



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / AUGUST 2025

# NEWSLETTER

*Fostering community through faith, love, and service*

## A Letter from the Pastor

### The Power of Small: Why Small Group Ministry Matters

In July and August our congregation is participating in conversations about implementing a small group ministry here at MLC. We are still in the initial planning stages, but I thought I would take some time to talk about the importance of Small Group ministry and the benefits it would bring to our community.

In a world where it's easy to feel disconnected—even in a crowded room—small group ministry offers something profoundly simple: community. At its heart, small group ministry is about building relationships, deepening faith, and walking with one another in the journey of life and discipleship.

### Why Small Groups?

From the very beginning, the church was built on small communities of believers who gathered in homes to pray, share meals, and encourage one another. Acts 2:46 tells us that “day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.” The early church didn't rely on large buildings or elaborate programs. They relied on connection.

Small groups today continue that ancient pattern. They provide a space where people are truly seen and heard, where questions can be asked freely, and where spiritual growth can flourish in the soil of trust and authenticity.

### What Happens in a Small Group?

Small groups come in many forms—Bible studies, prayer circles, book discussions, service teams—but they all share common elements: care, connection, and Christ-centered conversation. Some groups meet weekly, others bi-weekly or monthly. Some are short-term around a theme or topic; others grow into long-term spiritual friendships.

In these gatherings, people support one another through life's ups and downs. They celebrate joys, carry burdens, pray together, and explore God's Word in ways that apply to daily life. As relationships deepen, so does discipleship.

### Why It Matters Now More Than Ever

We live in a time when loneliness is widespread and meaningful connection is rare. While Sunday worship is vital and beautiful, it can be hard to connect deeply in an hour-long service. Small groups fill that gap. They are places where spiritual friendships take root, faith is shared, and lives are transformed—not just individually, but communally.

I'm looking forward to continuing this conversation about small group ministry at MLC and the possibility of small groups taking hold in our community.

### **Change in Office Hours**

I'm excited to share that our Ministry Coordinator, CarolAnn Miller has accepted a position at Kid's Kingdom at Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg serving as an assistant teacher. This will be a great opportunity for CarolAnn to share her gifts with another faith community! As a result of this position, we will be changing the church office hours starting on August 25<sup>th</sup> to accommodate her new schedule. CarolAnn's new office hours will be from 12:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. Monday-Thursday.

## **An Update from MLC Church Council**

From Council President Connie Stover

### **Council news**

Council has appointed Nevin Yost as the contact person with the Community Mennonite Church. They will be renting 100 Mahoning Street beginning in October.

Council has appointed a Building Research Team. This team will do additional research on items that have emerged through the facilities assessment and subsequent meetings. Some of the items to be looked at are: Estimated cost of upgrades and renovations to both buildings, revenue needs to sustain both buildings long term, cost of sewer for 1125 Mahoning, assessment of elevator at 100 Mahoning Street, parking lot resurfacing at both buildings, and additional research on selling both buildings. The task force consists of Kevin Frey, chairman; Linwood Hill, Dave Campbell, Rich Handy and Pastor Gary.

Council has decided to meet with Pastor Sonja Ware to decide if they want to have her help us move forward. Pastor Ware has been a part of a church merger and brings experiences that she has gained through that process. Council will be meeting with her in August.

## **Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports**

### **Outreach Team**

The Outreach team would like to share that we are continuing to collect school items in partnership with United in Christ to distribute during open house events at the Milton Area School District. Items we are collecting include pencils, crayons, folders, glue sticks, and markers. We will be hosting a booth space on both weekends of the Milton Harvest Festival. We are hosting a Cake Wheel on Saturday, September 6th and are looking for volunteers to work at the booth as well as donations of baked good items (cakes, cupcakes, pies, cookies etc.) both homemade or store bought. Additional donations can include produce (watermelons/ cantaloupes/ pumpkins) and bags of candy. The second Saturday, September 13th, we will be doing our annual beignet stand. We are in need of volunteers to mix dough the day prior (Friday September 12th) and people to work the stand on parade day. Please see the binder in the lobby for sign up times. The Outreach team will also be collecting woman's and children's winter hats, gloves, scarves and blankets again this year for Women in Transition. Please consider donating, as all items we collect will be matched by a sponsor that will double what we collect , so our efforts will go twice as far!

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Byers.

Steph Byers

## Hiking Group

The Milton Lutheran Church Hiking Group had two hikes in July. On Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> we traveled to the trails at Glacier Pools Preserve, outside Picture Rocks, for a nice 3 mile hike through meadows and forests to see several glacier pools. After this hike we had refreshments at the Tivoli Inn. Then on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, we went to the PA Lumberman's

Museum (along PA Rt 6 West of Galetton) to see the museum's well done buildings and exhibits, including Bob Webber's cabin that has been moved there from its original location high above Slate Run in the Pine Creek Valley. Last year we hiked to the original location and saw the beautiful views where the cabin had been, as well as Bob & Dotty Webbers graves. After the museum, we went directly across the road to Denton Hill State Park and did a 3.5 mile hike up the mountain next to the Denton Hill Ski Area. After this hike we had refreshments at the Crossroads Country Tavern in Morris. This group is open to anyone that enjoys hiking with nice people. Contact Jeff Coup, [jeffcoup@verizon.net](mailto:jeffcoup@verizon.net) if you would like to be added to the email list.

