith, Pastor Gary and ministry team members.

The next Strategic Planning Team meeting will be held January 6th via Zoom at 7:00 pm. Cottage Meetings will begin in March with the date to be determined.

Cindy Coup

Chairperson

Community Assessment Team

The Community Assessment Team is diligently working on our interviews with many community leaders from this area. Karen, Linwood, and I, along with several others from our congregation continue to reach out to gather as much information related to how we can work together with all of these various organizations. We hope to find ways that we can continue to obtain growing ministry partnerships and connect the broader community. We are not just a building of people worshipping together weekly to provide the needs of just our church family.

As we work to finish up our interviews we will meet in early January to combine all of our interview results to share with everyone.

We are excited about how this information will help us to grow and become an icon of Milton and the surrounding area.

Blessings,

Carol (chair), Linwood, Karen

June 25'

Strategic Plan Launch

May 25'

Strategic Planning Retreat

March-April 25'

Cottage Meetings

January- March 25'

Facilities Assessment

January 25'

Visioning Retreat

November 24' - January 25'

Train Teams, Community Assessment

September -October 24'

Recruit Teams, God @ the

Core Worship Series



Listening for God Planning for the Future



Together in Faith

Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports

Fellowship Team

In December we participated in 2 events, both with United in Christ and Christ Lutheran.

Beers and Carols was held for the 2nd year at the Rusty Rail Brewing Company on December 4th, where approximately 40 attended.

The Christmas craft workshop was held on December 7th and was also well attended.

January and February events are being planned and our team is actively looking to recruit new members!

Ruth Scott

Outreach Team

The Outreach team has had a busy start to December. So far this month, the team has hosted several community outreach opportunities. Presents were gathered for the Angel Tree this year, to support 8 families from November 17th until December 1st. The Outreach team sorted the presents during their monthly meeting on December 5th, so they could be delivered to Baugher Elementary on December 9th. The team organized, prepared, and delivered 100 meals for residents at the Milton Towers and Milton Developmental Services. Self-Care Sanctuary and Happy Tails pantries also occurred on December 1st and were awarded two one-time donations from organizations in the community. The Susquehanna Valley Corvette Club donated \$500.00 to be used towards purchasing items for the pantry. Service 1st Federal Credit Union in Montandon donated \$2,500.00 through their Magic of the Season program. Service First has also offered to host a donation drive in the fall of 2025 to help collect items for the pantries.

Steph Byers

Hiking Group

The MLC Hiking Group had the last hike of the season on Friday, November 29th, Black Friday. Everyone must have been shopping as there were just two of us on the hike to Snyder-Middleswarth Natural Area. This 4.4 mile, moderate difficulty hike is often referred to as "Tall Timbers". Just as we started the hike a light snow started to fall. It was a beautiful hike, but it is sad to see a large portion of the majestic, old growth hemlocks dying, dead, or on the ground.

There will not be any "scheduled" hikes during January or February, but that does not mean we won't be hiking. For these two months the hikes will be announced just a few days in advance depending on the weather. If you are not currently on our email "hiking friends" list, but you want to be notified about the hikes, please contact Jeff Coup, jeffcoup@verizon.net or 570-412-1436 and ask to be added.

Facilities Utilization Team

The Facilities Utilization Team held our first organizing meeting on December 9 with our consultant joining by zoom.

We discussed our action plan and the activities that could begin now and the future activities that would follow the January retreat when input from the other teams is received.

We agreed to begin with a commercial appraisal of both buildings. Team members are interviewing appraisal companies and expect to have a recommendation to Council in a few weeks.

The other task is to prepare a study of the current state of both buildings and rough costs to make any repairs or upgrades. Members of our team met with an architect who has worked on several projects at 100 Mahoning and have asked him to prepare a proposal outlining his costs and timeline that can be presented to Council in January.

