



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / JULY 2026

NEWSLETTER

Fostering community through faith, love, and service

A Letter from the Pastor

At our recent congregational meeting, the congregation voted to move forward with the recommendation to entrust 100 Mahoning Street to a new owner while continuing the ministry of Milton Lutheran Church at 1125 Mahoning Street.

This decision marks an important milestone in a journey that has involved prayer, conversation, discernment, and, at times, difficult emotions. We recognize that for many members, this building is far more than bricks and mortar. It holds memories of worship, fellowship, celebrations, milestones, and the faithful work of generations who came before us.

Saying goodbye to a building that has been such a significant part of our congregation's story is not easy. In many ways, the grieving process has already begun, and it is likely that there will continue to be moments of sadness as we move forward. Those feelings are both natural and understandable. At the same time, we trust that God is calling us to focus not only on where we have been, but also on where God is leading us in ministry and mission.

The next step will be the formation of the Building Stewardship Team. In accordance with the recommendation approved by the congregation, some members of the team will be elected at the Annual Fall Congregational Meeting, and others will be appointed by council. Once formed, the Building Stewardship Team will work alongside Church Council to develop and implement a process for engaging potential community partners and exploring opportunities that will allow 100 Mahoning Street to continue serving the community in ways that align with and extend the mission of Milton Lutheran Church. The team will keep the congregation informed as this work progresses.

While much remains to be done, our commitment remains the same: to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us and to ensure that our facilities support the ministry God is calling us to do today and in the future.

We ask for your continued prayers for Church Council, the future Building Stewardship Team, and our entire congregation as we move through this next phase together. May we honor our past with gratitude, navigate the present with faith, and embrace the future with hope.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." — Matthew 28:19

As we move forward, may we remember that our mission is not contained within any one building. The Church is God's people, sent into the world to share Christ's love, serve our neighbors, and proclaim the good news wherever God leads us.

In God's Love-

Pastor Vickie

An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Connie Stover

Council approved the request for Girl Scout Troop 61117 to use the social hall and kitchen once or twice each month for troop meetings and activities. Scheduling and facility use will be coordinated with church staff to ensure compatibility with other church activities and events.

Church council will begin the formation of the Building Stewardship team and work with the Nominating team to identify and recommend members. The Building team will consist of 5 members, with 2 members recommended by council and 3 members elected by the congregation. The responsibility of the Building Stewardship team will be to explore and pursue the opportunities for new ownership of 100 Mahoning St. In addition to the 5 members, the Pastor will serve on the team. The team will report directly to council.

Chuck reported that problems with the air conditioning at 1125 Mahoning have been discovered. Further evaluation is underway and more information will be provided as it becomes available.

Since the congregational meeting, Pastor Vickie has encouraged us to continue listening to one another and to meet together when needed. We are reminded that we are all God's people called to treat one another with grace, respect, and love, even when we may disagree.

God's love and peace to all of you.

Ministry Team and Small Group Monthly Report

Outreach Team

July Newsletter info from MLC Outreach is as follows:

Self-care Sanctuary will be collecting Toothbrushes for the month of July

Self-Care & Happy Tails received a donation of items for the pantry from Service 1st in Montandon.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Red Cross Bloodmobile Canteen on Wednesday, July 22nd. Sign-up sheet in binder in the lobby.

Also looking for donations for the canteen as well such as watermelon, cantaloupe or baked good for that same date.

Getting Ahead Program will resume its next session on July 9th. They still have spaces available for anyone interested in attending the classes. Also, if you enjoy cooking, maybe you would like to consider helping the MLC outreach team when we provide one of their weekly meals during their sessions. See Connie Stover or Stephanie Byers to learn how to get involved!

We hosted Illini 400 cyclists for a luncheon during their cross-country trek in May. Thank you to Chuck and Helen for serving the dinner on Tuesday, May 26th.

Look for information shortly about upcoming events such as: the Harvest Festival Stand that we will be hosting on parade day, Saturday Sept. 19th, our Next Hoagie sale and our Annual Empty Bowl Dinner

Have a great day!

Stephanie

Fellowship

Fellowship hour continues the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

The Men's breakfast was cancelled due to low response.

A day at Knoebels was Sunday June 28.

