



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

Milton Lutheran Parish

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

I hope you are all doing well! As we check in with one another for another week, I wanted to continue our conversation about the fruits of the spirit. Paul writes in Galatians 5:22-26, “ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

This week we are looking at peace. In the midst of yet another spike in Covid-19 cases across our country, I pray that we all find some peace. The holiday season is shaping up to be different from any other time before it. We are not able to gather the way we want to. We are being forced to keep our distance from those we love. We are traveling less, and our sense of fear and frustration grows. But despite all of that, we know that in order for the Spirit to move in our lives and produce good fruit that we must find peace. Let us find peace in God’s love, let us find peace in celebrating the blessings that we do have, let us find peace by being thankful.

By now you should have received a notification that our in-person worship service has been suspended for the next two weeks due to a Covid-19 exposure. Even though we will not be able to worship in person we will still be gathering online. The worship video will be made available Sunday morning.

This Sunday also marks the beginning of Advent. As we enter this time of anticipation and hope we do so with a worship series based on the book, “Love is the Way” by Bishop Michael Curry. Each week we will spend some time talking about how we experience God’s love and how we share it with others. I want to encourage you to purchase the book, if you have not already, so you can participate fully. You can contact Donna at the Parish office at 570-742-4601, and she can make sure you get a copy. If you don’t have the book you can still participate by attending online worship and our weekly bible study.

We also have three online small groups that are meeting each week to dig deeper into the book. You are invited to join the small groups through Zoom either by your computer or by calling in with your phone. Instructions on how to do that are below.

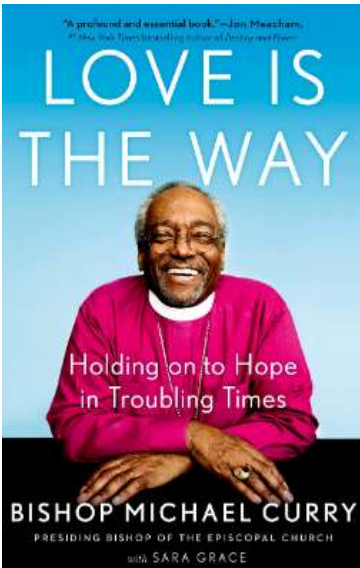
For more information about the worship series and other opportunities at the parish please visit our parish website or Facebook page. As always, if you need anything please don’t hesitate to reach out to us.

Many Blessings,
Gary



Love is the Way Worship Series

Small Group Schedule and Links



Week 1 – What is Love (Chapters 1-3)

This week we dive into the theme of love, we explore what love really is and how God calls us to be in loving relationships with one another.

Week 2- Why we Love (Chapters 4-6)

This week we explore why God has called us into loving relationships, even when it may not seem worth it.

Week 3- How to Love (Chapters 7-9)

This week to take some time and consider how it can be difficult to love and look at practical ways God calls us into loving relationships.

Week 4- Living Love Today (Chapters 10-12)

In our final week we consider what it means to love in our present-day climate.

Schedule-

Small Group 1- (Kellie Brouse- Leader) Sundays @ 9:30 A.M. Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, Dec. 13th, Dec. 20th

Join using Zoom- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7177159799?pwd=enZsclBpTVJhWEc5Q2Y2UmJjL3kydz09>

Meeting ID: 717 715 9799 Passcode: Hf9xhA

Join using Phone- (301) 715- 8592 Meeting ID: 717 715 9799 Passcode: 496632

Small Group 2- (Ed Coup- Leader) Wednesdays @ 1:00 P.M Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

Join using Zoom- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7177159799?pwd=enZsclBpTVJhWEc5Q2Y2UmJjL3kydz09>

Meeting ID: 717 715 9799 Passcode: Hf9xhA

Join using Phone- (301) 715- 8592 Meeting ID: 717 715 9799 Passcode: 496632

Small Group 3- (Rose Handy- Leader) Wednesdays @ 7:00 P.M. Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

Join using Zoom- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7177159799?pwd=enZsclBpTVJhWEc5Q2Y2UmJjL3kydz09>

Meeting ID: 717 715 9799 Passcode: Hf9xhA

Join using Phone- (301) 715- 8592 Meeting ID: 717 715 9799 Passcode: 496632



We Warmly Welcome You to



Milton Lutheran Parish

Serving God through faith formation, worship,
service, evangelism, and fellowship.

