



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / JUNE 2024

# NEWSLETTER

*Fostering community through faith, love, and service*

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Church,

This past month we finished our worship series 'Listen God is Calling'. We spent several weeks as a faith community being reminded of the ways that God speaks to us as individuals and as a church. Our last week of the worship series we focus on how God speaks to us specifically as a church and explored one of Paul's letters in the bible, Ephesians 4: 1-16. In his letter to the people of Ephesus Paul outlines four characteristics that we should embody as the body of Christ to remain in unity with one another as we discern God's will for us.

**4** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** **Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.** **3** **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.** **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**7** But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. **8** This is why it<sup>[a]</sup> says:

“When he ascended on high,  
he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people.”<sup>[b]</sup>

**9** (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions<sup>[c]</sup>? **10** He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) **11** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. **15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. **16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

These four characteristics Humbleness, Gentleness, Patience, and Bearing One Another in Love can be difficult things to embody, but ultimately Paul outlines them as a way to help us live together in community unified with God.

**Humbleness-** This characteristic reminds us that we are all created equal in the eyes of God. Each of us brings different perspectives and ideas. As a church our challenge is to listen to one another and recognize that our

perspectives and ideas are not the only ones out there. With humbleness we share our opinions and seek to listen to the opinions of others.

**Gentleness-** This characteristic reminds us that we all have baggage. I like to think of the church as a hospital for people looking to heal their spirits. It's important that we give space to one another to learn and grow. Some changes or decisions we make may be easy for some but hard for others. God calls us to be gentle with one another when we disagree and are struggling.

**Patience-** There are times when discerning God's will for us individually can take a long time to figure out. Some changes in our lives can take months or even years to take shape. As a church we all called to embody the characteristic of patience and recognize that it can take a long time for us to collectively discern what God's will is for our community of faith.

**Bearing One Another With Love-** The greatest commandment is to love one another as God has loved us. The Greek word for love is 'Agape'. It literally translates into sacrificial love. Bearing one another with love means being willing to sacrifice our own wants, needs and desires for those of our neighbors. It challenges us to consider what we are willing to place aside so we can love those we are in relationship with.

As we enter another season in the life of our congregation and begin the formal process of discernment my prayer for all of us is that we will be intentional to embody these characteristics as a church in the best way we know how. Inevitably we will fail, but through open communication, dialogue, and a commitment to God we too can live into God's call to be the body of Christ.

Many Blessings,

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

## An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Lynnette Weisner

Council news

The MLC council met on May 20, 2024. Sue Ellen Spotts, the Director of Evangelism and Mission for the synod, met with the council to help us formulate interview questions to be used when the council interviews potential consultants to help us with the strategic planning process.

Thus far we have two proposals and hope to seek a third option before we begin the interview process. As volunteers we do not have the expertise to do this ourselves. We want to do the best job possible with the strategic planning process and thus need the help of experts who have experience working with congregations as they undertake this type of process. There will likely be a significant cost to hire a consultant and depending upon the cost, it may require a special congregational meeting to approve it. The council will keep the cost in mind when choosing the best consultant to work with us.

The council also discussed the plan for June 9th when we list the strengths, challenges, and opportunities of the building at 1125 Mahoning St. Christopher Coup and Lynnette Weisner will lead this discussion and the responses will be recorded. This is the same process that we used last year while at 100 Mahoning St. These responses will be utilized in the strategic planning process. Sue Ellen Spotts will then explain more information about the discernment/strategic planning process, what it entails, and the time frame to do this correctly.

The property team is finalizing a building use policy that will be presented to the council hopefully next month for their review and approval. This policy would apply to anyone who would want to use our buildings for an event.

It was brought to our attention that the council had not communicated our policy decision about weddings and funerals at 100 Mahoning St. last year. In February of 2023 council decided to maintain the same policy for 100 Mahoning St as was already in place for 1125 Mahoning St with regard to weddings and funerals. That policy stated that if one was originally a member of 1125 Mahoning St., they could have a wedding or a funeral at that building if needed. Thus, if anyone who was originally a member at 100 Mahoning St. wanted to have a wedding or a funeral in that building, they could do so. It was our intent to communicate this policy at the March 2023 congregational meeting, but we neglected to do so. If there are any questions about this decision, please speak with a member of council.

