



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / NOVEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

Fostering community through faith, love, and service

A Letter from the Pastor

A Season of Thankfulness

As we head into November and the Thanksgiving holiday, we're reminded once again of the importance of gratitude. The world tells us to be thankful for the things we have, but as followers of Christ, we know that thankfulness runs deeper than possessions or circumstances. Our gratitude is rooted in the grace of God—the One who daily provides for us and who, through Jesus Christ, gives us life, forgiveness, and hope.

Martin Luther once wrote that *“everything that we have is daily given and preserved by God’s goodness and mercy.”* In the Small Catechism, Luther explains the First Article of the Creed by saying that God gives us all that we need—“our body and soul, eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses... clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all we own.” And then he adds, “for all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

Gratitude, then, is not just a feeling we have once a year—it’s the response of faith to the goodness of God. We give thanks not because life is always easy, but because God is always faithful. Even in seasons of loss, change, or uncertainty, we trust that His grace is sufficient and His promises are sure.

This Thanksgiving, take a moment to pause and reflect on the gifts God has placed in your life—your family, your church, your daily bread, and above all, the saving love of Jesus Christ. Consider, too, how you might share that thankfulness through acts of service and kindness. In doing so, we live out our callings as God’s people in the world—loving our neighbors as Christ has first loved us.

As a congregation, may we continue to be a community marked by gratitude, generosity, and grace.

God has richly blessed us so that we may be a blessing to others.

“O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.” — Psalm 107:1

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God, giver of every good gift,
We thank You for the blessings of this season and for the daily mercies we too often overlook.
Fill our hearts with gratitude and our hands with generosity.
Teach us to see Your presence in every good thing,
And to share Your love with those in need.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Connie Stover

Council news

The Community Mennonite Church will begin services at 100 Mahoning St. on November 2nd.

We will be advertising for a new office assistant. CarolAnn has taken a new job and will be leaving us in February. We will miss her, but this is a great opportunity for her.

Council will have another coaching session with Pastor Sonja on November 12th.

The congregational meeting will be held on December 14th. At the meeting we will vote on the proposed budget for 2026, nominees for positions of leadership, and hear an update on where we are at in researching our facilities.

Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports

Outreach Team

The outreach team would like to say thank you to those that bought hoagies! A big thank you to Viki Campbell, Lynette Weisner, Barb Hause, Ryan Byers and Jeff Coup for assembling the hoagies. This fundraiser brought in over \$850.

I wanted to share with you how much I appreciated the support from all 3 congregations in hosting this year's trunk or treat event! We hosted over 525 people. We passed out treats to 257 children this year. From what I am hearing from those in the community they thought it was a great event. They enjoyed picture opportunities, hot dogs, popcorn, cookies, ice pops, and water under the pavilion. This year's trunk or treat winner was Puppy love by Cindy Trapini from MLC.

Empty Bowl is Saturday November 15th from 4-6. 28 Raffle baskets are ready! Thanks for those that donated: Barb Hause, Lynette Weisner, Leslie Yocum, Judy McNeal, Helen Billhime, Viki & Dave Campbell, Pardoe's Perky Peanuts, Advance Auto Parts, and the Byers Family!

Christmas Angel Tree tags will be ready by November 9th. Bonnie doesn't have exact dates from the school as to when they need them by.

College care packs signups are in binder in Lobby!

Next panther pack packaging is on Wed December 3 from 6 to 7:30.

Steph Byers

Fellowship Team

On October 19th, we joined St John's Lutheran Church on their annual hayride. This was great fun, it was very warm, and the wind made it quite interesting. A thank you note is being sent to them for their invitation and hospitality. If you have not ever participated, we encourage you to give it a try next year!

Coming up on November 8th is our third annual Friendgiving. This year's theme is Flannel and Friends. Everyone is encourage to wear flannel and sign up in the binder to bring a dish to share. The main course and beverages will be provided.

