

THE PARISH NEWS

Newsletter of the Milton Lutheran Parish

MARCH 2019



*“To be a Christian
without prayer is no
more possible
Than to be alive without
breathing.”
Martin Luther*





God's Beloved People at Milton Lutheran Parish:

As we are embraced into the season of Lent, I share a wonderful write-up, beautifully summarizing the meaning of this season, by Sarah Phillips of Crosswalk.com:

What is Lent - A Time Set Aside

“Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year. Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from and it brings our need for a Savior to the forefront. Like Advent, Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

But unlike the childlike joy associated with the season of Advent, with it's eager anticipation of the precious baby Jesus, Lent is an intensely penitential time as we examine our sinful natures and return to the God we have, through our own rebelliousness, hurt time and again. Lent is also an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross - and it wasn't pretty. But ultimately, the purpose of Lent does not stop at sadness and despair - it points us to the hope of the Resurrection and the day when every tear will be dried (Rev. 21:3).

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:33-49

Although the nature of suffering is not one that offers itself to easy explanations or pat answers, the answers we seek seem to make the most sense in light of the Cross. There is nothing in the world - no religion, philosophy, or material comfort - that offers such a powerful answer to life's toughest questions as the two slabs of wood on which our Savior died. Although I was drawn to Christianity in search of joy, it's the Cross that keeps me coming back day after day, year after year. It is

this time of year, known as Lent, that I am reminded of what Jesus did for me.

When I look into the eyes of our suffering God, I'm in awe - suddenly the complexity of our Lord, the love of our Lord, the humanity of our Lord shows through. I realize God is not just some nebulous energy source or a grandfather sitting in the clouds - He is so much more. The Cross is where our faith stands when all other faith's fail. Christ's sacrifice and his subsequent resurrection are the true "cruxes" of the Christian faith. Without one there would be no salvation, without the other, no hope. This is why Good Friday and the following Easter Sunday are the most important dates on the Christian calendar - even more so than Christmas."

Please note that all services, beginning with Ash Wednesday through Good Friday, will be hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church. Keep abreast of all service times through all communication we provide.

Don't forget: "The Parables of Jesus: A Middle Eastern perspective", a video teaching series by Dr. Ken Bailey, will be our weekday adult bible exploration beginning March 4 and 5, same bat-times and places. Bring yourself, you Bibles, and a readiness to have your understanding of the parables blown wide open and blessed!

In Partnership,
Mark Galbraith

Intentional Interim Pastor



Milton Lutheran Parish Website



About our Milton Lutheran Parish website . . . did you know?

- It was created in July 2018 at <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>
- It contains documents, contact information, calendar information for events and worship services, and a photo gallery showing our work and fellowship as a Parish.
- It is updated regularly with new information.
- Is mobile device and smart phone friendly.

Point your smart phone or mobile device QR code reader to this QR code to visit the Milton Lutheran Parish website! Visit often . . . and, if you have ideas or suggestions for the site, use the “Drop Us a Line” on the homepage.





SOUPER BOWL 2019

Trinity Lutheran Church was the winner of the Milton Lutheran Parish Souper Bowl 2019 Competition! Congratulations to the congregations at both Trinity Lutheran and Christ Lutheran. Great job, good and faithful servants. But the real winners will be those people at the Milton Towers, Centre Towne Apartments, and the Food Bank at Christ Lutheran Church.



Congregational Meeting

Annual Congregation Meeting At
Christ Lutheran Church
will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2019

Agenda

1. Approval of Synod Delegates
2. Approval of Annual Report

If there are not enough members present for a quorum, the meeting will be scheduled for each consecutive Sunday thereafter until there is a quorum and the meeting can be held. The annual report will be available for pickup at the church by February 17. If you wish for your copy to be mailed, please call the church office.

MANY THANKS!!

To all the young people who used their gifts to most capably lead worship on Christmas Eve, thank you! You brought the story of God coming to earth as a tiny baby to others with your words, music, dance, leadership and all that contributed to the opportunity to experience God with us. You are a blessing to this congregation and a witness to God's work in and through you for the sake of others.

The following people led the early Christmas Eve worship:

Chance Benshoff	Noah Heimbach
Patience Benshoff	Ryleigh Heimbach
Evan Coup	Eli Reitz
Madison Coup	Tavin Reitz
Lewis Fitzgerald	Gavin Russell



Quiet Communion



For those who are unable to make the regular Sunday worship services at Trinity or Christ there will be a weekly quiet communion at Christ. This will be every Wednesday afternoon at 3:00pm throughout the year. Come join us!