Finally, this past month we spent time reflecting on the Ephesians 4:1-16 text from the final week of our 'Listen God is Calling' worship series. We discussed how to best embody the characteristics that Paul outlines in Ephesians: humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing one another with love. Together we made a commitment to work toward embodying these characteristics as your council and our hope is that each of you will as well.

## **Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports**

### **Fellowship Team**

On May 4th, MLC hosted trivia night with United in Christ and Christ Lutheran. Approximately 35 attended, and we shared a meal and plenty of laughs as we competed with each other with trivia questions from the pastors.

May 12th (Mother's Day), the fellowship team presented gifts to all the women in our congregation to share appreciation for all that they do.

Sunday, June 23rd is our picnic at Knoebels Grove with United in Christ and Christ Lutheran. We will be gathering for some fun, food, and fantasy!

Sunday, July 28th will be our annual summer trip to see the Crosscutters play some baseball in Williamsport, so be sure to save the date!

Ruth Scott

### **Outreach Team**

There is no report from Outreach this month, but we are collecting toothpaste this month for Self-Care Sanctuary. We are looking for toothpaste for all ages, including infants, kids, and adults.

Steph Byers

## Hiking Group

On Sunday, May 26th, the Milton Lutheran Church hiking group enjoyed a great hike across the top of Peters Mtn near Duncannon. The weather, the scenery and the conversation were all well enjoyed! On the way home we enjoyed good food at the Old Trail Tavern.

The next scheduled hike is on Sunday, June 9th, to Dutchman Falls and the Band Rock Vista in the McIntyre Wild Area near Ralston, PA. We have moved our normal time to leave from the church parking lot to 12:30 due to the 1125 building conversation we are having after church that day.

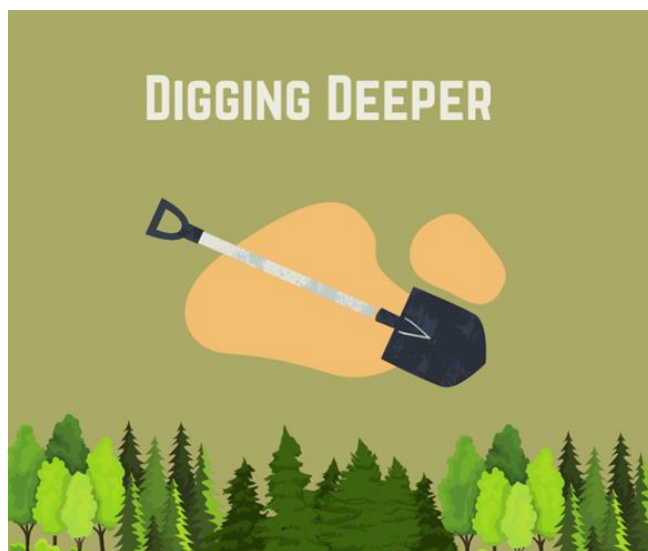
For more information on this hike, or to be added to our hiking group email list, contact [jeffcoup@verizon.net](mailto:jeffcoup@verizon.net).

Jeff Coup



Our Bible Study groups meet on Wednesdays. You'll be invited to dig deeper into scripture, faith, and your relationship with God. An in-person group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 A.M.

This will be a great way to take what we are learning in worship and dig deeper each week into new concepts and ideas.



We wanted to say a special word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to this campaign so far. **We have raised \$22,770.** 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 Tithely. Please just be sure to place 'Moving Forward Campaign' in the memo line.

# FLECK & FRIENDS *fresh express*



**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**Friday, June 14th  
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Sponsored by the  
Central PA Food Bank



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



Our Pub Theology group is meeting again! Join us for some fun and conversation on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Arrowhead Bar and Restaurant. This will be the final meeting of Pub Theology for the summer.

We will resume gathering in September.

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 recycled egg cartons, 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**

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA

## MOVERS & SHAKERS SENIOR'S GROUP

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH 10:30AM - 12:30PM

CONVERSATION

MEAL

BINGO

**June 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



Our grief support group will be taking a break from meeting for the summer. We will announce when we will be starting back up later in the summer.

For the month of June, we are requesting donations of adult, kids, and infant toothpaste!

Please consider donating!

In partnership with:



**MILTON**  
Lutheran Church



**United In Christ**  
Lutheran Church



**GRIEF  
SUPPORT**

A grief support group for those on the journey together.  
You are welcomed here.



