

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER



MILTON
Lutheran Church

*Fostering community through
faith, love and service.*

OFFICE LOCATION

Milton Lutheran Church

100 Mahoning Street, Milton PA 17847

Office Phone: 570-742-4601

Office email: office@miltonlutheranchurch.org

Church website: <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	1pm - 6pm
Tuesday	2pm - 6pm
Wednesday	1pm - 6pm
Thursday	1pm - 6pm
Friday	Closed

PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 10am - 3pm

*Please call the office to reserve time
to speak with Pastor Gary.*



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- WED, JUN. 1 BIBLE STUDY**
Last one until fall
- THU, JUN. 2 SUMMER DAY CAMP MEETING**
10am meeting on Zoom
- SUN, JUN. 5 PENTECOST SUNDAY**
Don't forget to wear red!
- GRADUATION SUNDAY**
Recognition of our graduates.
- WED, JUN. 15 RSVP DEADLINE**
For the Church Dedication
- THU, JUN. 16 MEAL FOR GETTING AHEAD**
Sign-up sheet in main entry
- FRI, JUN. 17 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**
- SAT, JUN. 18 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**
- THU, JUN. 23 MEAL FOR GETTING AHEAD**
Sign-up sheet in main entry
- SUN, JUN. 26 DEDICATION OF THE
MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH**
- MON, JUN. 27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Church,

Recently a member of our congregation handed me a slip of paper. With a smile on his face he shared, "I was going to give this to you to see if I could stump the chump during worship but thought better of it and decided to give you some time to respond."

I opened the slip of paper and read his question and I can say that I was grateful he spared me the embarrassment of fumbling through an answer in front of everyone!

What was the question? "How did God create things like poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac?"

What a great question! Of course, questions like this one have been around for thousands of years. Even in biblical times people were asking questions like this. "If God created everything then why did God create things that could do us harm?" Or another way to ask the same question... "If God loves everyone without exception, then why did create things that could do us harm?"

The short answer is I don't really know...And that is probably the answer you would have heard from me during our 'stump the chump' at worship.

The longer answer is it's complicated...Scholars, theologians, disciples of Christ, philosophers have been tackling these kinds of questions for a long time. You can read books upon books on this issue. Many sermons have been preached about it, mine included in that list.

To start, I think we can all agree that God has created everything, this of course includes things like poison ivy. The second piece of this equation is that God loves us, unconditionally. The question becomes, if we believe that God loves us unconditionally than why does God allow bad things to happen. Or, to phrase it differently, if we believe that God loves us unconditionally than why does God make bad things happen.

My answer would be that I don't believe God allows or causes bad things to happen. I don't think God wants us to have an allergic reaction, to suffer, experience bad things, etc... The unfortunate reality is that bad things do happen to us and others. Now, I know what you are thinking. If this is the case, then how can God be in control, or how can God be all powerful? For me, God's control and power doesn't come from God's ability to allow or not allow something to happen. Instead, God's control and power comes through God's unmeasurable love.

You see, it's not that God can or can't allow something to happen, it is that in the midst of bad things God is loving us. As a child, when I would get poison ivy I remember the loving touch of my mother putting calamine lotion on me. Or the snuggles I would get. I remember the doctor that would give me the medication to help take the pain away. God's power and control is in the love. In my mother, in my doctor, in the chemist who found a way to minimize the effects of the reaction, that's where God is.

So, to the person who handed me the slip of paper a few days back, thank you! Thanks for giving me the time to wrestle with one of life's toughest questions. I hope in my wrestling that I've given each of you the opportunity to explore this aspect of our faith and relationship with God once again.



Don't forget to wear red!

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

On Sunday, June 5th we will be recognizing all of our graduates during worship. Do you have a graduate in your home? Please contact the church office and give them your graduate's information so we can place it in the bulletin. Graduates are also encouraged to attend worship on June 5th for a special time of prayer.





SHARING OUR TABLES

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

A ministry partnership of Milton and West Milton congregations.



On May 15 we served almost 250 meals!

Thank you to everyone that helped by donating ingredients for the meal, helping move food over to 1125 Mahoning, prepping, cooking, serving, and helping to clean up!



JOIN US!

BROUGHT TOGETHER THROUGH FAITH

DEDICATION OF THE MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 26TH STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

- WORSHIP -

- DEDICATION OF NEW MEMBERS -

- CHURCH COUNCIL INSTALLATION -

- DEDICATION OF NEW FONT -

- CATERED MEAL @ 5:00 P.M. -



The dedication of the Milton Lutheran Church will be on Sunday, June 26th starting at 3:00 P.M. Invitations have been sent.

