



Milton Lutheran Parish

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-7473

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-4601

Deacon Gary Schaeffer, Interim Pastor

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish:

I'm excited to write to you this week and share a plan for us to start gathering in-person again for worship starting the week of June 22nd-28th. The worship services will be led by our Authorized Lay Worship Leaders and are at different times/days to meet peoples' schedules.

Mondays @ Trinity- 7:00 P.M.- Led by Ed Coup

Wednesdays@ Christ- 3:00 P.M.- Led by Kellie Brouse

Fridays@ Trinity- 10:00 A.M.- Led by Mindy Bartholomew

Our parish leadership has been meeting to a plan safety protocols and to develop a meaningful worship service. The reality is worshipping in a sanctuary presents a significant level of risk for contracting the Coronavirus. The guidelines we have established will help to limit that risk, but not eliminate it.

1. **Masks-** You are required to wear a mask that covers both your nose and mouth while in the church building at all time, unless you have a medical condition that prevents you from doing so or if you have a child that is unable to wear a mask because of their age. (Masks will be provided for those that need them)
2. **Worship Leaders-** Our Worship leaders (Authorized Lay Worship Leader, Soloist, Organist/Pianist) will only wear masks before and after worship. They will be located in the front of the sanctuary distanced far away from the worshipping community.
3. **Arrival-** Once you arrive there will be someone to greet you at the door and escort you inside. We have designated seating areas that are clearly marked and will allow us to socially distance within the worship space. Please only sit in the designated areas.
4. **Hand Washing-** Once you enter the building there will be a hand sanitizing station set up for you to wash your hands. Everyone must wash their hands upon entering. Bulletins for worship will be located on the same table.
5. **Singing-** We plan to have music during the service, however there will be no group singing. We have made arrangements with our musicians to provide music and singing. You are welcome to follow along in the hymnal.
6. **Bathroom-** The bathroom is available for usage if you need it. There will be sanitizing supplies available to you to wipe down all surfaces as you leave the bathroom. At Christ you can use the unisex bathroom in the hallway on the right as you transition into the fellowship area. At Trinity you can use the unisex bathroom in the hallway on the left at the top of the stairs behind the sanctuary.
7. **Worship Service Length-** We have shortened the service length to be done in under 40 minutes to limit our time in the church building.
8. **Departure-** At the completion of the service you are asked to leave the building immediately. We encourage you to gather with folks in the parking lot to enjoy conversation and fellowship. Please keep in mind social distancing practices. Masks are optional outside.
9. **Flexibility and Open Mindedness-** We recognize that these guidelines may seem extreme to some of you while not enough to others. Our leadership is doing its best to find ways for us to balance varying expectations. We ask that you be flexible and open-minded as we work on implementing this plan.

For those of you that are not comfortable gathering for in-person worship we hope you will choose to join us for worship online. A worship video will be posted each Sunday on YouTube and will be led by Gary. A link to YouTube will be provided to you through E-mail, Facebook, and our parish website (<http://miltonlutheranparish.faith>). You are also encouraged to attend drive-thru prayer and communion that will happen each Thursday, (starting June 18th @Christ) from 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. in the church parking lot.

Sunday, June 21, 2020, Worship Bulletin
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Milton Lutheran Parish- Milton, PA



Welcome and Announcements

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Confession and Forgiveness

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.
Amen.

P- Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

C- Reconciling God,
we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹²O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Psalm: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 (Sung)

⁷Surely, for your sake I have suf- | fered reproach,
and shame has cov- | ered my face.

⁸I have become a stranger to | my own kindred,
 an alien to my | mother's children.

⁹Zeal for your house has eat- | en me up;
 the scorn of those who scorn you has fall- | en upon me.

¹⁰I humbled my- | self with fasting,
 but that was turned to | my reproach. R

¹¹I put on | sackcloth also,
 and became a by- | word among them.

¹²Those who sit at the gate mur- | mur against me,
 and the drunkards make | songs about me.

¹³But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have | set, O Lord:
 "In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your un- | failing help.

¹⁴Save me from the mire; do not | let me sink;
 let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of | the deep waters. R

¹⁵Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swal- | low me up;
 do not let the pit shut its | mouth upon me.

¹⁶Answer me, O Lord, for your | love is kind;
 in your great compassion, | turn to me.

¹⁷Hide not your face | from your servant;
 be swift and answer me, for I am | in distress.

¹⁸Draw near to me | and redeem me;
 because of my enemies de- | liver me. R

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b}Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in

heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Sermon- Hymn-

Apostles Creed

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long. Direct the work of all who care for birds and their habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reigning God, you bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

Dismissal P: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Home Devotional- 6/21/20



Fathers Day Devotional

Today on Father's Day we take time to honor our fathers for the mostly thankless task of raising us to be who we are today. Fathers may seem to take a back seat to Mothers but they are the backbone, the foundation, and the glue of our lives, just as much as our mothers. They nurture us as do our mothers- just in a different way.

Adam was the first human father. His sons Cain and Abel were full of brotherly strife- jealousy, Who was dad's favorite, why did Dad like you more. Why did Dad let you be the shepherd and I had to be a lousy farmer? But we know in our hearts that even after Cain killed Abel, that Adam still loved Cain. A Father's love does not end.

An example of true fatherhood one stands tall over all others. Joseph-the earthly father of Jesus. Can you think of anyone else who epitomizes the true meaning of a father more than Joseph? He falls in love, plans a wedding, then suddenly his fiancée says "Hey, I am pregnant. But its O.K. - it is from the Holy Spirit." After some questioning, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph obeyed God in the face of severe humiliation from his community. He nurtures and raises Jesus as if he was his own, he worries about him, he teaches him carpentry so that he will have a way of supporting himself when he grows, he shows him how to be a good man. He helped Jesus be the spiritual man he became-through those toddler and teenage years, leading into adulthood.

In the bible God is spoken about the original father and has many fatherly characteristics. He created heaven and earth and wanted something to share the beauty of what he created. So he created man and woman. He did his best as a father but as we know those first children were much like todays-they made mistakes. But God never gave up- he continued to love, support, correct and lead his children.

Questions to Reflect On:

1. Who are the father figures in the bible that you relate to? What characteristics did they have?
2. Who are the father figures in your own life? What characteristics do they have?
3. What fatherly characteristics does God have that impact your life? How?

Donna Riccio- Parish Administrator, Milton Lutheran Parish