The Cross Cutters game is Sunday, July 12. The first pitch is at 4:05 pm. Signups were required by June 25 and the cost is \$6. If you didn't sign up but still want to go, please call the office to see if you are still able to register.

Upcoming events to be discussed include:

-Pig Roast

-Sunday Funday at local winery

*Members needed

Carol Yost - Fellowship chair

Hiking Group

June was a busy month for the Milton Lutheran Hiking Group. On Wednesday, June 10th we traveled to the Ketchum Run Gorge near Worlds End and followed Ketchum Run for 2.2 miles to Rode Falls and back. The hike includes several water falls and beautiful scenery. We were a small group, and all three were new to our hiking group. After the hike we stopped at The Barn Tavern for refreshments.

On Sunday, June 21, Father's Day, we had a great turn-out for a trip to The Glacier Pools Preserve near Picture Rocks! Fourteen of us, including a new couple. We hiked two of the trails on the Preserve for about 3 miles. It was a perfect day for hiking and I have never seen so many wonderful ferns. After the hike we went to the Tivoli Tavern for lunch.

On Sunday, June 28th, Jim O'Connell will be leading the hike to Hound & Miners Run in the McIntyre Wild Area, near Ralson, PA. Jim has graciously offered to lead the hike as I will be going, with my family, to the church picnic at Knoebels Grove. The group will carpool from the church at 12:30 pm, or you can meet the group at the Ralston, PA United Methodist Church parking lot, across Rt 14 from the fire department about 1:25 pm and follow the group to the trailhead. There will be two short hikes each with only about 300' of elevation, but each hike has beautiful

waterfalls. I would rate each hike as moderate hikes. There can be some “bushwacking” and a stream crossing so bring a dry pair of shoes and socks. The group will probably stop at the Crippled Bear Tavern on the way home.

The first hike in July is on Sunday the 12th and is an old favorite to Jacoby Falls. It is an easy 3.2 mile hike with only 370’ of elevation. We will carpool from the church at 12:30 pm and arrive at the trailhead about 1:10 pm. To meet us at the trailhead, take Exit 21 (Montoursville) off of 1-180, North on PA 87 for 4.5 miles. Turn left onto PA 973 W. Go across the bridge and take an immediate right onto Wallis Run Road. Follow Wallis Run Road for 4.3 miles to the parking lot on the right side of the road. We will stop at Pier 87 on our way home for refreshments.

To be added to our Hiking Group email list, email your name and email address to jeffcoup@verizon.net. Feel free to call or email Jeff with any questions.

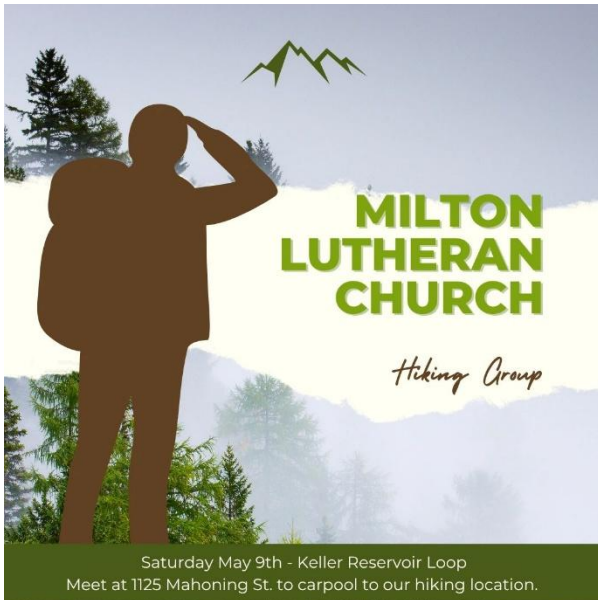
Jeff

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!





Sunday, July 12, 2026, Jacoby Falls Easy 3.2 miles 370' elevation

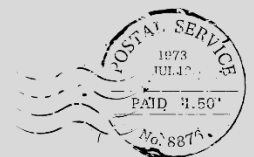
We will carpool from the church at 12:30 pm and arrive at the trailhead about 1:10 pm. Take the Montoursville Exit 21 off I-180, North on 87 for 4.5 miles. Turn left onto PA 973 W. Go across the bridge and take an immediate right onto Wallis Run Road. Follow Wallis Run Road for 4.3 miles to the parking lot on the right side of the road. We will stop at Pier 86 on the way home for refreshments.