November 29, 2020, Worship Bulletin
1st Sunday of Advent - Online Only

Thank you for being here. Whether this is your first time here, or you have been with us for a while, please know this . . . we are glad you have chosen to worship with us.

(Bold italic items to be spoken)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

John Warfel



Prayer for Advent

Ever-present God, in this time when busy-ness is exalted and it seems there is so much to do, keep our focus on you. May we let go of those things that add stress or distract us so that we may sit in your splendor, even for a moment, and be present to that which gives us life. In the name of your Son, Jesus, for whom we wait expectantly.

Amen.

That we are able to let go of things we do not need to carry and be present as we wait for Christ's return,

we pray to you, O God.

That we are freed to both give and receive during this Advent season,

we pray to you, O God.

That we see holiness in the small things,

we pray to you, O God.

That through the stresses of this season we may live in and live out your love and grace,

we pray to you, O God.

We lift up our prayers to you, O Lord.

Amen.

Lighting Advent Candle

Songs : Praise Medley- "There is a Redeemer/Lord Listen to Your Children Praying John Warfel

Scripture Reading- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Sermon "What is Love"

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

Song "Give Thanks"

John Warfel



Prayers

Let us open our hearts and minds and lift our prayers together trusting that God not only hears our prayers, but through the Holy Spirit, works to make us whole.

God of forgiveness, each us of comes before you today with heavy hearts. We have all done and said things that we shouldn't have. We have fallen short of your call to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask that your grace be known to us now so that we can know your mercy, and through your love, be released from sin.

God of comfort and strength. Help all those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit. Heal the wounded and the afflicted. Comfort us in our grief, sickness and pain. Let us all be reminded that you walk alongside each of us every single day of our lives and that your love sustains us. We pause now to lift our worries to you.

God of joy and thanksgiving. There is so much in the world that we have to be thankful for. For the gift of life, for all of creation, family and friends, and this community of faith oh God. We give you thanks. We pause now to lift our thanksgivings to you.

God of life. You call us out into the world as followers of Christ so that others may experience your love. Guide our comings and goings and give us the strength to share your good news with everyone we come in contact with, whether that be through our words or actions. *Amen*

The Great Thanksgiving

P- The Lord be with you

C- And also with you

P- Lift up your hearts

C- We lift them up to the Lord

P- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C- It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give God our thanks and praise. For from the beginning of time God created everything around us. All of creation, the people we come in contact with, the emotions we feel, and of course God's only son, Jesus.

Who sacrificed himself on our behalf so that we could experience the love and forgiveness that sustains us each day and that we could be free from sin to show that love to others.

And so we remember how thousands of years ago, Jesus sat down for a meal with his disciples. How he took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.



So we gather around this bread and wine, as a community and as individuals, remembering this sacrifice and being reminded of his love for each of us. As we eat of this bread and drink of this wine let celebrate this gift as together we pray...

*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.*

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever. *Amen*

Closing Song: "Glorify Thy Name"

John Warfel

Blessing and Sending

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



A Note from Pastor Gary . . . Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish, it was brought to our attention that someone in our parish has tested positive for the Coronavirus. The person did attend worship on Sunday, November 22. For this reason, we have decided to suspend in-person worship for November 29 and December 6. Worship will be made available online. In the meantime, we pray that everyone stays safe and healthy. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via email: pastor@miltonlutheranparish.faith or by phone: 845-636-0194. Thank you, Gary

News from the Parish . . . Christmas Gifts for School Children . . .

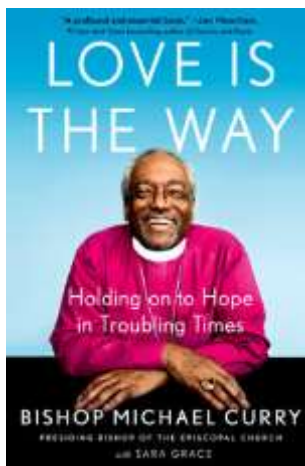
If you took a Christmas tree tag for our "Christmas Gifts for School Children" outreach project and have not returned the gift yet (they are due on December 6), here is how we will return them to the church since we are going to online services. On the following dates and times Krista will be at the front door at Trinity to receive them.