In December, we hope to participate in Beers and Carols with our partner congregations, however, information has not yet been received. Also, we are not aware that a date has been set for the Christmas Craft Workshop. We will share as soon as we know more.

In the New Year, we will have the annual chili cookoff, ice cream social, and game night.

Please consider joining our team if you have interest in serving.

Carol Yost

Hiking Group

October was a very busy month for the MLC Hiking Group! There were 5 hikes with something for everyone!

Saturday 10/4 : Canyon Vista Trail with the Cold Run Loop @ Worlds End State Park. This was a scenic 5.3 mile loop trail, and we had 12 hikers (including four year old Rob Buck who hiked the entire trail!) and a baby carried by his mother, Brenna Buck. After the hike we had refreshments at The Barn, just outside the park.



Friday 10/10: Three of us traveled to Pine Grove Furnace State Park to do a 3 mile hike on the Appalachian Trail and visit the AT Museum, which is the mid-point of the entire AT. We had lunch at the Park's General Store which is famous with the through-hikers for their ice cream challenge, where the hikers down a half-gallon of ice cream in on sitting. The Park and Museum should be on the bucket list of any hiking lover.



Saturday 10/11: Ten of us hiked the Golden Eagle Trail. This challenging 9.3 mile hike with over 2,300' of vertical has spectacular views of the Pine Creek Valley and is considered to be the best day hike in PA! On the way home we stopped at the Bald Birds Brewery in Jersey Shore for refreshments.



Sunday 10/19: Back to the Pine Creek Valley to hike the beautiful Bob Webber Trail. This is also a challenging 3.8 mile up and down trail with a wonderful vista at the top. We were surprised that there were only 3 of us considering it was a beautiful day and the leaves were at peak color! After the hike, we went back to the Bald Birds Brewery for our refreshments.

Thursday, 10/30: We will be hiking the 6.3 mile Falls Trail Loop at Ricket's Glenn. I think this is one of the most scenic hikes in the world, but of course, I am prejudiced! We will be leaving the church parking lot at 9 am and some may meet us at the trailhead parking lot along Rt 118 at 10 am. On the way home we will be stopping at RC's Bar & Grill, just North of Benton, for refreshments.

For the next few months there will not be a set schedule. Hikes will be announced by email a few days ahead of time. The hiking group is open to anyone who would like to hike with nice people. Just email jeffcoup@verizon.net and asked to be added to the email list.







FELLOWSHIP HOUR

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 8TH &
22ND**

FOLLOWING WORSHIP In our fellowship hall.

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH
1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA

MOVERS & SHAKERS
SENIOR'S GROUP

NOVEMBER 18TH 10:30AM - 12:30PM

MEAL

CONVERSATION

BINGO

**November 2nd
11:30 A.M.- 12:30 P.M.**

Self- Care Sanctuary

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

MILTON
Lutheran Church
1125 Mahoning St.
Milton, PA

TOOTHPASTE

DEO

SHAMPOO

For the month of November, we are requesting donations of deodorant.

We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!

Free pet food products for anyone that needs them

**HAPPY TAILS
PET PANTRY**
November 2nd 11:30am-12:30pm

1125 Mahoning St.
Milton PA 17847
miltonlutheranchurch.org

Fidget Quilt



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 November 2nd.

Our Fidget Quilt group has changed their meeting schedule!

The meeting dates for this year are:

And December 3rd!

If you have any questions, contact Connie Stover.

The MLC outreach team will be joining the teams at St Andrew's Methodist Church located at 102 Lower Market St. Milton on December 3rd from 6 pm to 7:30 pm to pack food packs for the Milton Panther Pack Program. Anyone interested in going can sign up in the book in the lobby or see Stephanie Byers.



This spring, we began the capital campaign for Camp Mount Luther, that includes matching funds from MLC. If you didn't sign up initially to be a part of this very important ministry, IT'S NOT LATE!

There are many ways that you can still take part. 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 just that simple! Still have questions? Pastor Gary, Carol Ann or Rick Coup would be more than happy to answer your questions.

