



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / AUGUST 2024

NEWSLETTER

Fostering community through faith, love, and service

Psalms 139:14, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well".

This verse from the book of Psalms was the theme verse this summer for Camp Mount Luther, our Summer Day camp program and the National Youth Gathering. The theme for all three of these ministries was 'Created to Be'. Together the young people and adults who participated learned how

We are created to be brave, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.

We are created to be authentic, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.

We are created to be free, to be transformed by the gospel.

We are created to be disruptive, to work for justice for all our siblings.

We are created to be disciples, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.

I can honestly say that it has been a great summer for me personally as I've immersed myself in this theme but especially as I've watched those around me do the same thing. I've watched hundreds of kids at Camp Mount Luther take a week from their everyday lives and immerse themselves surrounded by God's creation. I've watched dozens of kids spend a week together from the neighborhoods surrounding our church, kids from United in Christ, Christ Lutheran in Lewisburg, and MLC. All of them playing, learning, and growing together. And then I've watched kids from our church, UIC, Salem and churches all around the USA gather in New Orleans for a once in a lifetime experience.

In all these settings one thing has remained true. As we have been reminded that God has created us just as God intended; that reality has helped us to be brave, authentic, free, disruptive, and disciples.

It's a great theme and a great reminder, not only for those who participated in any of these experiences, but for all of us. My friends, each of you are fearfully and wonderfully made, just as God intended it. Never forget that. Never allow someone to tell you differently. Never allow someone to make you feel differently. Always allow the holy spirit to lift you up and fill you with joy with this gift every single day.

You have been created to be you and always loved by God, no matter what.

Blessings,

Pastor Gary Schaeffer



An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Lynnette Weisner

Council news

On July 15, 2024, the council interviewed The Unstuck Group and Keith Johnson, The Board Coach, as possible consultants to help and guide MLC through the strategic planning process. The third consultant group LEAD was interviewed by the council on July 22, 2024. The council needs a little more time to carefully consider all the options available to us to make the best recommendation to the congregation. Once the council has made this decision and a date has been set for a special congregational meeting to approve the recommendation, a letter will be sent to all members and more details about the consultants' proposal will be shared with everyone.

Day Camp Report!

From July 8th – 12th, Milton Lutheran Church joined up with United in Christ West Milton and Christ Evangelical Lutheran in Lewisburg at Faith Lutheran in Lewisburg to hold Day Camp with the help of Camp Mount Luther staffers. We had two staff from Camp Mount Luther, Gabriel Schaeffer and Alyx Taylor. With about 25 children in attendance, we had 5 fun-filled days of games, learning about the bible, and crafting! On that Thursday, we took a trip to Camp Mount Luther and spent the day there to enjoy nature and the Camp Mount Luther experience.

We are so thankful to all the people who volunteered to help us make this Day Camp a success, especially those who donated supplies, and Connie's Kitchen Crew who kept our kids, staff, and volunteers fed through the week. We also are thankful to Camp Mount Luther for all their help! We are so happy we got to have this experience and we can't wait to have Day Camp again next summer!



Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports

Fellowship Team

On Sunday June 30th, the Fellowship team served breakfast following conversation church at Brown Ave Park. Thank you for the breakfast casserole donations, Kay Dunn and Barb Hause!

On Sunday, July 28th we traveled up to Williamsport for our annual summer trip to see the Crosscutters play some baseball! It was fun fellowship with our fellow congregations United in Christ and Christ Lutheran.

The annual pig roast will be on Saturday, August 24th. The main course will be provided, but please bring a dish to share. In regard to the fun twist, this is a "guinea pig" pig roast. We will be eating pork, no worries, but we are encouraging everyone to bring something they've never made before!

Nonalcoholic drinks will be provided, however BYOB is permitted as long as it's not in a glass bottle!

Please bring a lawn chair if you wish to sit in the lawn and not at the tables. We will also have lawn games!

Finally, there will be another conversation church the following day on Sunday, August 25th. We will be gathering after the service, for socialization and enjoy any leftover pastries/baked goods from the pig roast. You are also welcome to make another dessert to share!

Ruth Scott

Outreach Team

We welcomed back the Getting Ahead Group on July 11th. Their classes are being held here at 1125 Mahoning Street and will run from July 18 to Nov 21,

Self-Care Sanctuary Ministry is asking for Facial Tissues for the month of August.

We are excited to host our first Happy Tails Pet Pantry on Sunday, Aug 4th. We have received many outside donations from community members for this event. If there is anyone interested in helping a lending hand with this ministry, please talk with Stephanie Byers.