*Please be sure to RSVP
by June 15th.*

This joyous celebration will be the culmination of many years of faithfulness and discernment. Worship will begin with special music at 3:00 P.M.

We dedicate our new church, install our new Church Council, welcome new members, and dedicate our new baptismal font. Special guests, former staff, and Pastors of our founding congregations are invited to attend as well. Following worship we will have a catered meal downstairs in the fellowship hall.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On the 26th we will hold a Congregational Meeting directly after our 9:30am worship. At the meeting we will be voting on our new constitution for Milton Lutheran Church, as well as voting on new council members.

Copies of the constitution are available at the church, please ask a greeter for one. You can also view it on our website at www.miltonlutheranchurch.org.

A formal list of nominees for council will be shared at a later date and nominations will be open during the meeting.

Congratulations to Doug Bergenstock who was recognized as the Venturing Leader of the Year by the Susquehanna Council! Our congregation sponsors the Venturing Crew 2605 which is a co-ed scouting unity in the Susquehanna Valley.



OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER!

Help Support the "Getting Ahead Foundation"

Volunteers and donations are needed to help prepare meals for the Getting Ahead Foundation in June.

Thursday, June 16th 4:00 P.M.

Cheesy Baked Chicken and Potato Casserole

Steamed Broccoli

Salad

Thursday, June 23rd 4:00 P.M.

Glazed Ham

Green Beans

Macaroni and Cheese

Salad

***Please sign-up in the
main entryway of the church
to donate food or to
volunteer to cook.***





Upper Susquehanna Synod

United as Christ's Disciples, we Support one another and Serve God in the world

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will take place on June 17th and 18th. Please keep the Synod and all of its congregations and delegates in your prayers as they discuss business and vote on the new Synod Bishop.

DID YOU KNOW?

At both entrances of the sanctuary you'll find daily devotionals, offering envelopes, and the monthly Living Lutheran magazine. Please help yourself!



IN MEMORIAM

Polly DeHart
December 25, 1928 - April 12, 2022

Dottie Brouse
September 24, 1925 - April 12, 2022

Mary Lou Benshoff
June 21, 1934 - May 25, 2022

MLC PRAYER LIST

family and friends of Mary Lou Benshoff, Joanie Fisher, Ken Gaugler, Rose & Terry Deaner, Mary Billhime, Ed Coup, Patsy & Jack Aunkst, Julie Benshoff, Gerald Greenly, Jim Seidel & Family, Mary Ann Solomon, Nancy Cochran & Family.



Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

If you know someone who needs to be added or removed from the prayer list, please call the church office at 570-742-4601 or email at office@miltonlutheranchurch.org.



HAPPY *Anniversary*

Paul and Connie Stover 6/6/70

David and Marilyn Keiser 6/8/68

Andrew and Judith McNeal 6/19/88

Craig and Lorraine Lawler 6/21/74

Ken and Bonnie Gaugler 6/22/68

Todd and Laura Beck 6/26/69

Seth and Heather Reitz 6/27/98

Chuck and Rosie Bingaman 6/28/59

Edward and Penny Coup 6/28/75



Happy Birthday

Lauren Byers 6/2

Terri Bastian 6/4

Nancy Walters 6/5

Tonya Wargo 6/5

Robert Byers 6/10

Dave Keiser 6/12

Linea Brouse 6/13

Morgan Solomon 6/13

Grace Hubler 6/14

Krista Yaiko 6/17

Chris Coup 6/22

Rick Benschhoff 6/23

Seth Reitz 6/28

Lorraine Lawler 6/29



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office with these dates.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

We are excited to share that we will be doing a Summer Day Camp in partnership with United In Christ Lutheran Church and Camp Mount Luther! This is open to grades K-5. It will be 9am-3pm, with lunch and snacks provided. Feel free to invite friends and relatives.

This is completely free!



Camp Mount Luther staff will be helping each day!

You can register online here
www.myvbs.org/miltonlutheranchurches

We will need volunteers to help supervise children, prepare meals, oversee games, crafts, and music. Please let the office or Pastor Gary know if you'd like to help!

SUMMER CAMP AT CML



*Can you believe summer is
right around the corner?!*

Registration for summer camp at Camp Mount Luther is open. For more information visit,
www.campmountluther.org/.

Need help paying for camp?

Please contact the church office, funds are available to support children and families wanting to attend camp!