Remember that any of your contributions are matched by the church, so you have effectively DOUBLED the contribution to the campaign.

It's NOT too late!!

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.



Pub Theology will be meeting on at the Turbotville Public House on November 13th at 7pm! We hope you join us for this opportunity for fellowship!!



Bible Study at May's Drive-In (2675 PA-405 Milton PA). We are excited to resume our Breakfast Club Bible Study from 9am-10am on Tuesdays! We hope you join us to explore the upcoming Sunday's texts with us! See you there!

Benefits Milton's Panther Pack Program

EMPTY BOWL FUNDRAISER AND BASKET RAFFLE

An All You Can Eat soup dinner
At 5:30pm Speaker: Susan Bastian
- Coordinator of Milton Panther Packs

NOV. 15, 2025 4 - 6 PM

EVENT DETAILS

Location: Milton Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
1125 Mahoning Street
Milton, PA 17847
Ticket Price: \$10.00 suggested minimum donation



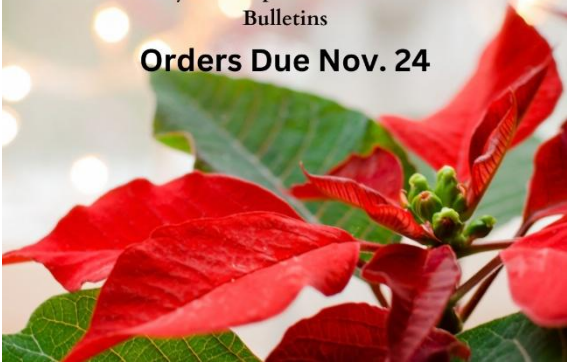
Save the date!
Our annual empty bowl fundraiser will be on November 15th. \$10 suggested minimum donation. If you have any questions, contact the office or Steph Byers. Tickets go on sale starting Sunday, Oct. 12 before and after church, or see Steph Byers for tickets.

Poinsettias

Price is \$12

Honor/Memory will be printed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins

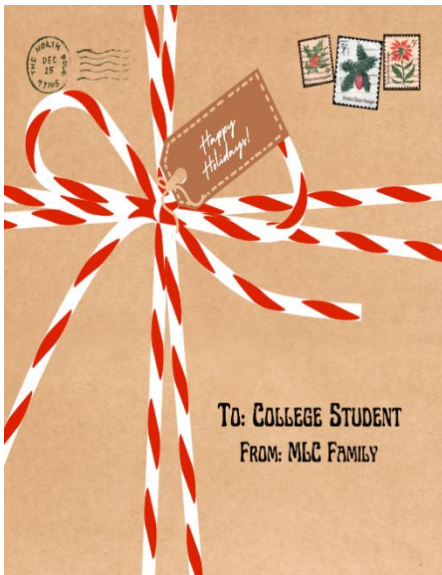
Orders Due Nov. 24



Open Sunday's for Flower Donations

- January 25th
- February 8th
- February 15th
- February 22nd
- March 1st
- March 8th
- March 29th
- June 28th
- July 19th
- July 26th
- August 2nd
- November 29th





The Outreach Team is again sponsoring the College Care Packs going to our college students before finals.

Sign-up in Binder. Please sign-up by November 16th.

Boxes will be blessed Sunday, November 23rd and then distributed to families to be passed out over the Thanksgiving holiday or mailed out.

The outreach team is also looking for donations of candy, hot chocolate, small packs tissues, chap stick, etc. for the College Care packs. All donations should be turned in by November 16th. Sign-up in the binder.







God Given Gifts Worship Series

Did you know that God creates each of us unique from one another? Have you ever noticed that each of us has different passions, abilities, and areas of expertise? Starting November 30th, we will explore how each of us is given gifts from God. These gifts enable us to live more fully into who God wants us to be and how God wants us to be in relationship with one another. You are invited to join us to learn more about what your gifts are and how God is calling you to use those gifts.