Free Community Meals 2019 Community Meal Schedule

Sunday, April 14th

Sunday, June 9th

Sunday, August 11th

Sunday, October 13th

Sunday, December 8th



Upcoming Book Group

will be Mar.12th @ 10:00am

"The Butterfly and the Violin"

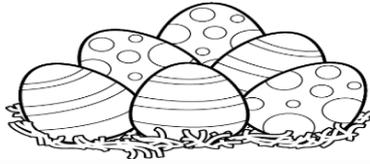
By Kristy Cambron

New Members always welcome!

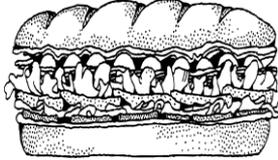
Clothing Drive

Parish Stewardship Clothing Drive

The parish stewardship team will be collecting clean gently used **children's clothing** during the month of May. The clothes will be available for families to choose items they need for their children at the June free community meal. Any items not selected will be donated to Hand Up. Donations may be dropped off at either church during May.



Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th. We need individually wrapped candy (that will fit in eggs) or monetary donations by April 1st, and help the night of the egg hunt is always appreciated! Contact Tiffany with any questions at 570-412-5838.

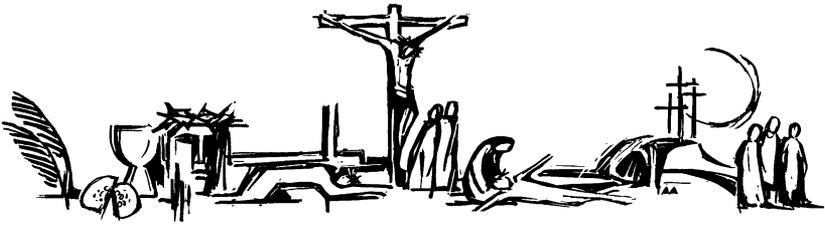


March Dagwood Sale has begun! Last day to order will be **March 10** and they can be picked up at the church on March 16th from 9am to 9:30am. Don't miss out on these great sandwiches!



Wednesday Lenten Soup Dinners Volunteers Needed

Trinity will be host to this year's Lenten Soup Dinners held on each Wednesday through Lent (with the exception of Ash Wednesday and the Wednesday right before Easter). We are asking for volunteers to make soups, with a desire to have 2 different soups each week, donate bread to accompany dinner, donate a dessert or help set-up and clean-up of the Lenten Soup Dinners. The dinner begins at 6 pm each Wednesday and will begin on March 13th. If you are able to contribute, please be sure to sign up on the sign up sheet on the Trinity bulletin board. If there are any further questions please feel free to ask Bridgette Reish Coup.



Ash Wednesday Service

Joint Service @ Trinity- 7:00pm

Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

Wednesday Lenten Services will start March 13th at Trinity. They will be every Wednesday with our last service being April 10th. These services will be following the Holden liturgy and starting at 7:00. Before each service, we will be holding a light meal of soup, bread, drink and dessert at 6:00. Even if you will be a little late don't be afraid to come and join us.

Palm Sunday-April 14th

8:30am service at Trinity

10:30am service at Christ

Maundy Thursday-April 18th

Joint Service @ Trinity- 7:00pm

Good Friday Service And Prayer Vigil

Trinity will host a Good Friday worship service at noon on April 19th, followed by silent prayer until 3 pm. Worship will include a reading of the Passion, prayers and hymns. Some people may be unable to come for worship, but may wish to participate in the time of silent prayer.

Good Friday Service

Joint Service @ Trinity at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Services

8:30am- Easter Service @ Trinity

10:30am-Easter Service @Christ



Trinity Lutheran
Month of March

Head Usher:

Seth Reitz

Ushers:

Crystal Gnidovec

Tim Shrawder

Sally Shrawder

Joe Yaiko

Reader:

Karen Fry

Communion Assistant:

Helen Billhime

Acolytes

Tavin Reitz



Worship Helpers

Christ Lutheran

March 3

Ushers: Kim Mitch, Brent Mitch

Acolyte: Austin Mitch

Lector: Rose Handy

Asst./Server: Rose Handy, Rich Handy

Prayer Team Minister: Rose Handy

March 10

Ushers: Peggy Fisher, Don Fisher

Acolyte: Penny Ulmer

Lector: Penny Ulmer

Asst./Server: Penny Ulmer, Tonya Wargo

Prayer Team Minister: Mae Jones

March 17

Ushers: Nancy Mensch, Donna Riccio

Acolyte: Kellie Brouse

Lector: Nancy Walters

Asst./Server: Donna Spear, Rose Handy

Prayer Team Minister: Rose Handy

March 24

Ushers: Kim Mitch, Brent Mitch

Acolyte: Austin Mitch

Lector: Kellie Brouse

Asst. Kellie Brouse

Servers: Kay Dunn, Rich Handy

Prayer Team Minister: Kellie Brouse

March 31

Combined Service at Trinity

Milton Lutheran Parish **Joint Worship Service Schedule 2019**

The congregation councils voted to hold joint services the first Sunday of every month as well as the 5th Sunday of the months that have 5 Sundays. All services will start at 9:30am and will rotate between the two churches.

