



Milton Lutheran Parish Newsletter

Serving God through faith formation, worship, service, evangelism, and fellowship

February 2020

A Brief Look . . .

Sunday Worship Services for the month of February are at Trinity at 9:30 am.

Combined Worship and Music meet on Monday, February 3, at 6:00 pm at Christ.

Parish Council meets on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 pm at Trinity.

Combined Council meets on Tuesday, February 25, at 6:30 at Trinity.

Worship Participants Training/Re-Training: Sunday, February 23 at Trinity and Sunday, March 22, after worship.

2020 Community Meal Schedule:

Sunday, February 9
Sunday, April 19
Sunday, June 14
Sunday, August 9
Sunday, October 11
Sunday December 13

Visit the Milton Lutheran Parish Website for more information!

miltonlutheranparish.faith/

Message from Deacon Gary Schaeffer

This month we have the privilege of reading Jesus's sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. This passage is one of the most familiar passages for Christians. But often times we misinterpret this passage to focus on how we as people have been blessed because of the things we have, or the things we do. Instead Jesus talks about blessing in a completely different way.

The first words Jesus offers his commissioned disciples--the first words the Gospel of Matthew records from Jesus's inaugural sermon--are words of blessing. Blessing comes *first*. We *begin* with blessing. Blessing, not judgment. Blessing, not terms and conditions. Blessing, not penance. Jesus starts his ministry by telling the disciples who and what they already are: *they are blessed*. Blessed, fortunate, privileged, favored. Why? Because they are near and dear to God's heart. Whatever else Jesus's first followers go on to learn or accomplish in the future is merely the outgrowth of what is *already* their ground-of-being, their identity, their solid-as-a-rock foundation. God gifts their identities to them, without condition or measure. They are freely blessed, and so they're freed to bless others.

What does this mean? It means we're not God's nine-to-five employees, working for blessing as our compensation. We don't endeavor to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in order to *earn* God's blessings. We do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly because we are always and already blessed.

What would happen, I wonder, if we who profess faith in Jesus, actually followed his example, and made it our first priority to bless others as we have been blessed? To *lead* with blessing? To make blessing our most visible and foundational gift to those around us? What would happen to our hearts, to the Church, to the world, if we offered blessings to our neighbors as generously as God offers blessings to us?

I'll be honest--I'm not good at accepting blessings from others, and I'm pretty clumsy about giving blessings away. On the accepting end, I tend to get cringy and anxious: *If I accept this blessing, will God think I'm arrogant and presumptuous? Shouldn't my posture as a Christian be more self-deprecating? Shouldn't I deflect and cower more? What right do I have to bask in blessing?*

On the giving end, my fears are similar: Who am *I* to offer anyone else a blessing? Little piddly me--how dare I presume so much? What do *I* have to offer, anyway?

Both sets of fears come from a refusal to accept the core identity God has given me — and given all of us. It's not a matter of our deserving; it's a matter of God's astonishing love and generosity. Ours is an identity of blessedness. Blessings, Gary

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New ELW Hymnals at Christ Lutheran

Beginning in January, you will notice that the pew hymnals have been updated at Christ Lutheran to the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship edition. More comprehensive than previous worship books, the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pew Edition is still compact and easy to handle. It introduces a rich and broad selection of new songs and prayers—yet it includes much that our churches know, cherish, and use from existing resources.

If you would like to sponsor a new hymnal (or hymnals) and have your name or a loved one's name on a placard in the inside cover, please fill out a form (for each) that you will find in the Sunday or Wednesday Church bulletin or below, and place it in the offering plate with your donation of \$25 for each sponsorship. Checks should be made payable to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. Or, send the form(s) and payment to the church office at 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847. Feel free to call the church office with any questions.

We would also like to purchase four or five large print ELW hymnals to help people with visual imparities. If you would like to sponsor a large print hymnal, the cost is \$60.

The new hymnals received a blessing as part of our worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal Sponsorship Form

Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate
or return it to the church office along with payment

Your Name _____

Sponsorship (circle one): In Honor of In Memory of

Name as you want it printed on the inside cover placard (Please Print):

Payment Amount (regular print \$25; large print \$60) _____

Circle one: Check Cash

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2020 Easter Services

The following is the schedule for the 2020 Easter Season:

- Ash Wednesday Worship is February 26 at 7:00 pm at Christ
- Wednesday Evening Lenten Services are March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 at Christ with a meal at 6:00 pm and worship at 7:00 pm
- Maundy Thursday is April 9 at 7:00 pm @ Trinity
- Good Friday is April 10 at 7:00 pm at Trinity
- Easter Sunday is April 12 at 9:30 am at Christ
- All other April Sunday worship services are at Trinity at 9:30 am



2020 Easter Flowers

Would you like to help beautify the sanctuary on Easter Sunday with a colorful flower in honor or memory of someone? Please complete this order form and put it in the offering plate with your payment. The Milton High School Chapter of the Future Farmers of America is providing the flowers this year. Make checks payable to: Milton Area FFA

Orders are due by Sunday, March 1. Flowers can be taken home after the Easter Sunday worship service.

