



# MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Fostering Community through Faith, Love & Service*

**JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

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:

*John and Judy Farr*

**IN MEMORY OF FARR AND  
COLLINS FAMILY**

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 Asst:** Cindy Coup

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

**Greeters:** Linwood Hill and Clyde Drumheller

**Communion Asst:** Connie Stover and Helen Billhime

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

BAPTISMAL SONG: "All Are Welcome"

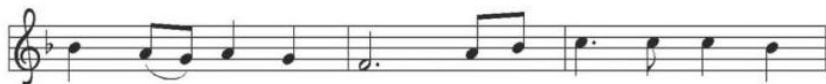
# All Are Welcome



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.***

In baptism, we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection. We are washed in God's mercy, sealed by the Spirit, and called beloved Children of God. Yet we confess that we do not always live as people of grace. Let us return to the waters of life, confessing our sins and trusting God's promise.

***Brief silence for reflection***

*God of Life, we confess that we forget we belong to you. We turn from your ways, we fail to love our neighbors, and we doubt your power to make all things new. Forgive us, O God. Wash us again in your grace. Renew in us the joy of baptism, so that we may rise to serve you in freedom. Amen.*

Hear the good news. By Water and the Spirit, you are buried with Christ and raised to new life. In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. You are made clean, renewed and sent to shine with the light of Christ.

*Thanks be to God! Amen!*

**HYMN: "WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE"**

## We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

### *Refrain*



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE READING: Galatians 5:13-26

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit



the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

## SERMON: “Stars and Fruit”

## HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 482 “I Come with Joy”

### Prayers of Intercession

God of hope, we come to you with the needs of the world on our hearts.

When faith feels fragile and the church feels uncertain, remind us why you called us in the first place—to love, to serve, and to tell the truth about your grace. Help us follow Jesus not just in what we say, but in how we live.

God of mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for a world that feels divided and tense. For places marked by war, violence, and fear, bring relief and a way forward. Give wisdom and humility to leaders at every level, and courage to choose what is right over what is easy.

God of mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We lift up all who are living with uncertainty—those displaced by

conflict, impacted by natural disasters, struggling with rising costs, or unsure how they will make it through the week. Be close to them. Help them find support, and help us be part of that support. God of mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for people dealing with illness, grief, mental health challenges, or exhaustion. For those waiting for answers, facing hard treatments, or feeling worn down—hold them with your healing presence. We name before you those on our hearts now. God of mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for a world groaning under stress—extreme weather, pollution, and loss of life. Teach us to care for creation in ways that reflect your love for everything you have made. God of mercy, *hear our prayer.*

### **For this community:**

Bless this congregation and our neighbors. Show us where you are already at work, and invite us to join you. Give us eyes to notice who is missing, courage to reach out, and grace to love without conditions. God of mercy, *hear our prayer.*

God, we place all these prayers—spoken and unspoken—into your hands, trusting that you are already at work in ways we cannot yet see. *Amen*

**ELW 692 “We Are an Offering”**

# We Are An Offering

ELW 692

Words and Music by  
Dwight Liles

G<sup>7</sup> C Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>(add2)</sup> C/E  
 We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our  
 4 Fmaj<sup>7</sup> C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> G C Dm<sup>7</sup>  
 lives up to You: we are an of-fer-ing Lord, use our voic - es, Lord, use our  
 7 Em<sup>7</sup> C/E F C<sup>(add2)</sup> B<sup>b</sup> G<sup>7</sup>  
 hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours: we are an of-fer-ing.  
 10 Em<sup>7</sup> A Dm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>7</sup> Am  
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we  
 13 Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>(add2)</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Dm G<sup>7</sup>  
 give to you, we give to you. We lift our  
 16 C Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>(add2)</sup> C/E Fmaj<sup>7</sup> C/E  
 voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You: we are an  
 19 Dm<sup>7</sup> G C Dm<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>7</sup> C/E  
 of-fer-ing Lord, use our voic - es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
 22 F C<sup>(add2)</sup> B<sup>b</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C  
 lives, they are Yours: we are an of-fer-ing. We are an of-fer-ing.