Jeff







For our fellowship hour following worship on the 24<sup>th</sup>, please bring a brunch potluck dish to share.



For the month of August, we are requesting donations of tissues.

We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!



We wanted to say a special word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to this campaign so far. **We have raised \$26,730.** 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.



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 August 3rd.

In August, Happy Tails Pet Pantry is celebrating its 1 year anniversary of ministry!!





Our Fidget Quilt group has changed their meeting schedule!

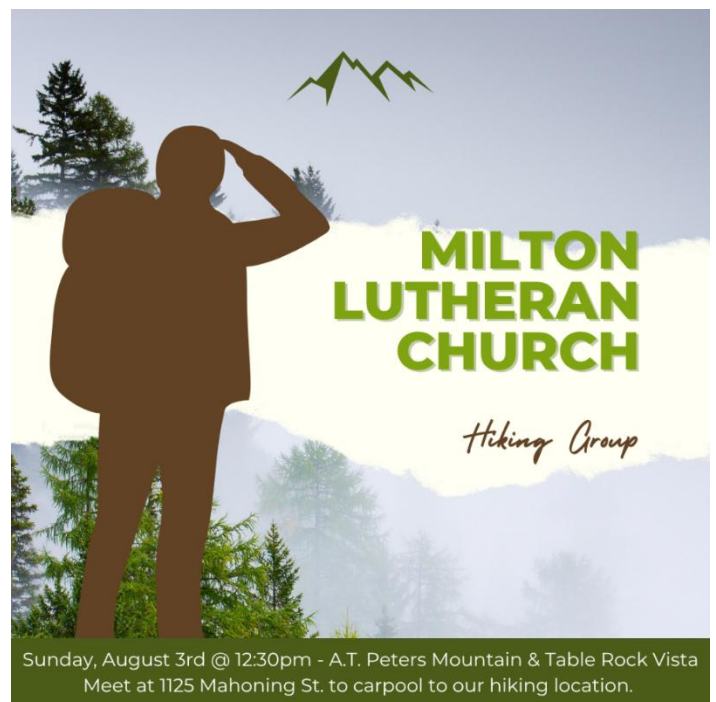
The meeting dates for this year are:

September 3<sup>rd</sup>

And December 3<sup>rd</sup>!

If you have any questions, contact Connie Stover.

**A.T. Peters Mountain & Table Rock Vista** – Leave from the church parking lot at 12:30 pm. A moderately difficult hike due to rocks, not elevation as it is across the top of the mountain ridge. The hike includes several beautiful vistas. The trail begins at the A.T. parking lot off of Rt 225 (Peters Mt. Road). It is just over a 1-hour drive. If you want to meet us at the trailhead we should be there just after 1:30 pm. We will stop at the historic Doyle Hotel for refreshments on the way home.



On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, we will have the blessing of the backpacks for all going back to school! Bring your backpack to church on the 17<sup>th</sup> for all going back to school!





Milton Lutheran Church has kicked off our matching funds campaign for Camp Mount Luther!

For more information on who and what this campaign benefits, visit Camp Mount Luther's website and navigate to their campaign page, or talk with Pastor Gary or CarolAnn.

Have you ever wanted to be a part of a small group? Do you want to know what a small group is? If so, then these are the sessions for YOU!

Pastor Gary is leading a session on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 2pm on small groups, what they are, and how you can get more involved!

Food will be provided. All are welcome to join! We hope to see you there!





**SUN, AUG 3**      9:30am Worship  
11:30am Self-Care Sanctuary and Pet Pantry

**MON, AUG 4**      6pm Boy Scouts

**TUE, AUG 5** **10am TOPS**

**WED, AUG 6**                      6pm Boy Scouts

**THU, AUG 7** 7pm Outreach Team Meeting

**SUN, AUG 10**      9:30am Worship  
11am Fellowship Hour  
11am Fellowship Team Meeting

**MON, AUG 11**      Executive Committee Meeting  
6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, AUG 12 10am TOPS

**WED, AUG 13**      6pm Boy Scouts

**THU, AUG 14**      1pm Worship Team Meeting

**SUN, AUG 17**      9:30am Worship

**MON, AUG 18**      6pm Boy Scouts  
7pm Council Meeting

**TUE, AUG 19**      10am TOPS  
10:30am Movers and Shakers



<b>WED, AUG 20</b>	6pm Boy Scouts
<b>SUN, AUG 24</b>	9:30am Outdoor Worship 11am Fellowship Hour
<b>MON, AUG 25</b>	6pm Boy Scouts
<b>TUE, AUG 26</b>	10am TOPS
<b>WED, AUG 27</b>	6pm Boy Scouts

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

**Donations Made in the Names of Loved Ones to the Abiding Memorial Fund**

**Giving For the Month of July**

**Tresha Sudol** by Anonymous