DAFFODIL	TULIP		HYACINTH	
Yellow	Single Color	Mixed Colors	Single Color	Mixed Colors
\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
LILY				
White	Red	Orange	Pink	Yellow
\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
AZALEA	CINERARIA	MUM	HYDRANGEA	
Single Color	Single Color	Single Color	Single Color	
\$12.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$12.00	

Enter the number of flowers in the box below your choice(s) in the table above.

Your Name _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Total Amount _____ Cash Check (circle one)

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Worship Participants – Help Wanted!

Worship participants are important volunteer positions and are integral to ensuring a smooth and seamless worship experience for all. These positions include: worship assistants, readers/lectors, communion assistants/servers, ushers, greeters, and alter guild. More help and new people are wanted! If you feel the spirit move you to serve in any of these capacities, please plan to attend training/re-training for worship participants on the dates listed below. Any questions about this, please talk to Kellie Brouse and Chuck Stahl.

Sunday, February 23, after worship at Trinity
 Sunday, March 22, after worship at Christ

Our Journey Toward Easter

On Ash Wednesday, February 16, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

~From Sundays and Seasons


USS ARK

USS Ark is a monthly newsletter highlighting ministries in the Synod. Visit this link at the Upper Susquehanna Synod website to read the latest edition <https://www.uss-elca.org/uss-ark/>. Or, pick up a copy at either church building.

Milton Lutheran Parish on the Web

Find us and follow us on Facebook by searching Trinity Lutheran Church and Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. Visit our website regularly for all MLP information.

<https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

February Birthdays and Anniversaries		
Birthdays		Anniversaries
Madison Coup-2/2 Lewis Fitzgerald-2/2 Amy Mull-2/5 Ed Nelson-2/5 Joanne Seidel-2/5 Trent Wargo-2/5 Darlas Yost-2/5 Pat Muffly-2/7 Gini Kaar-2/13 Sally Shrawder-2/13 Harold Webb-2/13	Jay Bastian- 2/14 Penny Pentycofe-2/15 Kristie Ishler-2/18 Ken Gaugler-2/19 Joe Yaiko-2/19 Bridgette Coup-2/20 Nancy Mensch-2/20 Donna Riccio- 2/20 Chuck Bingaman-2/23 Franklin Scott-2/23 Karen Martello-2/28 Joan Trate- 2/28	Rose & Terry Deaner- 2/25 

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Steward your Life: Cultivate a Heart of Love

Jesus taught, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." –Matthew 5:43-45a

Red hearts, flowers and chocolates remind us that February is the uncontested month of love. It's excellent (and easy) to love those close to us, but Jesus tells us to go wider, deeper, riskier--to love even our enemies. In so doing, Jesus says, we become children of God. This challenges us to embrace love as the key discipline and develop a heart so full of love that it flows to even our enemies. Isn't that how we're supposed to live as disciples? It's just good stewardship of our lives.

For this "month of love," practice loving your enemies. The effort is especially timely in our season of discord, when our loudest voices encourage us--through name-calling, denigrating, lying, smearing--to hate those with whom we disagree. Even calling them "enemies" is too much (they're really neighbors!).

Loving our "enemies" doesn't mean we agree with them or tolerate bad behavior. It means respecting, listening, discussing, refraining from anger and revenge. Here are some ideas for loving our enemies:

- Jesus gives us the first step: Pray! For them and for you!
- Stop seeing them as enemies. They're our neighbors whom God loves.
- Resist hate, the very thing our culture encourages.
- Treat everyone as you would want to be treated.
- Lastly, keep praying.

By embracing love as a spiritual discipline, we cultivate a heart of love that opens our lives to the transformation Jesus dearly desires for us--to be children of God. Now that's good stewardship.

~Rob Blezard "The Stewardship Guy" for the Lower Susquehanna Synod

Easter Candy Sale

Stephanie Byers and the Sunday School team of "candy makers" will be working their convection skills again this year! Sales of peanut butter and coconut eggs will begin March 1. This year's Easter Candy fundraising project will benefit Camp Emerge at Camp Victory, a camp for individuals with autism. All funds raised will be presented in Maddox Shipe's name. The Shipe family were faithful and active members of Christ for many years before moving from Milton. If you wish to donate any needed goods: 8- 48 oz jars Jif creamy peanut butter. 20 -2 pound bags confectionary sugar. 10 rolls of paper towels. 4 rolls of wax paper. 14- 16 oz containers marshmallow fluff. Donations can be dropped off at Christ Lutheran by Sunday, February 23. Anyone who would to help make eggs can help Friday, February 28 from 3-6 or Saturday, February 29 from 7-11. Any questions call Stephanie Byers 570-490-2049.

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prayer
Requests



Milton Lutheran Parish Prayer Concerns

Members, Friends and Family of Milton Lutheran Parish Prayer List

Note: Names will remain on the parish prayer list for 30 days. After 30 days names will be removed from the prayer list unless you notify Donna Riccio that you wish to remain on the prayer list.

