



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / AUGUST 2026

NEWSLETTER

Fostering community through faith, love, and service

A Letter from the Pastor

As my time serving with you at Milton Lutheran Church comes to a close, I want to take a moment to simply say **thank you**.

It has been a privilege to walk alongside you during Pastor Gary's time away. I am deeply grateful to Pastor Gary, the Congregation Council, and all of you for the trust you placed in me to serve during this season. Being welcomed into your congregation has been a true blessing.

These past weeks have not always been easy. Together we have faced important decisions, worked through challenges, and navigated moments that called for patience, grace, and honest conversation. Through it all, I have been continually reminded that the Church is not defined by a building or by circumstances; it is defined by God's faithful people seeking to follow Christ together.

I have been inspired by your love for this congregation, your commitment to its ministry, and your willingness to look toward the future with hope. While there are still decisions ahead, I encourage you to continue doing what you have done so well: seek God's wisdom, listen to one another with compassion, and trust that the Holy Spirit is guiding your path.

Thank you for allowing me to worship with you, pray with you, laugh with you, and serve alongside you. I leave with a heart full of gratitude!

May the Lord continue to strengthen you, guide your decisions, and fill you with hope as you follow where God is leading.

God's peace be with you always!

Pastor Vickie Brown

An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Connie Stover

The Church Council has appointed Viki Campbell to serve with Linwood Hill and Laura Spangler on the audit committee. Rose Deaner will coordinate and set-up the audit process.

The Nominating Team will begin identifying and recruiting individuals to serve on Church Council and the Building Stewardship team. Please keep the committee and those considering these opportunities to serve in your prayers.

The Church Council has received two resignations. Andrew McNeal, Jr. and Ruth Scott have resigned. We thank them for their faithful service and the time and dedication they have given to our congregation. The Council is now seeking to appoint individuals to fill the vacant positions.

The Church Council will meet with Pastor Gary on July 30th to discuss his return following surgery. The Council will be looking to extend Pastor Vickie's contract to provide continued support to Pastor Gary and the congregation during Pastor Gary's transition back to ministry. Please keep Pastor Gary in your prayers as he continues to heal.

God's love and peace to all of you.

Ministry Team and Small Group Monthly Report

Outreach Team

Good afternoon!

Outreach Highlights for August are as follows:

Self-Care will be collecting Toothpaste for the month of August.

We had to move the Red Cross Bloodmobile that is held here at 1125 Mahoning Steet to the Community Mennonite Church in July due to our A/C being broken. The next event will be held here again on Wednesday, September 23rd. Please consider volunteering at this event or donating baked goods.

School Supply donations are being collected along with our friends at UIC for the Milton School District. Asking for donations of backpacks, crayons, folders, composite notebooks, highlighters and pencils. Items will be distributed at Open House events held in August.

Our next Hoagie Sale will be held from Sunday, Sept 6th thru Sunday, Sept 20th. Cost of Italian Hoagie is \$7/each, money needs to be turned in with order before deadline. Pick hoagies up on Monday, October 5th from 2pm to 5 pm. This fund-raiser is to benefit the MLC Kitchen fund.

We will be hosting a food stand at the Milton Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 19th from 7 am to 5pm. Looking for volunteers to work at the stand. Also, we are asking for donations of buns and soda. Sign-up sheets are in the binder.

Come join us on the Hiawatha on Sunday, August 30th from 5:45 pm to 8pm for a cruise. Cost is \$10/person.

We are in the process of making plans for our annual Empty Bowl Dinner, Annual Pet Blessing & Trunk or Treat Details will be out soon!

Best Always,
Stephanie

Fellowship

Hello friends,

I've always committed myself to give 100% at everything I was part of or included in, but that is not where I am at this time. It is for this reason and with much sadness that I write this note to announce that I will no longer be chairing or serving on the Fellowship Team.

I've struggled these last several weeks with a variety of different emotions. My focus right now is how I want to respond to these thoughts and feelings and where I want to be, physically, emotionally and most of all spiritually.

I am feeling somewhat broken, if you will, and not sure how to fix it.

Serving in the many ways I have over the last 60+ years gives me peace and a comfort that I will always have in my soul. It's how I became the person I am today, with the faithful guidance of my amazing parents.

