



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH // NOVEMBER 2023

# NEWSLETTER

*Fostering community through faith, love, and service*

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Church,

At the end of October, we had the joy of gathering in our fellowship hall for conversation church. This style of worship is quickly becoming one of the favorite things we do at MLC. It's a wonderful time of fellowship, worship, opportunities to grow closer to one another, and of course; praising God. It's wonderful to look around and see people gathered around tables, talking to one another, sharing stories of faith, laughing, and learning together.

This particular Sunday was also the Sunday that we celebrated the Reformation. It's been over 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of a Catholic Church in Wittenburg. I imagine at the time when Luther did what he did that he had no idea how it would change the world forever.

You see, for Luther he believed that a persons' faith was something that was personal to them. That the Church shouldn't be able to dictate what pieces of the Word of God people were exposed too. He believed that grace was a gift given by God to everyone and that the church should not limit the ways in which that grace was shared with people. So, he wrote the 95 theses. Each one exposing the Church for the ways in which it was limiting God's grace. Luther believed that once the Church was called out for their indiscretions, they would repent and change their ways. Instead, the church dug in and fought Luther, excommunicated him, and tried to paint him as a heretic.

Ultimately, we know the rest of the story. The Lutheran Church is a product of the reformation. And as I looked out among our imperfect church family that Sunday, I was reminded that the reformation continues in our community to this day. We are constantly seeking ways to expand people's exposure to and knowledge of God's grace in their lives. Whether that's through a new kind of worship, creating space for our young people, ensuring everyone feels welcome when they walk through the doors, introducing new outreach opportunities to meet the needs of our community, or just in the ways we study the bible. All of these things are the product of over 500 years of tradition founded on the idea that the church should constantly be reforming itself.

It's not just the church that is reforming either, it's us. God is constantly taking the experiences of our lives and shaping us into God's image. God is always working on us, challenging us to grow, giving us opportunities to learn, and ensuring that we are reminded of God's love each day.

So, my friends at MLC. Happy Reformation!

Many Blessings,

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

# An Update from MLC Church Council

**From Council President Lynnette Weisner**

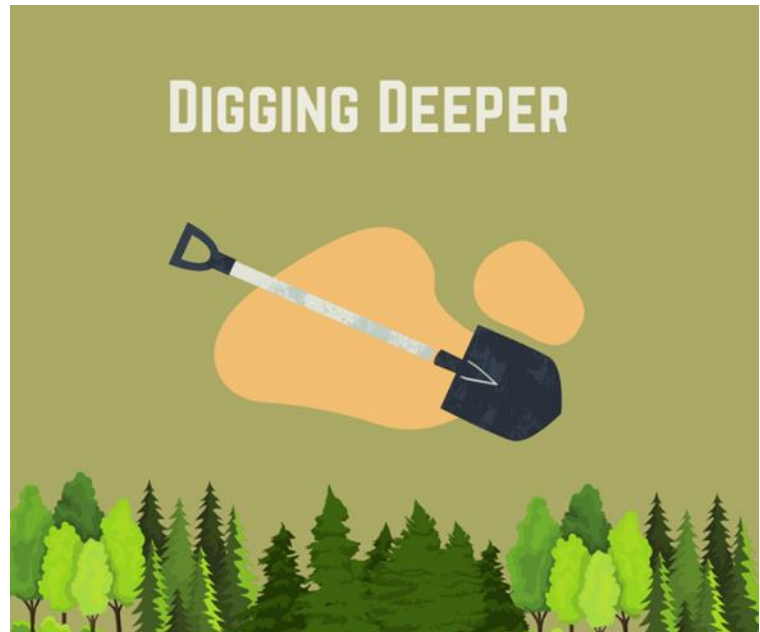
## Council News

At the October council meeting, the council approved Sue Warfel as the chairperson of the Worship team, Ruth Yost as the chairperson of the Fellowship team, and Stephanie Byers as the co-chairperson of the Outreach team. The proposed 2024 budget was approved to present to the congregation for their approval at the November 19th annual congregational meeting.