Barb Ashenfelder, Patsy Aunkst, Linda Bastian, Rodney Bastian, Betty Baumer, MaryLou Benshoff, Julie Benshoff, Harry Berger, Mary Billhime, Dolores Boonie, Georgia Boyer, Betty Callenberger, Mary Jane & Melvin Crist, Ken Delp, Bonnie Erb, Judy Farr, George & Joanie Fisher, Helen Fisher, Beth Flower, Charlene Francis, Ken Gaugler, Ann Gelnett, Gerald Greenly, Kimberly Handy, Valerie Handy, Wayne Hauck, John Heffelfinger, Doris Heffelfinger, Florence Ishler, Nancy Mensch, Shannon Moll, Rod Moore, Ron Mull, Ed Nelson, Mark Nolder, DorithiJean Poeth, Jerry Roush, Alice Roush, Connie Sholly, Beth Ann Slusser, Dean Slusser, Laurie Staley, Matt Swartzlander, Karen Walters, Nancy Walters, Shirley Wargo, Nancy Weikel, Mike & Lynnette Weisner, Darlas Yost, Harold Webb

Those serving in the military:

Trent Wargo

Our leaders, guides, & activities:

Deacon Schaeffer, Rev. Brian & Christine Palmer, missionaries, Bishop B.J. Collins, Synod Staff, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Authorized Lay Worship Leaders, our Parish Call Committee, Mutual Ministry Team, Parish Council, Parish Stewardship, Christian Ed Ministry and Spiritual Growth Ministry.

PLEASE CHECK THIS LIST EACH WEEK IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN AND LET THE OFFICE KNOW OF ANYONE WHO NEEDS ADDED OR CAN BE REMOVED. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PRAYER WARRIORS!

Office Hours – 8 am-3:30 pm (Trinity-Mon.-Fri. mornings; Christ- Mon.-Fri. afternoons)
Deadline for the next newsletter is February 20. Please e-mail the Parish Office Administrator with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles or drop them off at either church.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 Church Phone- 570-742-7473
Parish Office Administrator – driccio@christlutheranmpa.org

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 Church Phone-570-742-4601
Parish Office Administrator- tlcmilton@ptd.net

Milton Lutheran Parish Website: <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

<p>2020 Parish Council</p> <p>Krysta Yaiko, President Don Fisher, Vice President Lynnette Weisner, Secretary Rose Handy Bill Heimbach Donna Spear</p>	<p>2020 Christ Council</p> <p>Donna Spear, President Tonya Wargo, Vice President Penny Ulmer, Secretary Rich Handy, Treasurer Kellie Brouse Kay Dunn Don Fisher Nancy Mensch Nancy Walters</p>	<p>2020 Trinity Council</p> <p>Krista Yaiko, President Jeff Coup, Vice President Crystal Gnidovec, Secretary Kate Budman Kevin Fry Bill Heimbach Seth Reitz Dawn Russell Cindy Trapane</p>	<p>Church Staff</p> <p>Deacon Gary Schaeffer, Interim Pastor Donna Riccio, Parish Office Administrator Donna Spear, Parish Webmaster Bob Greenly, Christ Groundskeeper Rich Handy, Christ Treasurer Nancy Walters, Christ Church Music Director and Choir Director Helen Billhime, Christ Custodian Charles Stahl, Trinity Sexton John Warfel, Parish Organist and Bell Choir Director Carol Yost, Trinity Treasurer</p>
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 4th Sunday of Epiphany <u>Combined Service 9:30am At Trinity</u>	3 <u>Book Group 10am</u> <i>Combined Worship & Music Meeting 6pm</i> <i>ARC 6-8pm</i> <i>Bible Study 7pm</i>	4 <u>Bible Study 9:30am</u>	5 <i>Red Cross Blood Drive- 11am-6pm</i> <i>Mid-Week Worship 3pm</i> <u>Bell Choir 6pm</u> <i>Choir 6:30pm</i>	6	7	8
9 5th Sunday of Epiphany <u>Combined Service 9:30am At Trinity</u> <i>Community Meal- 5:00pm</i>	10 <i>ARC 6-8pm</i> <i>Bible Study 7pm</i>	11 <u>Bible Study 9:30am</u>	12 <u>Bell Choir 6pm</u> <i>Choir 6:30pm</i>	13	14	15
16 6th Sunday of Epiphany <u>Combined Service 9:30am at Trinity</u>	17 <i>ARC 6-8pm</i>	18 <u>Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm</u>	19 <u>Bell Choir 6pm</u> <i>Choir 6:30pm</i>	20	21	22
23 Transfiguration of our Lord <u>Combined Service 9:30am At Trinity (Volunteer training after service)</u>	24 <i>ARC 6-8pm</i>	25 <u>Combined Councils Meeting 6:30pm</u>	26 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm at Christ Lutheran	27	28 <i>Easter Candy Making 3-6 pm</i>	29 <i>Easter Candy Making 7-11 am</i>

At Trinity Lutheran Building-Underlined At Christ Lutheran Building-Italics

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