



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

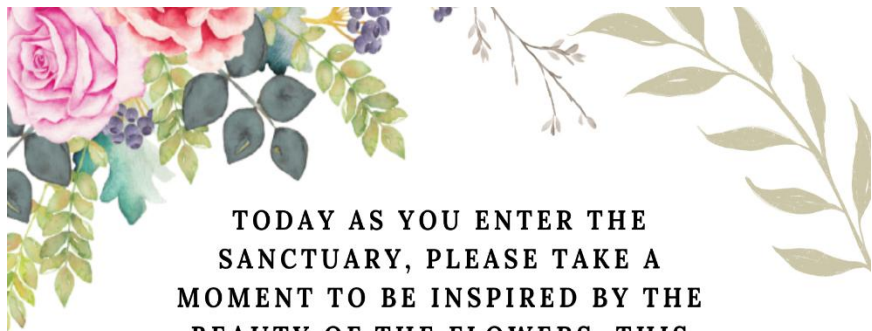
Fostering Community through Faith, Love & Service



CONTEMPORARY

DECEMBER 21ST 2025

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.



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:

Peggy Buck

IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

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: Lynnette Weisner

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Chuck Stahl and Helen Billhime

Communion Assistant: Kevin and Alison Metzger

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.

We are delighted to welcome our new members into the family of Milton Lutheran Church! This week, we celebrate **Lindsey Fidler, Guy Mensch, William Warfield, Gabriel Schaeffer, Stina Schaeffer, Ellie Schaeffer, Cheyenne Loesser, Sandy Loesser, Judson Loesser, and Jill Moser** who are joining Milton Lutheran Church!

GATHERING SONG

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

GREETING

SONG: Days of Elijah

Verse 1

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days
Of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days
Of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice
In the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call

So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

Verse 2

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days
Of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the laborers
In Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Bridge

There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah (hey)

HYMN: ELW 257 "O Come O Come Emmanuel" (Verses 1-4)

OPENING PRAYER

Good Lord, by your mercy
guide our outward actions in such ways
that our inward being is formed

in faith, hope, and love.

May the decorations we offer

engage our senses during the days of Advent

and enliven our praise and worship,

in the name of the child of Bethlehem,

our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Lindsey Fidler, Guy Mensch, William Warfield, Gabriel Schaeffer, Stina Schaeffer, Ellie Schaeffer, Cheyenne Loesser, Sandy Loesser, Judson Loesser, and Jill Moser. One with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

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 Lindsey, Guy, William, Gabriel, Stina, Ellie, Cheyenne, Sandy, Judson, and Jill in *their* life in Christ?

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

Let us Pray- We give you thanks for *our new members* 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. **AMEN**

Let us welcome *these sisters and brothers* in Christ to this community of faith.

SERMON: “Gifted by Grace”

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 3:21-31

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through

what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of gentiles also? Yes, of gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one, and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law through this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

SONG: Shine Jesus Shine

Verse 1

Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light

Verse 2

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood, I may enter Your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light

PRAYERS

(Lyrics) Lord Listen to your children praying, Lord send your spirit in this place, Lord listen to your children praying, Send us love, Send us power, send us grace.

Let us open our hearts and minds and lift our prayers together trusting that God not only hears our prayers, but through the Holy Spirit, works to make us whole.

God of forgiveness, each of us comes before you today with heavy hearts. We have all done and said things that we shouldn't have. We have fallen short of your call to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask that your grace be known to us now so that we can know your mercy, and through your love, be released from sin. ***Lord Listen to your Children Praying...***

God of comfort and strength. Help all those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit. Heal the wounded and the afflicted. Comfort us in our grief, sickness, and pain. Let us be reminded that you walk alongside us every day of our lives and that your love sustains us. We pause now to lift our worries to you. ***Lord Listen to your Children Praying...***

God of joy and thanksgiving. There is so much in the world that we have to be thankful for. For the gift of life, for creation, family and friends, and this community of faith Oh God. We give you

thanks. We pause now to lift our thanksgivings to you. *Lord Listen to your Children Praying....*

God of life. You call us out into the world as followers of Christ so that others may experience your love. Guide our comings and goings and give us the strength to share your good news with everyone, whether that be through our words or actions. *Lord Listen to your Children Praying...*

COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.*

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION SONG

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|------|-------|------|----------|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Break | now | the | bread | of | Christ's | sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing |
| 2 | Seek | not | the | food | that | will | pass a - way; | set your |
| 3 | Love | as | the | one | who, | in | love for you, | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell | in | the | one | who | now | dwells in you; | make your |
| 5 | Drink | of | this | cup | and | de - | clare his death; | eat this |



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en -	dures.	Come,	learn	the	true
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one
home	in	the	life -	giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly	
bread	and	be -	lieve	Eas -	ter	morn;	trust	his	re -	turn
									and,	with



Refrain

sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres -	ence	the	loaves	will	a -	bound.
liv - ing	way,	that	the	full -	ness	of	life	may	be
food	for	you,	that	your	hun -	ger	and	thirst	be
One	of	God,	and	be -	lieve	in	the	truth	you
ev - 'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are	re -
									born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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COMMUNION BLESSING

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*

SONG: Soon and Very Soon

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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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

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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

Milton Lutheran Church

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Office E-mail- office@miltonlutheranchurch.org

Pastor E-mail- pastor@miltonlutheranchurch.org

Website- <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

Prayer Requests

PRAYER LIST

DIANNE PERRIN
RUTH GREENLY
TAD HAMPTON
JUDY FARR
CINDY KOPYSKIANSKI
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

