



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / SEPTEMBER 2024

# NEWSLETTER

*Fostering community through faith, love, and service*

James 1:19-27

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

<sup>26</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Have you ever looked in the mirror and not recognized yourself? I found myself doing this about 6 months ago. A lot has changed about my physical appearance over the past several months since my surgery. After 20 years of struggling with my weight, in recent months there are days when I look in the mirror and I'm not sure that I recognize the person who is looking back at me.

The author of James gives us a different way of looking into the mirror. He says “<sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” James invited us to look into the mirror of God who creates, redeems, and makes us holy. When we do this, we see a reflection of a person who is quick to listen and slow to speak, not controlled by anger, and see ourselves as someone who leads their lives in such a way that it honors God.

We are invited through our baptism to live out God's word, not just listen to it. We are freed by God's grace to live out our baptismal promises. We are encouraged to look into the mirror of God and experience grace, love, compassion, and mercy. And it's through this mirror of God that we are reminded of who we are and whose we are. In doing so we are empowered to be God's people who care for all of creation and everyone in it.

Blessings,

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

# An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Lynnette Weisner

Council news

The MLC council met twice in August to discuss and decide upon the strategic planning proposal to present to the congregation. The council is recommending the proposal by Keith Johnson, The Board Coach. Keith will provide coaching for Pastor Gary throughout the strategic planning portion of the process, lead the strategic planning retreat, train the strategic planning and research teams, and meet with the pastor and the chairpersons twice a month. The facilities assessment portion of the process will be led by Keith. In addition to the strategic planning team, there will be a community research team and facilities assessment team. Congregation members will be included in this process via cottage meetings. From all this information, a strategic vision and goals will be established and voted on by the congregation. A detailed proposal has been made available to the congregation.

Congregation members are encouraged to attend one of the information meetings to learn more about why we need to engage in this process, to discuss any concerns, and answer any questions you may have. These meetings are scheduled for Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am after worship, Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, and Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Members of council, the finance team, and Pastor will be present.

A special congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> after worship for the congregation to approve the strategic planning proposal and the 2024 revised budget. A letter has been sent to the congregation with copies of the 2024 revised budget and the strategic planning proposal, the dates for the information meetings, and the date of the special congregational meeting.

The council also discussed areas that Pastor can cut back on to free up more of his time to work on the strategic planning process. Likewise, the council also discussed possible activities for the congregation to cut back on to allow time needed for participation in the strategic planning process. Both areas will be re-evaluated in December.

The council appointed John Martello, Leslie Yocum, and Linwood Hill to the audit team.

## Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports

### Fellowship Team

On August 18th we welcomed Messiah to MLC and enjoyed a nice post service fellowship hour.

August 24th was our annual pig roast! It was a great event to socialize and enjoy very good food!

The next morning August 25th, we enjoyed a fellowship hour after our outdoor service.

Save the date for our upcoming events: Sunday Funday at Union Cellars September 22nd.

Annual trunk or treat October 19th.

Ruth Scott

### Outreach Team

Fresh Express' 1 year anniversary is in September! It is a joy that our congregation has hosted this ministry for a year already.

Starting September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be accepting orders for our Outreach Hoagie Sale. It will be \$6 for an 8 inch, regular, Italian sub (ham, salami, provolone, lettuce, tomato, option of onions, mayo, and oil packets). Orders will be accepted until September 30<sup>th</sup> and pick up of the hoagies will be on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30pm at 1125 Mahoning St. Money must be turned in with the order.

Outreach would also like to share that our Self-Care Sanctuary for August was the busiest one ever! We had 49 shoppers that shopped for 109 people.

The 1st happy tails pet pantry was well received. We helped 30 shoppers that in turn helped feed 97 animals. The distribution center where we picked up 850 lbs. of pet food was most helpful in assisting us with loading. We had friends from Haven to Home Canine Rescue help us unload and sort 1250 cans of cat food and 540 cans of dog food.

The Outreach team helped United in Christ collect school supplies as well as distribute them at the open house being held at Baugher Elementary and White Deer. We received 206 folders, 4 notebooks, 68 glue sticks, 82 pencils, 43 packs of crayons, 22 packs of colored pencils, 6 packs of markers and 1 backpack for the back-to-school items collected for the Milton School district. Thank you to all who donated.

The team has placed a sign-up sheet out for donations and volunteers for the beignet stand for the Harvest Festival. We are mixing the dough on Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> and the stand will need volunteers to help serve and clean up on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Please consider helping!

The outreach and fellowship teams are currently working on planning our Trunk or Treat event that we will be holding at 1125 Mahoning St. on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. We are requesting volunteers who can help with food, games, directing people where to go for different parts of the event, and parking. If you are available, please reach out to the office or directly to Ruth or Steph.