Monday, Nov. 30 from 10am - 11am; Thursday, Dec. 3 from

1:30pm - 2:30pm; or Sunday, Dec. 6 from 10am - 11am. If these

times do not work for you, please call Krista or the church office to arrange a time. We still have a few tags left if you want to take part in this outreach project. Come in on the Nov. 30th or Dec.3rd or call

Krista for a tag. Thank you to everyone for your support for this project no matter if it is by prayer, or buying a gift, or by donating money toward a gift for our community children. Thank you, Krista Yaiko, Outreach Team, 570-412-2743



Faith Formation . . . This year for the Advent Season, we will be joining together as a community in a worship series called, "This Way to Love." Our worship series is based on the book, *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry. Each week of Advent we will focus on different themes through online worship, bible study, small group Zooms and prayer. [Click here](#) to download the schedule.

Home Mailings and Emails . . . We are currently cross-referencing and comparing the current list of our website email subscribers to our home postal mailing list. If you are receiving Parish emails through our website, we will no longer send weekly mailings through the postal service. Pastor Gary's weekly communication, the worship bulletin, and devotional as well as the monthly newsletter can be accessed on our Parish website along with links to recorded bible study and worship videos. Please contact the office if you are not receiving the weekly emails from the Parish.



This Week at Milton Lutheran Parish . . .

- Sun., Nov. 29 **Happy Birthday Ron Mull**
 First Sunday in Advent – Worship Online Only
 Worship Video is Posted on the Website and Social Media
9:30 a.m. “Love is the Way: What is Love” Small Group for Advent with Kellie Brouse**
- Tues., Dec. 1 **Happy Birthday Julie Benshoff**
Happy Birthday Crystal Gnidovec
- Wed., Dec. 2 Bible Study is Posted on the Website and Social Media
1:00 p.m. “Love is the Way: What is Love” Small Group for Advent with Ed Coup**
7:00 p.m. “Love is the Way: What is Love” Small Group for Advent with Rose Handy**
- Thurs., Dec. 3 **Happy Birthday Charlene Francis**
- Sat., Dec. 5 **Happy Birthday Carol Daniloff**
- Sun., Dec. 6 Second Sunday in Advent – Worship Online Only
 Worship Video is Posted on the Website and Social Media
9:30 a.m. “Love is the Way: Why We Love” Small Group for Advent with Kellie Brouse**

**To join this week’s small groups for Advent on Zoom, use this link and codes:

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7177159799?pwd=enZsclBpTVJhWEc5Q2Y2UmJjL3kydz09>

Meeting ID: 717 715 9799 Passcode: Hf9xhA To join on phone: (301) 715- 8592 (same ID and Passcode)

Milton Lutheran Parish Leadership Team	
Pastor	Gary Schaeffer
Parish Office Administrator	Donna Riccio
Parish Organist, Music Director	John Warfel
Sexton/Custodian	Chuck Stahl and Helen Billhime
Treasurers	Rich Handy and Carol Yost
Groundskeeper	Bob Greenly
Parish Council	Krisa Yaiko, President; Don Fisher, Vice President; Lynnette Weisner, Secretary; Rose Handy, Bill Heimbach, Donna Spear
Christ Council	Donna Spear, President; Tonya Wargo, Vice President; Penny Ulmer, Secretary; Rich Handy, Treasurer, Kellie Brouse, Kay Dunn, Don Fisher, Nancy Mensch, Nancy Walters
Trinity Council	Krista Yaiko, President; Jeff Coup, Vice President; Crystal Gnidovec, Secretary; Kate Budman, Bill Heimbach, Seth Reitz, Dawn Russell, Cindy Trapano
Worship Team	Jeff Coup, Kellie Brouse, Nancy Walters, Sue Warfel, John Warfel, Donna Riccio
Digital Ministry Team	Aaron Coup, Rick Coup, Seth Reitz, Stephen Moll, Donna Spear
Outreach Team	Connie Stover, Kay Dunn, Claire Weisner, Lynnette Weisner, Carol Yost, Linwood Hill, Krista Yaiko
Discipleship Team	Rose Handy, Ed Coup, Kate Budman, Kellie Brouse

Central Office Location: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847, 570-742-4601

Parish Office Administrator email: info@miltonlutheranparish.faith Website: <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

Additional Campus Location: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and our YouTube Channel to connect with us online.

