



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 Milton Lutheran Parish,

In this week's Gospel reading Jesus tells us that through him we have an abundant life. It makes me wonder, what does Jesus mean when he says that he came so that we may have an abundant life?

One of the most popular Psalms we know is Psalm 23. It provides us with a good illustration of what Jesus is promising to his followers. The Psalm imagines an abundant life not in material terms but in relational terms. An abundant life is one lived in the presence of God, in the company of the Lord. Whether one is in green pastures or the darkest valley, there is nothing to want, because God is present. We are in the gracious and generous care of our Lord through times of material abundance and in times of want and scarcity. This relationship between our Lord and us who are his followers is a relationship with one who knows us abundantly, who knows us by name, and who knows what we truly need to be fulfilled. The image of Jesus as our shepherd reminds us that he is always with us, and our relationship with him provides us all we need.

My prayer for all of you each and every day is that you experience the abundance that is the grace of God. Please know that in the midst of the unknown, the fear, the loneliness, anger and frustration; that God's presence is with you.

Worship Opportunities this week: (*More information on our church website and Facebook page*)

Morning Prayer- Wednesday, April 29th 8:30 A.M. Live on YouTube- <https://youtu.be/8THs5E6SJHY>

Evening Prayer- Friday, May 1st 8:00 P.M. Live on YouTube- <https://youtu.be/840wllR2qcU>

Sunday Worship- Sunday, May 3rd- On our church website, Facebook page, and YouTube.

Thank you again for all of you that have been able to support our faith community financially. Thank you everyone for your ongoing prayers and support. Please know that we pray for everyone who is being affected by this pandemic. If there is anything that you need, don't hesitate to reach out to me via phone or e-mail.

Schaeffer0319@gmail.com or (845) 636-0194. Our church office remains closed so it is best to contact me if there is an immediate need.

As we enter our seventh week of being apart, please know that we are thinking of each of you. Our church leadership continues to monitor the ongoing restrictions and will gather once we have direction from the CDC and State leadership. At that time, we will consider opportunities for us to gather in person that will adhere to the prescribed guidelines and ensure peoples' safety. Until that time, I hope and pray that you are able to stay connected with one another and God in ways that keep you safe and healthy.

Many Blessings,

Gary Schaeffer



Weekly Devotional- April 26- May 3rd

Opening prayer:

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings (if you don't have a bible handy, biblegateway.com is a great resource. We use NRSV - "new revised standard version" as our translation for worship)

Acts 2:42-47

The believer's common life

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

1 Peter 2:19-25

Follow the Shepherd, even in suffering

John 10:1-10

Christ the Shepherd

Questions to talk about:

1. Would it be possible to sell all your possessions and give them away? How hard would it be to perform such an act of faith? (Acts 2:44-45)
2. Why is this psalm one of the most prayed verses in world? What does it mean to you? (Psalm 23)
3. Is there a time in your life when you have done right and suffered for it? How did this affect you? (1 Peter 2:19-25)

Pray the Lord's Prayer together

Bless one another saying: May God bless you this week and always. AMEN