Mar. 3 – Christ
Mar. 31 – Trinity
Apr. 7 – Christ
May 5 – Trinity
Jun 2 – Christ
Jun 30 – Trinity
Jul 7 – Christ
Aug 4 – Trinity
Sep 1 – Christ
Sep 29 – Trinity
Oct 6 – Christ
Nov 3 – Trinity
Dec 1 – Christ
Dec 29 – Trinity



Holistic stewardship for Lent

For centuries Lutherans have observed Lent with passionate devotion and prayerful attention to spiritual disciplines. These faith practices strengthen our souls and open our hearts to the resurrected Christ at Easter.

This year, try developing a sense of holistic stewardship for your life. Stewardship, of course, looks at how we use not just our financial abundance but all the blessings that God has given us – our health, our family and friends, our faith, our time, our intelligence, and so on.

Just as holistic medicine takes a “big picture” view of physical health as a dynamic interconnection of our body’s systems, holistic stewardship helps us see and appreciate all our gifts in relationship to one another.

For instance, how does your stewardship of time interact with your stewardship of your relationships or health? How might more-thoughtful stewardship of your time improve your relationships or your health? How might better stewardship of time, relationships and health improve your financial abundance?

When you examine your stewardship of these and all your gifts in dynamic interconnection with one another, you can find more meaning and purpose as a disciple of Jesus.

To get there, for the days of Lent focus on just five major categories of the blessings God has given you easily remembered by the shorthand word FAITH.

Family and friends – nurturing relationships.

Abundance -- finance and material possessions.

Intelligence – your mind and special talents.

Time -- living fully 24/7.

Hhealth – physical and emotional wellness.

Spend 15 minutes every day to prayerfully ponder and meditate on these FAITH blessings. A prayer journal or notebook may help you process and connect.

- Take stock of your blessings in each category, thanking God for them.

- Reflect on how they interrelate to give you joy and purpose and meaning.
- Ask God to help you use these gifts more wisely and fully for God's purposes.
- Imagine God blessing and enriching your life as you learn to steward these gifts in a way that they will support and enhance one another.

This Lent, let holistic stewardship help you envision your gifts and life more fully in God's reality, the reality called the Reign of God. It's the Reign that Jesus preached and proclaimed, and that he brought to fulfillment with the victory over death that we celebrate at Easter.

--*Rob Blezard*



Local Highlight

We wanted to take a moment to highlight an organization in our town, that is doing wonderful work! Members of both congregations are a part of this great effort. Another great way to get involved in helping our community!

Golden Rule- Love Inc.- Milton, PA.

Mission: To mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.

We have 6 important ministries –

1 -Transportation Ministry

FREE rides to local appointments

2 - Errand Ministry

Running errands for those in need

3 - Care & Concern Ministry

Building bridges between people

4 - Home & Household Repair Ministry

We look at each situation, but we do have limits – we cannot repair or replace roofs, for example.

5 - Yard Work Ministry

Leaf Raking - Spring Clean-up

6 - Prayer We will pray with you – we will pray for you!

If you would like to either volunteer, donate or learn more about this great ministry you can email them at goldenrulelovein@gmail.com or call them at 570-742-3561. Joe Aurand-Exec. Director or Julie Tyson-Admin. Assistant would love to hear from you and answer all your questions.

***Members, Friends and Family of
Christ Lutheran Prayer List...***

***For those with ongoing health
issues/disability/illness:***

Wanda Aikey; Pam Belkins; Harry Berger;
Barbara Coup; Rose Deaner; Terry Deaner;
Peggy Drum; Matt Edinger; Deniene Enders, Terry Eisenhuth;
Robert Francis Jr., Patricia Gitschlag, Gerald Greenly; Valerie
Handy ;Doris Heffelfinger; John Heffelfinger; Mary Wagner Hines;
Evelyn Kelley; Danny Litzel, Nolan Francis-Miller; Bob Queen;
Lois Reimensnyder, Alice Roush; John Shaffer; Tim Simko; Gordy
Smith; Fran Valentine, Karen Walters; Shirley Wargo; George
Zeyn, ...