Steph Byers

### Hiking Group

The Milton Lutheran Church Hiking Group hiked the Ricketts Glenn Falls Trail on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, the day after the remnants of hurricane Debbie went through the area. The falls were spectacular! After the hike we went to the Jamison City Hotel which had outdoor seating and live music for our enjoyment.

The next hike will be held on Sunday, September 22 and we will be hiking the Keller Reservoir Loop. We will leave the church parking lot at noon, or you can meet us at the parking lot at the end of Reserve Rd, South off the McElhattan Exit of 220 about 12:50 pm. This is a more difficult 5.2 mile hike with 1,565' of elevation. We can stop at the Restless Oaks Restaurant for refreshments on the way home. If you are joining us, please let Jeff Coup, know, [jeffcoup@verizon.net](mailto:jeffcoup@verizon.net) or 570-412-1436, by 6 pm the night before the hike that you will be going and if you will meet the group at the church or the trailhead.



Then the following week we have a hike to Hound Run and Miners Run Falls trails: Sunday, September 29. We will leave the church parking lot at noon or you can meet us in the Ralston PA, United Methodist Church parking lot across Rt 14 from the fire department about 1:00 pm. Two short hikes to see over 7 beautiful waterfalls in the McIntyre Wild Area. Refreshments at the Crippled Bear Tavern. Once again if you are joining us, please let Jeff Coup, know, [jeffcoup@verizon.net](mailto:jeffcoup@verizon.net) or 570-412-1436, by 6 pm the night before the hike that you will be going and if you will meet the group at the church or the trailhead.

Jeff



# FLECK & FRIENDS *fresh express*



**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**Friday, September 13th  
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 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 \$24,570.** 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!

September 1st  
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



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA

## MOVERS & SHAKERS SENIOR'S GROUP

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 10:30AM - 12:30PM

MEAL

CONVERSATION

BINGO

Pub Theology is BACK!! We will be meeting at the Arrowhead Bar on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm! We hope you join us for this opportunity for fellowship!!

For the month of September, we are requesting donations of toothpaste.

We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!

## Open Sunday's for Flower Donations

December 29

September 12th @ Arrowhead Bar

# PUB THEOLOGY

FELLOWSHIP & MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Our first meeting of Faith Lab is on September 8<sup>th</sup> at Faith Lutheran Church (2349 Old Turnpike Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837). From 4pm-6pm. Free family dinner. Register above via the QR code.

**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 September 4th from 1pm until 3pm.

Contact Connie Stover if you have any questions.

**Annual Pet Blessing**

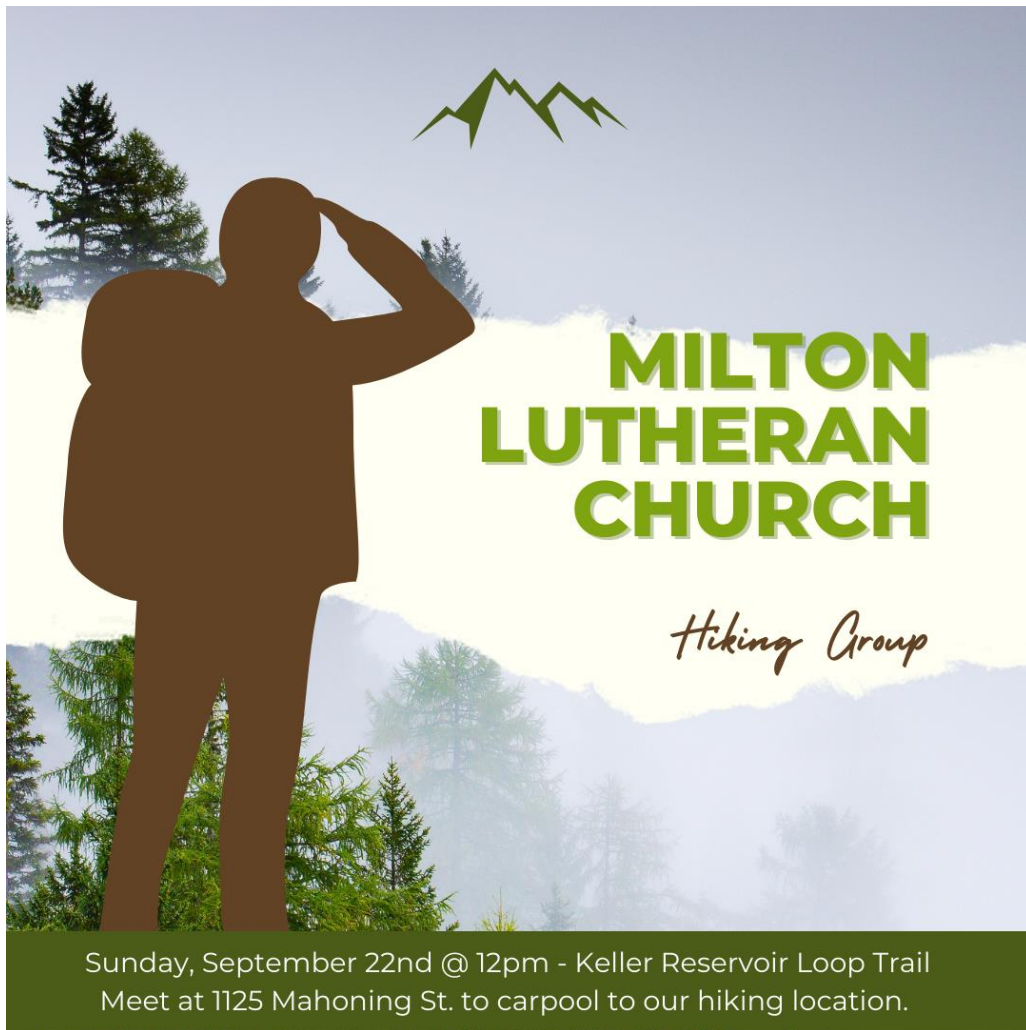
**ALL PETS WELCOME!**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH  
1:00P.M.