Look for details in September about our upcoming hoagie sale.

We are also looking forward to hosting our beignet stand at the Milton Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 14 (Parade Day). Look for sign-up sheets of donations needed as well as times to work the stand.

Steph Byers

Hiking Group

The church hiking group had a very active month! On July 7th we had 8 hikers do the loop at Chimney Rock near Weikert. On July 13th just 3 of us traveled to the 1,000 Steps/Standing Stone trail near Mt Union, PA. On July 24th we had 8 hikers do the Vista Loop trail at Halfway Dam.

The next hike, on Saturday, August 10th we will be doing what is considered the best day hike in PA, the 9.3 mile long Golden Eagle Trail in the beautiful Pine Creek Valley. The hike has a challenging 2,343' of elevation and we will enjoy several great vistas including the spectacular view from Raven's Horn (see picture). The group will car pool from the church at 9 am or you can meet us at the trailhead north of Cammal, PA at 10:15 am. We have all day so we will take an

easy pace. We will stop for food and beverages on the way home, but you will need to pack a sandwich to eat on a lunch break on the trail. Take a daypack with water and your lunch, bug/tick repellent and trekking poles if you use them.

If you are going, please notify Jeff by 5pm the day before (Friday) that you are going and if you will meet the group at the church or at the trailhead.

This group is open to anyone that enjoys hiking with nice people!

Jeff



FLECK & FRIENDS *fresh express*



FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

**Friday, August 9th
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Sponsored by the
Central PA Food Bank



1125 Mahoning St.
Milton, PA
(570) 742-4601

Fleck and Friends Fresh Express is a year-round program that provides nutritious food to our neighbors that are in need. This program is sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and comes to us at no cost. This outreach program will be held the 2nd Friday of each month from 3 to 5 pm. We are looking for volunteers each month to help with parking, run carts, provide snacks, or just volunteer to come out to support the team by socializing with others. If you are interested in learning more or want to volunteer, please contact Stephanie Byers at (570)490-2049. We are also in NEED of gently used shopping bags (Recyclable Tote Bags, Paper or plastic Giant/Weis/Walmart bags).

Fleck & Friends Fresh Express is looking for 6 to 8 oz yogurt/butter containers and small paper or plastic bags such as the small bags the pharmacy hands your medicine out in. Please place items in the wooden cart. Thank you! Any questions you can see Stephanie Byers

We wanted to say a special word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to this campaign so far. **We have raised \$23,910.** 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.

**MOVING
FORWARD
CAMPAIGN**
HELP US REACH OUR
\$75,000 GOAL!

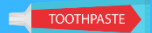
August 4th
11:30 A.M.- 12:30 P.M.

Self-Care Sanctuary

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



1125 Mahoning St.
Milton, PA



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

Please consider donating!

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH
1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA

MOVERS & SHAKERS SENIOR'S GROUP

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH 10:30AM - 12:30PM

MEAL

CONVERSATION

BINGO

Open Sunday's for Flower Donations

December 29

BUFFALO VALLEY FAITH LAB



Second Sunday of the Month
4:00pm-6:00pm

Free family dinner!

Sponsored by:

You're invited to the launch of a
new monthly family faith
formation program!