For those anticipating and recovering from surgery:

Florence Ishler; Laura Beck; Terry Deaner;
Caroline Jean Carter, Kimberly Handy, Nancy Walters

For those in sorrow: All who have lost loved ones; All those in our community and the world who are recovering from natural disasters & tragedies.

For those needing daily strength:

Rodney Bastian; Betty Baumer; Pat Bender; Betty Callenberger;
Charlene Francis; Rita Lenig; Nancy Mensch; Shannon Moll;
Kelly Packer; Helen & Leroy Reinard; Donna Riccio; Mike
Rudisill; Tim Simko; Keisha Trimble; Curtis Klodnikie; Darlas
Yost; Harold Webb.

For the imprisoned: Aundre Moten

For those adjusting to life changes: All those affected by political & religious oppression.

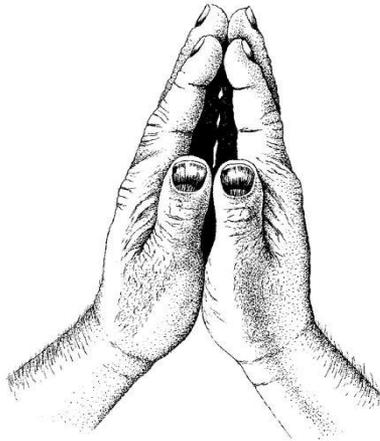
For the homebound and those unable to be at home:

George & Bebe Bolich; Betty Dotts; Doris Heffelfinger; Violet Heimbach; Connie Sholly; Nancy Weikel; Jeannine Wilkerson; Harry Berger

For those serving in the military: Kristen Bastian; Matthew Dorman; Jeremiah Fisher; Stephen Himes; Anthony Nudson; Cody Pursley; Cody Messinger; Trent Wargo

For leaders, guides, students, and workers: Pr. Mark; Rev. Brian & Christine Palmer, missionaries; Bishop B.J. Collins, Synod Staff; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton & ELCA Staff, Authorized Lay Worship Leaders, Parish Call Committee

For activities and events, and for those who are traveling: Our faith partners at Trinity; Mutual Ministry Team; Council; Spiritual Growth; Stewardship; Christian Ed Ministry; Children, Youth & Family Ministry





Prayer Requests

Names for healing prayers are printed for several weeks at a time, but can be lifted up again as requested. The Prayer Chain Team & others continue to pray for this Sunday list and other concerns daily.

HEALING Mary Billhime; Georgia Boyer; Judy Farr; Ken Gaugler, Brenda Whipple, Julie Benshoff, George & Joanie Fisher, Helen Fisher, Mary Jane & Melvin Crist, Dottie Leeser; Ray Leeser, Ed Nelson; Sheri Yingling, Ava Westhaupt, Mark Nolder, Brookson Lehman, Bob Smith, friends, David, Linda Parrish, Janet Timms, Donna Collins, Barb Smith, Henry Reinsborrow, Tracy Coleman, Carol Shurtz, Frank Dominick, Jonathan Noaker, Quentin Erb, Carolyn Beach, Erick Wood, Neil Hauger, Jaime Evock, Bill Lebard, Gerry Cashner, Chris; Tom Martin; Karen, Martha Jean & Gary Gill, Aaron; Jean Shirk; Larry Shirk, Carol Shirk; Barb; Ronnie; Lee; Peggy Fulmer; Gerald Greenly, Bill Rothermel, Glenda Arnold; Anthony Nudson; Annabelle, Craig, Peggy Wilson, Noah, Colleen Cameron, Cathy Smith, Richard Hoffman, Karen Bergan, Jean Matthews, Bobby, Ronnie Kessler, Nancy Brown, MaryAnn Solomon, Kelly Solomon, Nancy Walters...

Seminarian: Marlene Phillips



Public Office Hours – 8am-3:30pm

Trinity- Mon.-Fri.- mornings

Christ- Mon.-Fri.- afternoons

Newsletter articles are due in office by the **15th of each month** (unless otherwise noted on newsletter calendar or bulletin).

Deadline for the next newsletter Mar.15. Any items received after the 15th of the month will not be in the newsletter.

Please e-mail Donna at **driccio@christlutheranmpa.org** or **tlcmilton@ptd.net** with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles or drop them off at either church.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Website – www.christlutheranmpa.org

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Church Phone- 570-742-7473

Church E-mail – driccio@christlutheranmpa.org

Pastor Mark Galbraith -pastormarkpg@gmail.com

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