## 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**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

By ALBERT H. MALOTTE

SLOWLY

B $\flat$  F/B $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$ 6 Fsus F

OUR FA - THER WHICH ART IN HEAV-EN,

7 B $\flat$ /D G $\flat$  Cm7 F7sus F7 B $\flat$ (ADD2) B $\flat$

HAL-LOW - ED BE \_\_\_\_\_ THY NAME.

12 G $\flat$  G $\flat$ 9 Gdim7 D $\flat$  G $\flat$  Cm/G C7/G D

THY KING-DOM COME; THY WILL BE DONE \_\_\_\_

17 N.C. G $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$ /F F7sus B $\flat$ sus B $\flat$

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAV - EN.

23 E $\flat$ /B $\flat$  B $\flat$ E $\flat$ /B $\flat$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G Cm/G F7 B $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G B $\flat$ /F E $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D G $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ /G F7

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAI - LY


30 B $\flat$  G $\flat$ 6 G $\flat$ 6/D G $\flat$ 6/B $\flat$  Asus A E $\flat$ 7( $\flat$ 5)/A A

BREAD, AND FOR-GIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE \_\_\_\_ FOR-GIVE OUR DEBT-ORS.

35 *Em7(b5)/A A N.C. Bb Eb sus2/G Eb/G*




AND LEAD US NOT IN-TO TEMP-TA - TION, BUT DE-

39 C7/G F(Add2)/A Dm/A F7/E $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$ 6  
  
 LIV - ER US FROM E - VIL. FOR THINE IS THE KING - DOM AND THE

43 C7/E E $\flat$ M/G $\flat$  G $\flat$ + E $\flat$ M6/G $\flat$  B $\flat$ /F C $\flat$ /F F7  
POW - ER AND THE GLO - RY FOR - EV -

47 N.C. E $\flat$ 6 B $\flat$ MAJ7 Cm7/F F7 B $\flat$  E $\flat$ 6



ER. FOR THINE IS THE KING-DOM AND THE

51 C7/E E $\flat$ M/G G $\sharp$ + E $\flat$ M6/G B $\flat$ /F CM7 N.C. CM CM7/F F7  
POW-ER AND THE GLO - RY FOR - EV - ER. A -

56 *F7sus Eb/G Bb/F Eb Bb7sus2/D Bb7/D N.C. Eb/G Bb/F Eb6 Bb*  
A TEMPO

- *MEN!*

# 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

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## COMMUNION SONG: "I Am the Bread of Life"



# I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "The bread that I will give  
2 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat  
3 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,  
4 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve  
5 You who is my the that . . .

come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -  
flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you  
flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .  
I . . . am the life . . . If you be -  
you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -  
drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . and . . .  
lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you  
Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . .

*Refrain*  
All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day."

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6  
Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM  
Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com), 800.442.3358.  
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## 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.*

**COMMUNION SONG: ACS “Guide My Feet”**

## Guide My Feet

Leader

All

1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

## BLESSING

May the God of creation bless our community, may Jesus the Savior open our hearts to all, may the Holy Spirit empower us with faith, creativity, and stewardship to live and serve as people of God now and forever.

*Amen*

## HYMN: ELW 303 “Brightest and Best of the Stars”

## 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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# Church Office Hours

Monday- Thursday

12:00 P.M.- 5:00 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)

Website- <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

# Prayer Requests

## **PRAYER LIST**

DIANNE PERRIN  
RUTH GREENLY  
TAD HAMPTON  
JUDY FARR  
CINDY KOPYSCIANSKI  
SUSAN EVANS  
KAREN MARTELLO  
VALERIE BARNWELL  
KAREN ARRANTS  
JUDY COUP  
TRUDY FISHER  
GLEN DEWIRE  
CUFF GREINER  
DONNA FREDERICK  
LINDA VALIQUETTE  
ERNIE DELP III

## **HOMEBOUND**

MARY BILLHIME  
MARY AND MELVIN CRIST  
HELEN NAPP  
BARB ASHENFELDER  
CHARLIE STIGERWALT