The study is to include:

1. Items needing immediate attention, such as:

100 Mahoning-

Sanctuary air conditioning

Exterior brick waterproofing

Replace concrete caps on wall above the east entrance

1125 Mahoning-

HVAC repairs / replacement

2. Items nice to have, such as:

100 Mahoning-

Add air conditioning to social hall

Repair water damaged plaster and repaint
sanctuary

Pave grass parking lot

1125 Mahoning-

Renovate and expand kitchen

Upgrade lighting in sanctuary and social
hall to LED

3. Items to meet community needs survey (to
come after January)

This list is just a starting point and will change after hiring an architect and conducting a detailed inspection of both buildings.

Don

We wanted to say a special word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to this campaign so far. **We have raised \$25,530.** Due to some unexpected expenses that have come up this year our Church Council has decided to conduct a special appeal to help offset the cost for the purchase of a new steam boiler, reseal the parking lot at 100 Mahoning St., moving expenses, and fixing the air conditioning at 1125 Mahoning St. We invite you to make a contribution to help cover these expenses. You can do so by making a contribution through your regular giving or make a contribution online through Tithe.ly. Please just be sure to place 'Moving Forward Campaign' in the memo line.



January 5th
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

Illustrations of various self-care items: a tube of toothpaste, a bar of soap, a bottle of shampoo, a bottle of deodorant, and a razor.

For the month of January, we are requesting donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste.

We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!



Pub Theology will be meeting at the Arrowhead Bar on January 9th at 7pm! We hope you join us for this opportunity for fellowship!!



Fidget Quilt is an event where we will gather to make small, lap quilts with fidgeting items on them for people who have Alzheimer's to keep their hands busy.

We are looking for people to help who are willing to cut, sew, and generally lend a hand to our creating of these quilts.

We are gathering on Wednesday January 8th from 1pm until 3pm.

Contact Connie Stover if you have any questions.



Our next meeting of Faith Lab is on January 12th at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church (100 N. 3rd St. Lewisburg, PA 17837). From 4pm-6pm. Free family dinner. Register above via the QR code.



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 January 5th.

A flyer for 'Milton Lutheran Church' with a light blue and yellow background. The church's name and address '1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA' are at the top. The main title 'MOVERS & SHAKERS' is in large, bold, black letters, with 'SENIOR'S GROUP' below it. The date and time 'TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST 10:30AM - 12:30PM' are listed. Three black boxes with white text contain the words 'MEAL', 'CONVERSATION', and 'BINGO'.

A flyer for 'Fellowship Hour' with a white background and black text. The title 'FELLOWSHIP HOUR' is in a black box. Below it, 'SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH & 26TH' is in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom, 'FOLLOWING WORSHIP' is in a black box, and 'In our fellowship hall.' is to its right. Three chocolate chip cookies are placed around the text.

Bible Study "Breakfast Club" will begin on January 7th at May's in Milton! We will be meeting there from 9am to 10:30am every Tuesday in January.

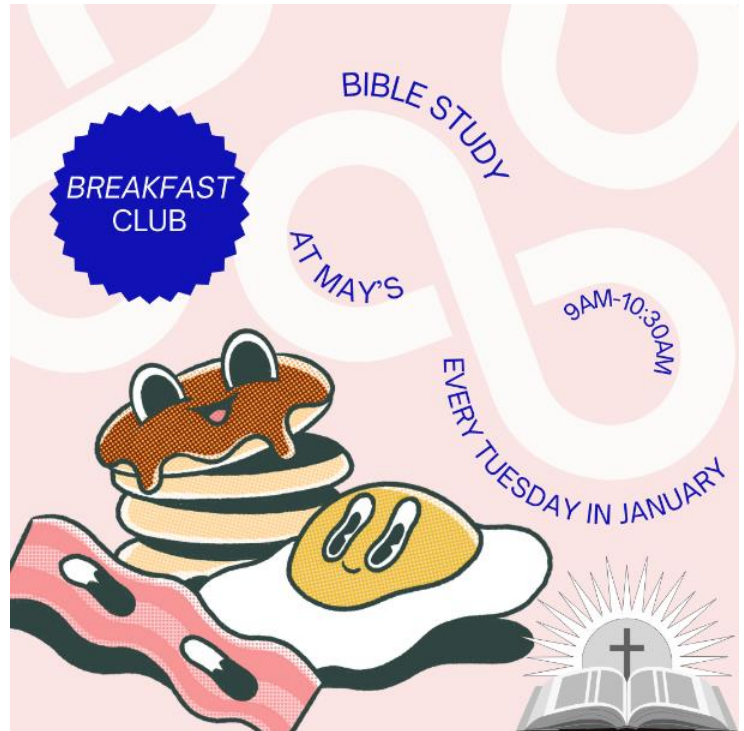
Our first meeting will be focusing on passages:

