



# Milton Lutheran Parish Newsletter

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

January 2020

## A Brief Look . . .

Sunday Worship Services for the month of January are at Christ at 9:30 am.

Mid-Week Worship service is each Wednesday at 3 pm at Christ Lutheran.

Combined Worship and Music meet on Monday, January 6, at 6:30 at Christ.

Parish Council meets on Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 pm at Christ.

Combined Council meets on Tuesday, January 28, at 6:30 at Christ.

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/](http://miltonlutheranparish.faith/)

## Message from Deacon Gary Schaeffer

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ~ <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

This is one of my favorite passages in the bible. I think it especially rings true for us as we enter a New Year. Each time the New Year comes around, it causes all of us to pause and reflect on the previous year. We are reminded of the experiences we've had, the memories we've made, the good, the bad, our goals and our dreams for the future.

The tradition of a New Year's resolution has been around for a long time. I don't know about you, but for me, I always fall short of reaching my goal and accomplishing my resolution. In years past I've hoped to lose weight, build stronger relationships, spend more time with my family, gain a sense of joy, and so on. Ultimately though, in reflecting on the previous years I find myself right back where I started; hoping for something more. All of this reminds me of this passage in Jeremiah. Where Jeremiah talks to us about God's plan for our lives. It is a plan for us to grow in our sense of God's love and presence in our lives. It is also a plan for us to seek out God with all of our hearts. So this year rather than a New Year's resolution I'm considering asking myself a question each day. God, where do I see you in my life and in the world? I think this is a great question for all of us to consider. Maybe you've decided to tackle a New Year's resolution or not. Either way, I wonder if its' possible to ask God this question. If you've decided to eat healthier, ask God where you've seen God in that task. Or if you've decided to mend a broken relationship, ask God where God is during that relationship. If you've decided just to keep on living your life, ask God where God is in the day to day tasks of your life.

Who knows, maybe if we ask ourselves this question each day we may just find God shows up in the most unexpected places.

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 will receive a blessing as part of our worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

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### 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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## 2019 Christmas Eve Services

Milton Lutheran Parish Christmas Eve Services were well-attended and provided wonderful opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Beginning with the 6:00 pm service at Trinity, many thanks go to the young people who led worship and told the story of Jesus birth. Noah, Madison, Patience, Chance, Ryleigh, Lewis, Gavin, Evan, Frankie, and Bryson, you are such a blessing to others. Special thanks to Mindy for organizing, facilitating, and inspiring these young people in this service. The candlelight services at Christ at 7:30 and Trinity at 10:30 pm both had special music with our combined choir (both services) and community bell choir (10:30 service). John Warfel also shared his talents both with vocal solos and lovely organ pieces at both services. Thank you to Mindy Bartholomew and Constantine Havar for leading our Christmas Eve services. May the beauty of Christmas remain in all of our hearts through the coming year!



## Worship Participants – Thank You and Help Wanted!

As we finish 2019 and look to 2020 and the future of Milton Lutheran Parish, a big thank you goes out to our faithful worship participants who serve as worship assistants, readers/lectors, communion assistants/servers, ushers, greeters, alter guild, choir members, bell choir members, and offering counters. Your faithfulness in these important volunteer positions is integral to ensuring a smooth and seamless worship experience for all. Moreover, as we continue combined worship each Sunday, it would be great to mix it up and have Christ members serve at Trinity and Trinity members serve at Christ!

If you feel the spirit move you to serve in any of these capacities, please let Deacon Gary or Parish Office Administrator, Donna Riccio know. We welcome more people to help with these important roles in our church worship and life as we alternate our services between buildings through April.

## Installation of 2020 Council Members

As our Councils continue to lead our Parish in 2020, please note on the last page of this newsletter those members who serve. We especially thank Tiffany Heimbach, outgoing Trinity Council member for her service and Joe Yaiko, outgoing Parish Council secretary for his service. Welcome to new members Kate Budman (Trinity Council) and Rose Handy (Parish Council). Trinity Council officers for 2020 are Krista Yaiko, President; Jeff Coup, Vice President; and Crystal Gnidovec, Secretary. Officers for Christ's council and Parish council will be selected at the January meetings. The official installation of these leaders will be during worship on Sunday, January 26.