I will continue to pray for everyone at MLC and please know that I miss my church family deeply.

Carol Yost - Fellowship chair

Hiking Group

Here is the report for MLC Hiking Group:

On Sunday, June 28, Jim O'Connell lead a hike to Hound Run & Miners Run in the McIntyre Wild Area near Ralston, PA. Six hikers enjoyed the beautiful waterfalls along the two runs. On Sunday, July 12, sixteen hikers enjoyed a hike to Jacoby Falls, north of Montoursville, PA. In spite of some local downpours the preceding week, the falls were almost dry, but it is the fresh air, exercise, and fellowship that really count! A hike was also scheduled on Saturday July 18th, but it got canceled due to thunderstorms.

The next hike will be on Saturday, August 29th. It will be a moderate hike that starts and ends at Dry Run Falls in Loyalsock State Forest. For more information on our hikes, or to be added to our hiking group email list, please contact jeffcoup@verizon.net.

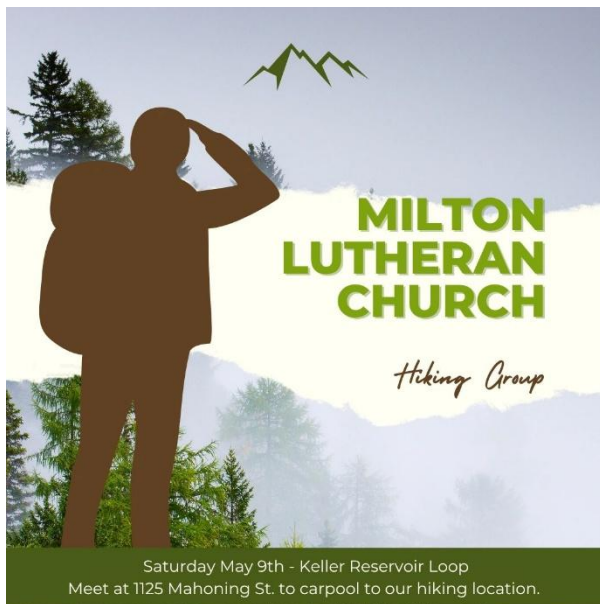
Jeff

R. Jeffrey Coup

Announcements

Our capital campaign is still going strong for Camp Mount Luther! Any financial gift you make will be matched for 2026! You can make a contribution through a weekly/monthly donation in your offering to the church, noting the contribution is for the Camp Mount Luther Capital Campaign; a one-time donation to the campaign through your giving envelope to the church, or by going to the website: <https://www.campmountluther.org/capital-campaign/> and making a donation either by check to the camp or by credit card. It's as easy as that! By giving through MLC's campaign, you basically double your giving as we match the gifts that come in! Camp is a respite for so many. A place that spreads love and joy and the Word of God! Your donation will help improve Camp to be the best it can be for all who attend!





Saturday, August 29, 2026 Dry Run Falls loop of Dutter's Trail, Loyalsock Trail and Old Bark Trail in Loyalsock State Forest. This is a Moderate 4.2 mile loop with 755' elevation.

We will carpool from the church at 10:00 am and reach the parking area for Dry Run Falls about 11:00 am. I suggest taking dry shoes and socks as there are several stream crossings where we might get our feet wet depending on the flow. On the way home we will stop at Pier 87 for refreshments.



For the month of August, we are requesting donations of toothbrushes. We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!



MLC is celebrated the 2nd anniversary of Happy Tails pet pantry Aug. 2nd. To date we have helped 135 patrons care for 436 animals (156 dogs/ 280 cats). People's pets provide unconditional love, vital emotional support and sense of purpose and we feel great pride in being able to provide families with supplemental meals to help care for their beloved animals.

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 Sept 6th.



The Outreach team along with UIC is collecting school supplies to be handed out during the open house events at the Milton School District

Items needed:

Backpacks, folders, highlighters, notebooks, colored pencils, and crayons.

Please put all donations in the wooden cart.

Any questions, please see Stephanie Byers.