Acts 8:14-17

Psalm 29

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Look to the weekly announcements for the focus readings for each week.



MLC's Outreach Team is running a fundraiser on Feb 8th and 9th. We are requesting volunteers to help make soup on February 8th from 8am-12pm, and then volunteers to help sell the soup on February 9th. If you are able to help, please contact Steph.

Announcements from Our Friends



Service-Learning Camp Mission Trip is for 6th-12th graders. The trip will take the kids to Toledo, Ohio from July 20th-26th 2025. It will cost \$425 per person.

Some possible projects during this trip will be: building beds, cleaning streams, community gardens, building picnic tables, and working at food banks.

The kids will learn about and experience serving people, interacting with the community. There will also be chances to hike, kayak/canoe, swim, and more.

We will be staying at a church and making most meals there.

Youth who want to go need to pay a deposit of \$100 by Easter.

You can contact the office for more information if interested.

Beat the Winter Blues Bingo



Saturday, January 11

@7:00 pm.

at Christ's Lutheran Church

Everyone, please bring a
"wrapped" gift up to a \$5.00
value and a snack to share.



Come and have fun. Everyone is a winner!

At Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, they will be hosting a "Beat the Winter Blues Bingo" Event! All are welcome to join! It's on Saturday January 11th at 7pm. All invited are asked to bring a wrapped gift of an up to \$5 value. We hope you come and join the fun!



WED, JAN 1	Office Closed
THU, JAN 2	5:30pm Getting Ahead 7pm Outreach Team Meeting
SUN, JAN 5	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11:30 Self-Care Sanctuary and Pet Pantry
MON, JAN 6	6pm Boy Scouts
TUE, JAN 7	9am Breakfast Club Bible Study at May's Drive-In 10am TOPS
WED, JAN 8	LifeLine Screening 6pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts
THU, JAN 9	1pm Worship Team Meeting 5:30pm Getting Ahead 7pm Pub Theology
SUN, JAN 12	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour 11am Fellowship Team Meeting 4pm Faith Lab
MON, JAN 13	6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, JAN 14	9am Breakfast Club Bible Study at May's Drive-In 10am TOPS
WED, JAN 15	6pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts
THU, JAN 16	5:30pm Getting Ahead
FRI, JAN 17	5:30pm Leadership Visioning Retreat
SAT, JAN 18	9am Leadership Visioning Retreat
SUN, JAN 19	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice
MON, JAN 20	6pm Boy Scouts 7pm Council Meeting
TUE, JAN 21	9am Breakfast Club Bible Study at May's Drive-In 10am TOPS 10:30am Movers and Shakers
WED, JAN 22	6pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts
THU, JAN 23	5:30pm Getting Ahead
SUN, JAN 26	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour
MON, JAN 27	6pm Boy Scouts
TUE, JAN 28	9am Breakfast Club Bible Study at May's Drive-In 10am TOPS

WED, JAN 29

Red Cross Blood Drive

6pm Bell Choir

6pm Boy Scouts

THU, JAN 30

5:30pm Getting Ahead

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