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## Revelation Bible Study

Starting January 6, we will be exploring the book of Revelation at our Monday and Tuesday bible studies. Below is a breakdown of the weeks we will gather and what we will be discussing. There will be no prior reading and all you need to bring is yourself. We hope to see you there! Monday bible studies are at Christ from 7:00pm-8:30pm and Tuesday bible studies are at Trinity from 9:30am-11:00am.

Week 1- January 6 and 7 - The Who, What, and Where of Revelation

Week 2- January 13 and 14 - Apocalypse or a Vision for Christ (Revelation. 1:9- 2:7)

*NOTE: Jan. 14 Class only (Tues. A.M.) - No Jan. 13 Class (Mon. P.M)*

Week 3- January 20-21 - Apocalypse or a Vision for Christ (Revelation 1:9- 2:7)

*NOTE: Jan. 20 class only (Mon. P.M.) - No Jan. 21 Class (Tues. A.M.)*

Week 4- January 27 and 28 - God the Creator (Revelation 4:1-11)

Week 5- February 3 and 4 - Christ the Lamb (Revelation 5:1-13)

Week 6- February 10 and 11 - The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-6 & 22:1-5)

## Treasured by God

**Monday, January 6, 2020, Epiphany of Our Lord, Overview** ~ A newborn baby often elicits “oohs” and “ahs” from its admirers and yet developmentally, may be doing nothing incredibly remarkable—only able to focus on objects only about 18 inches in front of its face and prone to stare at any shiny object. Nevertheless, a newborn is a miracle to behold, filled with wonder for the world around it and desiring nothing more than to be fed, held, rocked, nurtured, and loved.

The gifts of the magi direct us away from the cute, cuddly, cooing baby Jesus by pointing us to who Jesus really has come to be. The magi offer gold, a possession of kings; frankincense, used in ritual to indicate the presence of the deity; and myrrh, an oil used at the time of death as well as for anointing priests. By their gifts, the wise men reveal the identity of this child: the king before whom nations will bow, the anointed high priest of God, and the suffering servant who will die for the ones he has come to serve.

The “oohs” and “ahs” we offer as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord are not simply for a cooing and cuddly baby Jesus but for a God who chooses to reveal God’s love and mercy by taking human form. On this day, we celebrate that God’s mercy is wider and deeper than we imagined and includes all people and all nations. All people—rich or poor, Gentile or Jew, straight or gay, male or female—are God’s treasure, the precious ones for whom God is willing to die. What do we bring to honor our Lord before whom we bow? We bring the treasure of our lives poured out in praise of God and in service to others.

~From *Sundays and Seasons*

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## Steward Your Best Year Ever!

*“Stewardship is not only a matter of faithful giving but of faithful living. In response to the Gospel, we submit our lives to the rule of God, to the lordship of Christ, and to the direction of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be the people God wants us to be and have the lives God wants us to have.”* –**Mark Allan Powell**, author of *Giving to God*.

Yikes! It’s January 2, and the bathroom scale shows that, once again, I’ve gained a few pounds in the five-week blitz-feast of Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year. Clearly, I need to *steward* my health better in 2020.

Though it’s not the most common use of the word, *steward* is also a verb, an action word. We *steward* all that God has entrusted to us, making choices that, as Mark Allan Powell says, help us “be the people God wants us to be and have the lives God wants us to have.”

We steward our lives through our decisions and choices – the food we eat, the people we call friends, how we spend our money, the entertainment we select, the hobbies we enjoy, the many ways we spend our time, and so on.

To steward faithfully, we have to live in prayerful awareness and make conscious, thoughtful decisions that will advance us in Godly directions.

As 2020 begins, prayerfully consider the most important areas of your life, such as your physical, mental and spiritual health, as well as your relationships and time, and ask God to help you steward them in ways that will help you be the person God wants you to be and have the life God wants you to have.

As for me, it will not only help me lose those extra holiday pounds, but also give me my best year *ever*. -*Rob Blezard “The Stewardship Guy” for the Lower Susquehanna Synod*

## 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.

## Parish Newsletter

Starting January 2020, The Parish News newsletter will no longer be mailed except to the homebound and out-of-state members. It will be available at both churches and on the parish website [miltonlutheranparish.faith](http://miltonlutheranparish.faith). We will be emailing the newsletter to all those with an email address if desired. Please let Donna Riccio know at either office if you would like your newsletter emailed and give her an up-to-date email address.