**Affirmation of  
Baptism of  
Ryleigh Heimbach**

**Sunday, June 9th**



**Open Sunday's for  
Flower Donations**

July 7  
December 15  
December 22  
December 29

We will be celebrating Ryleigh Heimbach's affirmation of baptism on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>! We hope you join us for this important step in Ryleigh's faith journey and come to support her in her faith life.

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 June 5th from 1pm until 3pm.

Contact Connie Stover if you have any questions.



<https://miltonlutheranchurch.churchtrac.com/>


Download the New MLC App to keep up with what's going on at MLC, give offering online, submit prayer requests, and more!



**Sunday: 6/9/24: Meet at the church parking lot at 12:30pm.**

**Dutchman Run Falls and Band Rock Vista in the McIntire Wild Area just E of Ralston, PA.**

This is a fairly easy out and back 3-mile hike to Dutchman Run Falls. For those that would like to meet us in Ralston, you can meet us in the Methodist Church parking lot in Ralston (a white church on the West side of PA Rt 14 across the street from the Ralston Firehouse. We should be to that parking lot a little after 1 pm. After we the hike we can drive up to the Band Rock Vista for a grand view of the area. We will stop of refreshments on the way home.



**MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Hiking Group*

Sunday, June 9th @ 12:30pm - Dutchman Run Falls and Band Rock Vista  
Meet at 1125 Mahoning St. to carpool to our hiking location.



**JOIN US AT**  
**Knoebels**  
AMUSEMENT RESORT

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23 @ 1:00PM, PAVILION H**  
BURGERS & DOGS PROVIDED! BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE!

MILTON Lutheran Church  
United in Christ Lutheran Church



**FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH & 23RD**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**  
In our fellowship hall.

Sign-ups are in the lobby. If you plan to attend, please sign up by June 16<sup>th</sup>. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

# JOIN US JUNE 9TH

FOR AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION  
LED BY COUNCIL AND SUE ELLEN SPOTTS

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

We will gather for conversation on June 9<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship where we will conduct an analysis of the strengths, opportunities, and challenges of 1125 Mahoning St. This conversation will be led by members of council. This is the same process we did at 100 Mahoning St. last year.

Sue Ellen Spotts, Director of Evangelical Mission for our synod, will be here to lead us in a conversation of what the next steps of our discernment process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lynnette Weisner or another member of council.

## SUMMER DAY CAMP

**JULY 8-12 • 9AM-3PM**  
FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING GRADES K-5

**REGISTER TODAY!**

[WWW.MYVBS.ORG/MILTONLUTHERANCHURCHES](http://WWW.MYVBS.ORG/MILTONLUTHERANCHURCHES)

If you are graduating this year, send a photo, where you're graduating from, and what your next steps are to the office by June 5<sup>th</sup> to have them put in the announcements!

## Graduation Milestone

ON JUNE 9TH, WE WILL BE CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES!



SUN, JUNE 2	9:30am	Worship
	11:30am	Self-Care Sanctuary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
MON, JUNE 3	12pm	Rotary
	3pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, JUNE 4	10am	TOPS
WED, JUNE 5	10am	NO BIBLE STUDY
	1pm	Fidget Quilters
	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, JUNE 6	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
	7pm	Outreach Team Meeting
SUN, JUNE 9	9:30am	Worship
	10am	Congregation Conversation with Sue Ellen Spotts
	11am	Fellowship Hour
	11am	Fellowship Team Meeting
MON, JUNE 10	12:30pm	Hiking Group
	12pm	Rotary Meeting
	6pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, JUNE 11	10am	TOPS
WED, JUNE 12	10am	Bible Study
	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, JUNE 13	1pm	Worship Team Meeting
	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
	7pm	Pub Theology
FRI, JUNE 14	3pm	Fleck and Friends Fresh Express
SUN, JUNE 16	9:30am	Worship
	1pm	Youth Group
MON, JUNE 17	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts

	7pm	Council Meeting
TUE, JUNE 18	10am	TOPS
	10:30am	Movers and Shakers
WED, JUNE 19	10am	NO BIBLE STUDY
	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, JUNE 20	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
SUN, JUNE 23	9:30am	Worship
	11am	Fellowship Hour
	1pm	Knoebels Picnic
MON, JUNE 24	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, JUNE 25	10am	TOPS
WED, JUNE 26	10am	Bible Study
	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, JUNE 27	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
SUN, JUNE 30	9:30am	Worship at the Brown Ave. Park Pavilion

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