**ELCA Young Adults
in Global Mission**

Dear Congregation,

First and foremost, I want to thank you all for your steadfast support, love, and kindness you have showed me throughout my life as a member of Milton Lutheran Church. I am writing to update you all that I have been selected to serve as Young Adult in Global Mission

(YAGM) for the ELCA. In early September, I will depart for Argentina/Uruguay and serve, live, and walk with my host community for 10 to 11 months. In June, I will find out more details on where exactly I will be living and what my service placement is. I am incredibly excited to have this opportunity to live my faith and thank you all for playing such a critical role in my faith journey and helping me to reach this point.

In case you are not familiar, YAGM is an international year of service for young adults to support the ministries and projects of the ELCA's global companions. As a volunteer, I will embark on a journey of self-reflection to consider my own identity, God's work in the world, and my place within it all. In the spirit of accompaniment, volunteers walk alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence, and solidarity. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and human rights, education, environmental justice, professional support, and congregational ministry. In our placements, my fellow volunteers and I will confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity, and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

When I applied for Young Adults in Global mission, I was initially hoping to use it as a backup plan in case my delayed Peace Corps service never came to fruition. But, after learning more about the program and moving through the interview process, it became my first choice. As I am pursuing a career in international development and humanitarian assistance, I have always planned to do some type of volunteer work internationally. It is a key opportunity that allows one to understand different cultural contexts and gain more experience serving

others, particularly the marginalized groups that development aid and organizations aim to help. However, in the YAGM application process, I came to realize it's my faith that draws me to this career in the first place. It is through my work that I can live my faith. For me, YAGM provides a fourfold opportunity to learn about myself, grow in my faith, deepen my understanding of Latin America, and gain the necessary experience to better serve others and observe how development works at the community level.

My service year in Argentina/Uruguay, like the time I spent in Liberia, will shape my life in infinite ways. I am so grateful for the way it intersects key areas of my life while also providing me the opportunity to learn what it truly means to walk in community with Christ. As part of accepting this call, I am asked to raise at least \$5,000. If you are able, I kindly ask you consider supporting my fundraising efforts. For more information on the program and how to donate, I invite you to visit my fundraising page here, https://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1071643&pg=personal&fr_id=1181.

You can also mail a check directly to the ELCA.
Make checks payable to the "ELCA" with
"YAGM Claire Weisner" on the memo line.

And mail to this address:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

As part of the program, I will be writing blog posts to update my donors, congregation, friends, and family on my time in South America. I look forward to sharing more about my journey with you in the fall and thank you for your generosity.

In peace,
Claire Weisner



Our next ministry teams meeting will take place on
Thursday, June 9th at 7:00 P.M.

We will gather in the library lounge to start
and break into our individual groups from there.



Children are invited to STUMP THE CHOMP (aka Pastor Gary). Kids are invited to bring an item from home, place it in the CHUMP BAG and present it to Pastor Gary during worship. The challenge will be for him to figure out how this item helps to share the gospel message of God's love with everyone. Kids may bring the bag up front during worship or place it on the altar before worship begins.

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Gary Schaeffer
Director of Music	John Warfel
Assistant Director of Music	Nancy Walters
Office Administrator	Terri Cromwell
Digital Ministry Coordinator	Seth Reitz
Custodian	Chuck Stahl
Treasurer	Rose Deaner
Transitional Council	Kellie Brouse, Krista Yaiko, Don Fisher, Jeff Coup, Penny Ulmer, Crystal Gnidovec, Rose Deaner, Seth Reitz
Worship Team	Jeff Coup, Kellie Brouse, Nancy Walters, Sue Warfel, John Warfel
Digital Ministry Team	Aaron Coup, Rick Coup, Seth Reitz, Gaven Russell, Garrett Russell, Ellie Schaeffer
Outreach Team	Connie Stover, Kay Dunn, Claire Weisner, Lynnette Weisner, Carol Yost, Linwood Hill, Krista Yaiko, Karen Martello, Peggy Fisher, Cindy Trapane
Ministry Planning Team	Penny Ulmer, Rose Handy, Lynette Weisner, Ruth Scott, Joe Yaiko and Cindy Coup
Property Team	Don Fisher, Chuck Stahl Bob Greenly, Rusty Brouse, Helen Billhime, Bill Heimbach, Seth Reitz, Joe Yaiko

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Any articles, events, photos and/or thank you notes you'd like to have printed in the July Newsletter need to be in the office
by Monday, June 27.



MILTON
Lutheran Church

100 Mahoning St. Milton, PA 17847
570-742-4601

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS 9:30AM

CHURCH OFFICE

Open Mon. - Thur. 1:00pm - 6:00pm
Email: office@miltonlutheranchurch.org

VISIT US AT

Church's Website: www.miltonlutheranchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MiltonLutheranChurch/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/MiltonLutheranChurch/