Saturday, July 18, 2026, Hyner View State Park More difficult 3.8 miles 1,322' elevation Approx. 1:20 hr. drive.

Huffrun Road parking area. First right on the N/S of the Hyner bridge. We will carpool from the church at 10 am and that puts us at the trailhead parking area about 11:20 am. On the way home we can stop at The Old Corner Grill in Lock Haven.



If you would like to send a card to Pastor Gary.



Pastor Gary Schaeffer
413 University Ave
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

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

July 5th
11:30 A.M.- 12:30 P.M.

Self-Care Sanctuary

Free hygiene / self-care products for anyone that needs them.


1125 Mahoning St.
Milton, PA



Free pet food products for anyone that needs them

**HAPPY TAILS
PET PANTRY**
July 5th 11:30am-12:30pm



1125 Mahoning St.
Milton PA 17847
miltonlutheranchurch.org

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 July 5th.



OFFICE WILL BE *closed*

**ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 1ST
THROUGH JULY 6TH
OFFICE WILL REOPEN TUESDAY, JULY 7TH 8AM**


MILTON
Lutheran Church

*Happy
4th of July*

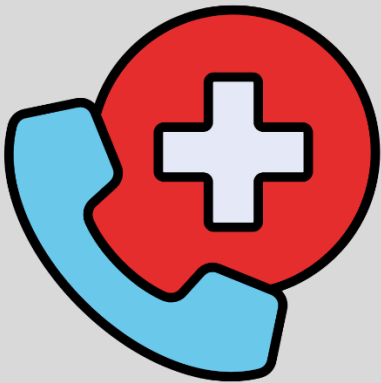


The purpose of the Milton Lutheran Church Endowment fund is to further the Mission of MLC by supporting projects, programs, and events sponsored by our members. Endowments will be granted for areas dealing with children and youth, matching funds for existing fundraisers, service projects, local, national, 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.

Fidget Quilt



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



While Pastor Gary is away recovering, Pastor Vickie Brown will be covering Pastoral care in his absence. If there are any emergencies, please contact the office.

Please contact the office if you have an emergency needing Pastoral Care while Pastor Gary is away recovering.

From July 1st-July 5th, please call UIC office (570)568-2254 for any Pastoral emergencies.

Pub Theology is canceled for July and August.



Registration is open now for kids completing grades K-5.

Please register at

<https://www.myvbs.org/miltonlutheranchurches>

Deadline to signup for Summer Day Camp is July 13th.



Celebrate
MORE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.

 American Red Cross

Community Blood Drive
Milton Lutheran Church

Social Hall
1125 Mahoning Street
Milton, PA 17847

Wednesday, July 22, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Milton to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Give blood July 13 to 31 for a Fandango Movie Reward by email to see a movie on us! rcblood.org/July

Scan to be directed to RedCrossBlood.org

Scan to schedule an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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

WED, JULY 1

6pm Boy Scouts

THU, JULY 2

1pm Worship Team meeting

SUN, JULY 5

9:30am Worship

1130am Self-Care Sanctuary/Pet Pantry

MON, JULY 6

6pm Boy Scouts

7pm Worship Team meeting

TUE, JULY 7

10am TOPS

WED, JULY 8

6pm Boy Scouts

SUN, JULY 12

9:30am Worship

11am Fellowship Hour

4:05pm Crosscutters Baseball Game

MON, JULY 13

6pm Boy Scouts

Executive Meeting

TUE, JULY 14

10am TOPS

WED, JULY 15

6pm Boy Scouts

SUN, JULY 19

9:30am Outdoor Worship

Potluck after Worship

MON, JULY 20

6pm Boy Scouts

7pm Council Meeting

TUE, JULY 21

10am TOPS

10:30am Movers and Shakers

WED, JULY 22

1:00p-6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive

6pm Boy Scouts

SAT, JULY 25

2:00pm Celebration of Life for Haydyn Fry

SUN, JULY 26

9:30am Worship

11am Fellowship hour

6pm Princess Pageant Practice

MON, JULY 27

Day Camp

6PM Boy Scouts

TUE, JULY 28

Day Camp

10am TOPS

WED, JULY 29

Day Camp

6pm Boy Scouts

THUR, JULY 30

Day Camp

FRI, JULY 31

Day Camp

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