Thank You

THANK YOU PASTOR VICKIE AND DEACON SUE ELLEN FOR FILLING
IN WHILE PASTOR GARY IS RECOVERING.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

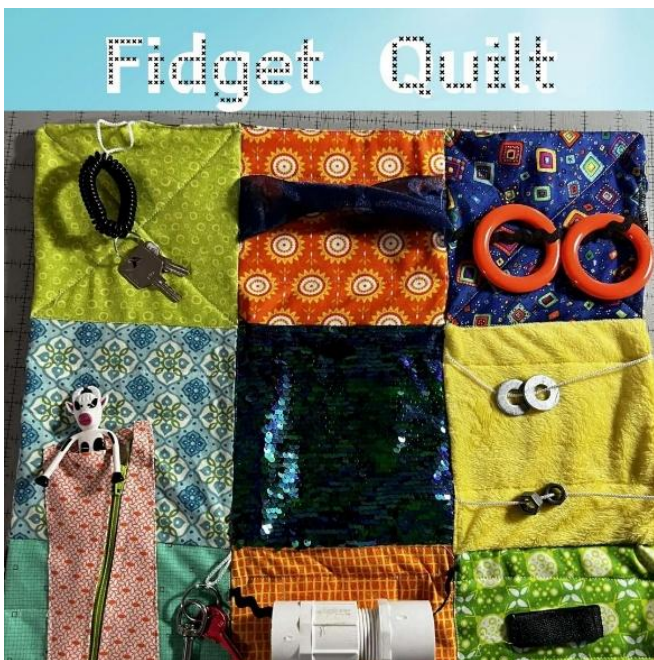
**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 9TH AND
23RD**

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

In our fellowship hall.



The purpose of the Milton Lutheran Church Endowment fund is to further the Mission of MLC by supporting projects, programs, and events sponsored by our members. Endowments will be granted for areas dealing with children and youth, matching funds for existing fundraisers, service projects, local, national, and international initiatives, and existing church partnerships. Applications will be reviewed by the endowment team and granted upon their approval. Deadlines for requests are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Applications can be found on the website on the documents & videos page, under Milton Lutheran Church Documents, and at the church office. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the office and your questions will be directed to whomever can best answer the query.



Our Fidget Quilters are next meeting: June 3rd, Sept 2nd, Dec 2nd. If you have any questions, contact Connie Stove.



Pub Theology is canceled for July and August.

Milton Harvest FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 19th



Volunteers needed to help throughout the day, please sign up in binder in lobby.

Looking for donations of hotdogs buns, hamburger buns, water, and soda.



HIAWATHA BOAT TRIP

Join the MLC Outreach team for a fun night on the Hiawatha. The event cost is \$10 per person and is open to all family and friends of the congregation. Please RSVP by August 23rd to Stephanie Byers (570)490-2049.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH
PLEASE ARRIVE BY 5:45PM

BOAT RIDE: 6:00PM- 8:00PM
2205 HIAWATHA BLVD, WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

Please bring money for the cash bar and crew tips.

Announcements from Our Friends

Donations Made in the Names of Loved Ones to the Abiding Memorial Fund
For the Month of June

SAVE THE DATE

SUN, AUG 2

9:30am Worship

1130am Self-Care Sanctuary/Pet Pantry

MON, AUG 3

6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, AUG 4

10am TOPS

WED, AUG 5

6pm Boy Scouts

THU, AUG 6

1pm Worship Team meeting

7pm Outreach Team meeting

SUN, AUG 9

9:30am Worship

11am Fellowship hour

6pm Princess Pageant

MON, AUG 10

Executive Committee

6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, AUG 11

10am TOPS

WED, AUG 12

6pm Boy Scouts

SUN, AUG 16

9:30am Worship

6pm Princess Pageant

MON, AUG 17

6pm Boy Scouts

7pm Council Meeting

TUE, AUG 18

10am TOPS

10:30am Movers and Shakers

WED, AUG 19

6pm Boy Scouts

SUN, AUG 23

9:30am Worship

11am Fellowship hour

MON, AUG 24

6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, AUG 25

10am TOPS

WED, AUG 26

6pm Boy Scouts

SUN, AUG 30

9:30am Worship

6pm Princess Pageant Practice

MON, AUG 31

6PM Boy Scouts

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