JOIN US ON THE 3RD STREET SIDE OF THE BUILDING!

CHRIST'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
100 S. 3RD STREET  
LEWISBURG, PA 17837

DONATIONS OF PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES ARE BEING COLLECTED FOR MILTON LUTHERAN'S PET PANTRY!



# MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Hiking Group*

Sunday, September 22nd @ 12pm - Keller Reservoir Loop Trail  
Meet at 1125 Mahoning St. to carpool to our hiking location.

**Sunday, September 22nd. Keller Reservoir Loop Trail:** We will leave the church parking lot at noon or you can meet us at the parking lot at the end of Reserve Rd, South off the McElhattan Exit of 220 about 12:50 pm. This is a more difficult 5.2 mile hike with 1,565' of elevation. We can stop at the Restless Oaks Restaurant for refreshments on the way home.

Contact Jeff Coup by the day before the hike if you are attending the hike.  
[jeffcoup@verizon.net](mailto:jeffcoup@verizon.net) or (570) 412-4896

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

**SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 8TH &  
22ND**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP** In our fellowship hall.





Our pet pantry is the first Sunday of the month from 11:30am-12:30pm held in conjunction with our Self-Care Sanctuary. Our next one is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

# PULPIT EXCHANGE

Vicar Amy and Pastor Gary are swapping pulpits for a day! Vicar Amy will be preaching at MLC on September 29th!

# OUTREACH TEAM HOAGIE SALE

**\$6 FOR 8 INCH SUB**

ORDERS AND PAYMENTS MAY BE PLACED FROM 9/16-9/30  
PICK UP ON 10/14

# God at the Core

We are soon going to begin our next Worship Series, God at the Core.

This is a worship series designed to help us ensure we keep God at the core as we live out our mission as we foster community through faith, love, and service.

We will run this worship series from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>.



**SUNDAY FUNDAY**  
September 22  
12pm at Union Cellars  
BYO snacks/appetizers  
4760 Furnace Rd. Lewisburg  
17837

Grief group is starting back up again at the end of the month.

We will be reading *Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis. Copies will be available starting the beginning of September in the office. For the first meeting, you should read the introduction and 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Our grief support group gathers on the last Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M. The next gathering will be September 30<sup>th</sup> and we will be meeting at Christ Lutheran. We are glad we can continue our partnership with United in Christ and Christ Lutheran in Lewisburg for this vital ministry!

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.

We will have a stand at the Milton Harvest Festival where we will be selling beignets on September 14th. We have sign-ups in the lobby for the dates we need volunteers. We especially need people to sign-up for the end of the day for break down and clean up!



Sign-ups to be a trunk are in the binder.

We also are asking for donations of candy for handing out.

If you can volunteer to run inside games for Trunk or Treat, the sign-up for that is also in the binder.