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## Stay Tuned on Social Media and the Web



<https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-Milton-278787370056/>

<https://www.facebook.com/celcmpa/>



Website: <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

## Worship Service Schedule

### **All Sunday Morning Services are at 9:30 am!**

January – Services at Christ Lutheran

February – Services at Trinity Lutheran

March – Services at Christ Lutheran

April – Services at Trinity Lutheran

Times and locations of special services such as Good Friday, Easter, etc. will be announced ahead of time.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Birthdays	Anniversaries
Shirley Robinson-1/2	Jerrold & Alice Roush- 1/04
Mary Billhime- 1/3	Leroy & Bonnie Hauck- 1/08
Dave Robinson-1/3	
Linda Trate-1/6	
Jack Aunkst-1/8	
Daniel Day-1/12	
Laura Spangler-1/13	
Alison Gardner-1/15	
Dale Cochran-1/16	
Kay Dunn-1/18	
Andy McNeal Jr.-1/19	
Doris Moore- 1/20	
Linn Davis-1/22	
Helen Billhime-1/23	
Kate Budman-1/24	
Sandy Brown-1/25	
Bonnie Gaugler-1/27	



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# 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, Julie Benshoff, Harry Berger, Mary Billhime, Georgia Boyer, Betty Callenberger, Mary Jane & Melvin Crist, Ken Delp, Judy Farr, George & Joanie Fisher, Helen Fisher, Charlene Francis, Ken Gaugler, Ann Gelnett, Gerald Greenly, Kimberly

Handy, Valerie Handy, John Heffelfinger, Doris Heffelfinger, Florence Ishler, Nancy Mensch, Shannon Moll, Rod Moore, Ron Mull, Ed Nelson, DorithiJean Poeth, Alice Roush, Connie Sholly, Karen Walters, Nancy Walters, Shirley Wargo, Nancy Weikel, Mike & Lynnette Weisner, Darlas Yost, Harold Webb

Those serving in the military:

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 January 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](mailto:driccio@christlutheranmpa.org)

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 Church Phone-570-742-4601

Parish Office Administrator- [tlcmilton@ptd.net](mailto:tlcmilton@ptd.net)

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

2020 Parish Council Don Fisher Rose Handy Bill Heimbach Donna Spear Lynnette Weisner Krysta Yaiko	2020 Christ Council Donna Spear Tonya Wargo Penny Ulmer Rich Handy Kellie Brouse Kay Dunn Don Fisher Nancy Mensch Nancy Walters	2020 Trinity Council Krista Yaiko, President Jeff Coup, Vice President Crystal Gnidovec, Secretary Kate Budman Kevin Fry Bill Heimbach Seth Reitz Dawn Russell Lynnette Weisner	Church Staff 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
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# January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b>	2 <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b>	3	4
5 <b>2nd Sunday of Christmas</b>  <i>Combined Service 9:30am At Christ</i>	6 <u>Book Group 10am</u>  <i>Worship &amp; Music 6pm</i>  <i>ARC 6-8pm</i>  <i>Bible Study 7pm</i>	7 <u>Bible Study 9:30am</u>	8 <i>Mid-Week Worship 3pm</i>  <u>Bell Choir 6pm</u>  <i>Choir 6:30pm</i>	9 <i>Community Meal Planning Meeting- 6:30pm</i>	10	11
12 <b>Baptism of our Lord</b>  <i>Combined Service 9:30am At Christ</i>	13  <i>ARC 6-8pm</i>  <i>Bible Study 7pm</i>	14 <u>Bible Study 9:30am</u>  <i>Parish Council 6:30pm</i>	15 <i>Mid-Week Worship 3pm</i>  <u>Bell Choir 6pm</u>  <i>Choir 6:30pm</i>	16	17	18
19 <b>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b>  <i>Combined Service 9:30am at Christ</i>	20 <i>ARC 6-8pm</i>  <i>Bible Study 7pm</i>	21 <u>Bible Study 9:30am</u>	22 <i>Mid-Week Worship 3pm</i>  <u>Bell Choir 6pm</u>  <i>Choir 6:30pm</i>	23	24	25
26 <b>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</b>  <i>Combined Service 9:30am At Christ (Installation of Council Members and Blessing of New Hymnals during worship)</i>	27 <i>ARC 6-8pm</i>  <i>Bible Study 7pm</i>	28 <u>Bible Study 9:30am</u>  <i>Combined Councils 6:30pm</i>	29 <i>Mid-Week Worship 3pm</i>  <u>Bell Choir 6pm</u>  <i>Choir 6:30pm</i>	30	31	

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

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