Sunday Sermons

Learn what scripture has to say about spiritual gifts- what they are, where they come from, why they are important, and what God wants us to do with them.

November 30th- Gifted by Grace

December 7th- Nurture your Gifts

December 14th- Given to Share

December 21st- We are One Body

Small Group Sessions

Dig deeper with a smaller group of people that can support one another, share experiences, and deepen our understanding.

Sundays at 12:00 P.M. (Lunch Provided) Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st

Tuesdays at 9:00 A.M. (At Mays Drive-in) Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M. (Over Zoom) Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th, (23rd *Tues. evening)

God Given Gifts Inventory

Join a process that guides you through an inventory that will help you identify what your gifts are and provides opportunities for you to use those gifts in our church and community.

January 4th- 12:00 P.M.- 1:30 P.M.- (Lunch Provided)

January 7th- 6:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.- (Dinner Provided)

Announcements from our Friends



YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE MILTON
GETTING AHEAD IN THE VALLEY
GRADUATION

Speakers:

Kherstyn Cawley, Enza Walker , 2025 GA Graduates

Lydia Moore, Staying Ahead

Sarah Kowalski, Community Advocate & Educator

2:00 PM Sunday, Nov 16, 2025
Milton Lutheran Church 1125 Mahoning St

Refreshments to follow in Fellowship Hall— join us



Graduation Sponsor: UPMC



**CAMP MOUNT
LUTHER**

presents
an evening at

**Shade Mountain
Winery & Vineyard**

November 7 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.

SPACE IS LIMITED

Make your reservation today!

contact: 570-922-1587 or

cml@campmountluther.org

All proceeds benefit Camp Mount Luther

PING PONG

• TOURNAMENT •



NOVEMBER 9, 2025

2-4 PM

Sharon Lutheran Church, Selinsgrove PA
All youth grades 6-12 welcome!

Sign up for Caroling with Christ's Lutheran Church in Lewisburg in the binder if interested!



Fri., Dec. 5th
7pm -7:45 pm

Meet at the
Lewisburg Post Office
on the corner of
Third & Market St.

Enjoy cookies at Christ's Lutheran Church afterward

BUFFALO VALLEY FAITH LAB



Scan to sign up!

1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month
4:30pm-6:30pm
September-May
Grades K-6
Free family dinner!

1st Sunday @ Christ's Lutheran
100 S. 3rd Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837



3rd Sunday @ United In Christ
1875 Churches Rd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837





SUN, NOV 2	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11:30am Self-Care Sanctuary and Pet Pantry
MON, NOV 3	6pm Boy Scouts
TUE, NOV 4	9am Breakfast Club at May's Drive-In Lewisburg 10am TOPS
WED, NOV 5	6pm Boy Scouts
THU, NOV 6	7pm Outreach Team Meeting
SAT, NOV 8	4:30pm Friendsgiving
SUN, NOV 9	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour 11am Fellowship Team Meeting
MON, NOV 10	6pm Boy Scouts Executive Council Meeting
TUE, NOV 11	9am Breakfast Club at May's Drive-In Lewisburg 10am TOPS
WED, NOV 12	6pm Boy Scouts
THU, NOV 13	1pm Worship Team Meeting 7pm Pub Theology at Turbotville Public House

SAT, NOV 15	4pm Empty Bowl Dinner
SUN, NOV 16	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice
MON, NOV 17	6pm Boy Scouts 7pm Council Meeting
TUE, NOV 18	9am Breakfast Club at May's Drive-In Lewisburg 10am TOPS 10:30am Movers and Shakers
WED, NOV 19	Red Cross Blood Drive 6pm Boy Scouts
SUN, NOV 23	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour
MON, NOV 24	6pm Boy Scouts
TUE, NOV 25	NO Breakfast Club at May's Drive-In Lewisburg 10am TOPS
WED, NOV 26	6pm Boy Scouts
SUN, NOV 30	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice

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

October 2025

Tresha Sudol by Mrs. Pursel