**Announcements from Our Friends!**



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER CAPITAL  
FUND FUNDRAISER

# SPAGHETTI DINNER

ST JOHN' S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
70 S MILL RD. POTTS GROVE

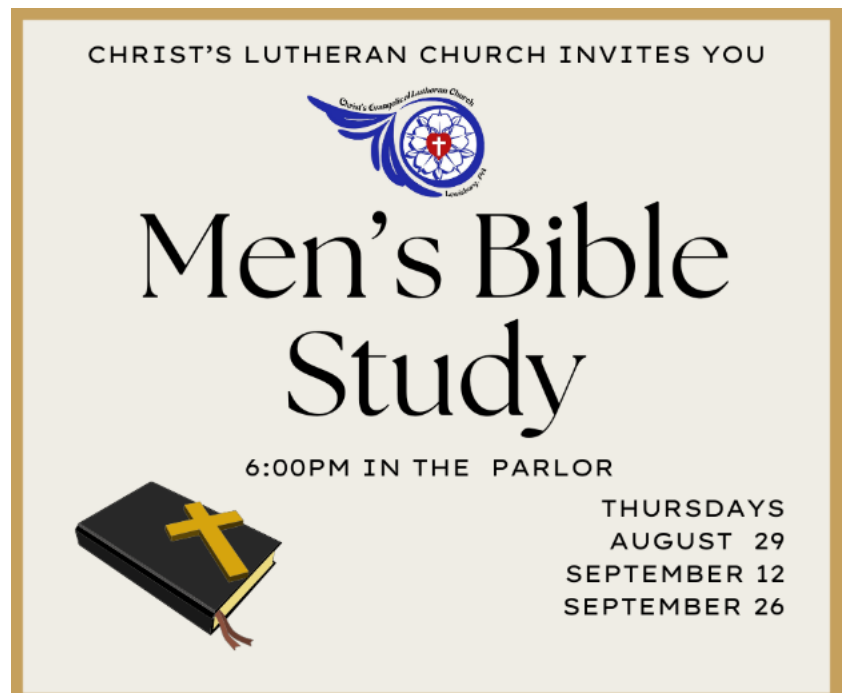
**\$10**

SPAGHETTI, ROLLS, SALAD,  
DESSERT, BEVERAGES


SEPT. 21 2024  
4-6PM

The poster features a central illustration of a plate of spaghetti with meat sauce and a fork twirling a strand of spaghetti. The background is a light pink square with a yellow scribbled border.

**JOIN US FOR A MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT  
CHRIST'S LUTHERAN!** We are studying the Gospel of Mark so bring your Bible and be ready for some great discussion! We will meet on the following Thursdays at 6:00pm in the church parlor. If you have any questions please contact the office (570.524.0745) at CELC.




CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU



# Men's Bible Study

6:00PM IN THE PARLOR

THURSDAYS  
AUGUST 29  
SEPTEMBER 12  
SEPTEMBER 26



The poster has a light beige background with a gold border. It features the church's logo at the top, the title 'Men's Bible Study' in a large serif font, and the meeting details below. A small icon of a black Bible with a gold cross is at the bottom left.



SUN, SEPT 1	9:30am	Worship
	11:30am	Self-Care and Pet Sanctuary
MON, SEPT 2	Office Closed for Labor Day	
TUE, SEPT 3	10am	TOPS
WED, SEPT 4	1pm	Fidget Quilters
	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, SEPT 5	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
	7pm	Outreach Team Meeting
SAT, SEPT 7	LMI Workshops	
SUN, SEPT 8	Rally Day!	
	9:30am	Worship
	10:45am	Information Session for Discernment Process
	11am	Fellowship Hour
	11am	Fellowship Team Meeting
	4pm	Faith Lab at Faith Lutheran Church
	6:30pm	MACB Rehearsal
MON, SEPT 9	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
	6:30pm	MACB Rehearsal
	7pm	Information Session for Discernment Process
TUE, SEPT 10	10am	TOPS
	10am	Information Session for Discernment Process
WED, SEPT 11	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, SEPT 12	1pm	Worship Team
	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
	6:30pm	MACB Rehearsal
	7pm	Pub Theology
FRI, SEPT 13	3pm	Fleck and Friends Fresh Express
SAT, SEPT 14	Beignet Stand at Harvest Festival	

SUN, SEPT 15	9:30am	Worship
	1pm	Youth Group
	7pm	MACB Concert
MON, SEPT 16	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
	7pm	Council Meeting
TUE, SEPT 17	10am	TOPS
	10:30am	Movers and Shakers
WED, SEPT 18	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, SEPT 19	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
SUN, SEPT 22	9:30am	Worship
	11am	Fellowship Hour
	12pm	Sunday Funday
MON, SEPT 23	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
TUE, SEPT 24	10am	TOPS
WED, SEPT 25	Red Cross Blood Drive	
	6pm	Boy Scouts
THU, SEPT 26	5:30pm	Getting Ahead
SUN, SEPT 29	9:30am	Worship
MON, SEPT 30	12pm	Rotary
	6pm	Boy Scouts
	6:30pm	Grief Group at Christ in Lewisburg

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