The nominating team recommended the following people for the slate of council members and synod delegates: Christopher Coup for a 2nd three-year term, Kevin Fry for a 2nd three-year term, Ruth Yost for a 1st three-year term, Andy McNeil Jr, for a 1st three-year term, and Stephanie Byers for a 1st three-year term; John and Sue Warfel as the synod delegates. The nominees slated for the 2024 nominating team are Bridgette Coup, Nancy Walters, and John Martello. The council approved those slated and the congregation will vote on the nominations at the November 19th annual congregational meeting on November 19th.

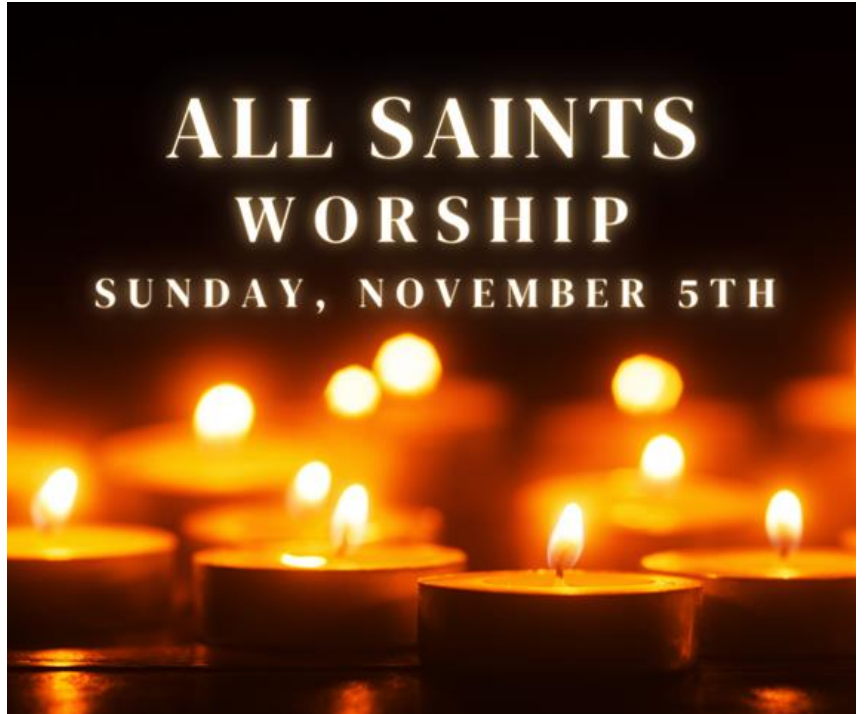
Our Bible Study groups will start meeting weekly on Wednesdays. You'll be invited to dig deeper into scripture, faith, and your relationship with God. There will be two opportunities for bible study happening on Wednesdays. An in-person group will meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 A.M. and an online group will be meeting over Zoom at 7:00 P.M

Please contact Pastor Gary for the Zoom link. Our focus will be on lectionary texts. This will be a great way to take what we are learning in worship and dig deeper each week into new concepts and ideas.



On Sunday, November 5th, we will recognize all the saints that have gone before us. People are encouraged to bring a photo of their loved ones and place it on the alter before worship.

# ALL SAINTS WORSHIP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH



## MLC Friendsgiving Feast

November

**11**

at 4:30 PM

*Gather  
around  
the table*

**1125  
Mahoning  
Social  
Hall**

Please join us on November 11 at 4:30 pm for an MLC Friendsgiving Feast! The meal will have several courses and take place in the fellowship hall. More information on sign ups to prepare food and help serve to follow.



**November 5th**

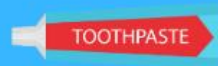
**11:30 A.M.- 12:30 P.M.**

## **Self- Care Sanctuary**

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



**1125 Mahoning St.  
Milton, PA**



**We are in need of donations of packaged toothbrushes for our future Self-Care Sanctuaries. Please consider donating.**

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

**SUNDAY,  
NOV 12TH & 26ND**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**In our fellowship hall.**

# FLECK & FRIENDS *fresh express*



**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**Friday, Nov. 10  
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 ministry will be held the 2nd Friday of each month from 3 to 5 pm. We are looking for volunteers each month to help us sort food, register people, pass out food, help with parking, run carts, provide snacks, or just volunteer to come out to support the team by socializing with others. The food gets delivered to us around 1:30 pm on distribution day. 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).

# FOOD \* DRIVE

Please help us fill empty plates this season. Donate non-perishable, non-expired items to benefit the Milton Rotary Food Pantry.