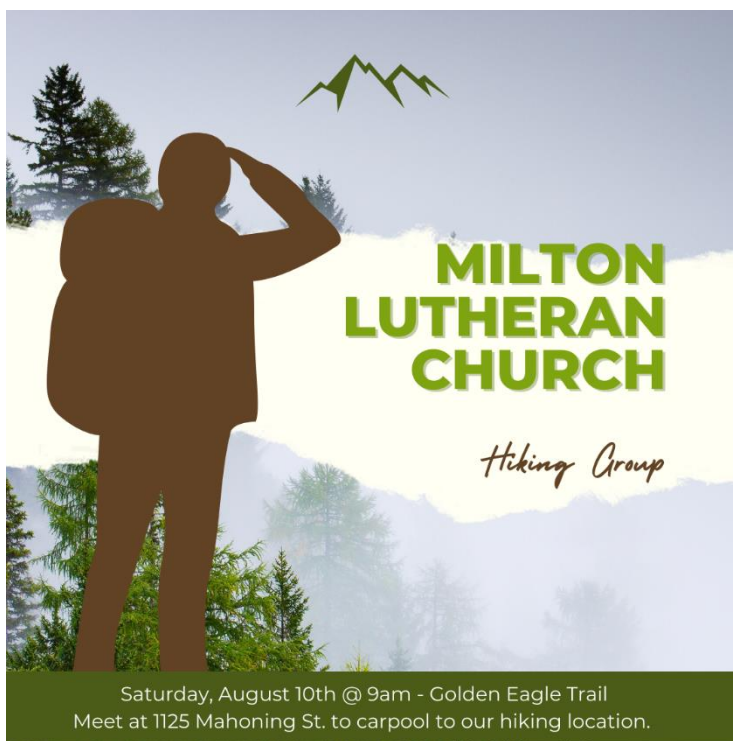


Fidget Quilt is an event where we will gather to make small, lap quilts with fidgeting items on them for people who have Alzheimer's to keep their hands busy.

We are looking for people to help who are willing to cut, sew, and generally lend a hand to our creating of these quilts.

We are gathering on Wednesday August 7th from 1pm until 3pm.

Contact Connie Stover if you have any questions.



Saturday, August 10. We will leave the church parking lot at 9 am or you can meet us at the trailhead along Rt 414, North of Cammal, PA at 10:15 am. This is considered the best day hike in PA! It is 9.3 miles long and as 2,343' of elevation. It has several nice vistas of the Pine Creek Valley including the spectacular Raven's Horn! We will have all day so we will take an easy pace. We will stop for refreshments on the way home, maybe at the Bald Birds Brewery, but you will want to pack a sandwich for a lunch break on the trail.



The Outreach Team is proud to announce the debut of the Happy Tails program starting here at Milton Lutheran Church. Happy Tails is a supplemental pet food program for families in need who own dogs and cats in our area. While hosting Self-Care Sanctuary over the past 21 months, many of our patrons have expressed a need for support to care for their animals as well.

We have partnered with a local resource that receives various donations of pet food and products in Columbia, Montour and Northumberland counties and is offered at largely discounted rates.

This ministry will occur alongside our Self-Care Sanctuary that happens on the first Sunday of the month from 11:30 am-12:30 pm. We have been offered the opportunity to pilot this pantry at no cost to us due to an anonymous donor providing us with means to run for at least a six-month trial basis. We plan to host our first event on Sunday, August 4th.

If you share in the love of animals and would like to support the team by volunteering your time, please contact Stephanie Byers at 570-490-2049. We also welcome any donations of pet care items.

For many of us, pets are part of our everyday lives and part of our families. They not only provide us with companionship but also with emotional support, reduce our stress levels, and sense of loneliness.





Our bowling event planned by the Young Adults is on August 18th at 1pm. We are collecting sign-ups for those who want to attend in the binder in the lobby! We can't wait to bowl with you!

On Sunday, August 18th, Messiah New Berlin is coming to visit us! The members of Messiah have been visiting fellow Lutheran Churches in the area, one Sunday a month over the course of the past months. They have already visited Christ in Lewisburg, Salem in Selinsgrove, United in Christ in West Milton, and Faith in Lewisburg. They are closing out their tour of local Lutheran churches with us, here at MLC!

We are excited to welcome them to worship with us!





Pork will be provided. You are asked to bring a side dish to share that you have never made before! We can't wait to pig out together!!

Our annual backpack blessing will take place during worship on August 18th. Kids or adults who are going back to school are invited to bring their backpacks to receive a prayer and a blessing.





THU, AUG 1	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
	7pm	Outreach Team Meeting
SUN, AUG 4	9:30am	Worship
	11:30am	Self-Care and Pet Sanctuary
MON, AUG 5	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, AUG 6	10am	TOPS
WED, AUG 7	1pm	Fidget Quilters
	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, AUG 8	1pm	Worship Team Meeting
	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
FRI, AUG 9	3pm	Fleck and Friends Fresh Express
SAT, AUG 10	9am	Hiking Group
SUN, AUG 11	9:30am	Worship
	11am	Fellowship Hour
	11am	Fellowship Team Meeting
MON, AUG 12	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, AUG 13	10am	TOPS
WED, AUG 14	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, AUG 15	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
SUN, AUG 18	9:30am	Worship
	1pm	Youth Group
MON, AUG 19	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, AUG 20	10am	TOPS
	10:30am	Movers and Shakers
WED, AUG 21	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, AUG 22	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
SAT, AUG 24	4pm	Pig Roast

SUN, AUG 25	9:30am	Worship
	11am	Fellowship Hour
MON, AUG 26	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, AUG 27	10am	TOPS
WED, AUG 28	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, AUG 29	5:30pm	Getting Ahead

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