A blessing of the donations will happen during worship on December 17th.



There is a new way to give at MLC. We have partnered with an organization named Tithe.ly to expand our options for giving. Tithe.ly is an online giving platform that you can use to make a financial contribution to the church. You can make one-time or recurring gifts through our church website or on the tithe.ly app. Check out our giving tab on our website or download the app for your phone and search 'Milton Lutheran Church' to make a contribution. Need help getting set up? Please let the office know and we can help you!



We wanted to say a special word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to this campaign so far. **We have raised just over \$13,000.** 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.

In partnership with:



# GRIEF SUPPORT

A grief support group for those on  
the journey together.

**You are welcomed here.**

Our next grief support group will resume gathering on the last Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M. The next gathering will be November 27<sup>th</sup> and we will be meeting at United in Christ (1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg). We are excited to continue our partnership with United in Christ and Christ Lutheran in Lewisburg for this vital ministry!

Our Hiking Group has another hike planned for noon on November 5th. If you haven't joined this group for a hike yet, be sure to clear your schedule. It's a great way of meeting new people, spending time in God's creation, and having lots of fun!

The poster features a silhouette of a hiker with a backpack, looking out over a mountain range. The text 'MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH' is prominently displayed in green, with 'Hiking Group' in a script font below it. The background shows a hazy mountain landscape with evergreen trees.

**MILTON  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

*Hiking Group*

Sunday, November 5 @ 12:00 P.M. - Sand Run Falls  
Meet at 1125 Mahoning St. to carpool to our hiking location.



There will be no Movers & Shakers in November, but the group will resume in December. We hope to see you there!

THOSE  
WHO  
DREAM

ADVENT  
WORSHIP SERIES

NOVEMBER 26TH- DECEMBER 17TH





WED, NOV 1	10 am	In-Person Bible Study
	6 pm	Boy Scouts
	7 pm	Online Bible Study
THUR, NOV 2	5:30 pm	Getting Ahead Mtg.
SUN, NOV 5	9:30 am	All Saints Worship
	10:30 am	Choir Practice
	11:30 am	Self-Care Sanctuary
	12 pm	Hiking Group
MON, NOV 6	12 pm	Rotary Mtg.
	6 pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, NOV 7	10 am	TOPS
WED, NOV 8	10 am	In-Person Bible Study
	6pm	Boy Scouts
	7 pm	Online Bible Study
THUR, NOV 9	5:30 pm	Getting Ahead Mtg.
	7 pm	Pub Theology
FRI, NOV 10	3 pm	Fleck & Friends Fresh Express
SAT, NOV 11	4:30 pm	Friendsgiving Feast
SUN, NOV 12	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Choir Practice
	11 am	Fellowship Hour
		Start of Christmas Tree Tags
MON, NOV 13	12 pm	Rotary Mtg.
	6 pm	Boy Scouts

TUE, NOV 14	10 am	TOPS
WED, NOV 15	10 am	In-Person Bible Study
	6 pm	Boy Scouts
	7 pm	Online Bible Study
THUR, NOV 16	5:30 pm	Getting Ahead Mtg.
SUN, NOV 19	9:30 am	Worship followed by Annual Congregational Meeting
	10:30	Choir Practice
	1 pm	Youth Group
MON, NOV 20	12 pm	Rotary Mtg.
	6 pm	Boy Scouts
	7 pm	Council
TUE, NOV 21	10 am	TOPS
WED, NOV 22	10 am	In-Person Bible Study
	6 pm	Boy Scouts
	7 pm	Online Bible Study
THUR, NOV 23	5:30 pm	Getting Ahead Mtg.
SUN, NOV 26	9 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Choir Practice
	11 am	Fellowship Hour
		Food Drive Starts
MON, NOV 27	12 pm	Rotary Mtg.
	6 pm	Boy Scouts
	6:30 pm	Greif Support Group at United in Christ
TUE, NOV 28	10 am	TOPS
WED, NOV 29	10 am	In-Person Bible Study
	6 pm	Boy Scouts
	7 pm	Online Bible Study
THUR, NOV 30	5:30 pm	Getting Ahead Mtg.
SAT, DEC 2	3 pm	Christmas Crafts at United in Christ
SUN, DEC 3	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Choir Practice