

We Warmly Welcome You to



Milton Lutheran Parish

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

January 3, 2021

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Traditional Service

LIVE Streamed from the Sanctuary at Trinity Lutheran at 9:30 a.m.
on the Milton Lutheran Parish YouTube Channel

Visit <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/> to link to the LIVE worship

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

Kellie Brouse

John Warfel



Confession and Forgiveness

Kellie Brouse

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. *Amen.*

Gathering Song: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

John Warfel

*Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

First Reading- Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the



forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.
Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Reading- John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to John the 1st Chapter. ***Glory to you, O Lord.***

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon: "His Light Dispels All Darkness"

Kellie Brouse

Hymn of the Day- "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

John Warfel

*Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the Source, the Ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!*



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

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.



You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith (*especially*). With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

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.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.
Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end. *Amen.*

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

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

Communion Blessing

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing

Kellie Brouse

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

Sending Song – "Once in Royal David's City"

John Warfel

*Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.*



Sending

Go in peace. Christ is with you. *Christ is with you.*

Postlude

John Warfel

News and Announcements from the Parish

Thank you . . . to Kellie Brouse, Authorized Lay Worship Leader, for leading our LIVE stream worship today. Your service and commitment to the Parish is appreciated!

LIVE Stream Worship . . . Thank you to our Digital Ministry Team who has done an amazing job with getting our Parish ready to LIVE stream our worship services. With this technology in place, our faith community can join each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. LIVE for worship. Visit the Parish website to connect to the LIVE service or to watch any time after.

Connecting with Our Homebound Members . . . Beginning Friday, January 8, “home packets” are being delivered weekly to our members who are homebound and who do not have internet access. The packets include a message from Pastor Gary, the Worship Bulletin, and the weekly devotional. This “home packet” delivery is a great way to stay connected and check in with those who cannot leave their homes or connect digitally during the pandemic. If you wish to help with this home connection delivery, contact Donna Spear or Krista Yaiko.

Will you please join together in prayer for these members . . .

Barb Ashenfelder	Bonnie Erb	Nancy Mensch
Patsy Aunkst	Judy Farr	Ed Nelson
Linda Bastian	Joanie Fisher	DorithiJean Poeth
Rodney Bastian	Tiffany Delp	Jerry Roush
MaryLou Benshoff	David Gauger	Kim Sapperson
Julie Benshoff	Ken Gaugler	Jim Seidel
Harry Berger	Gerald Greenly	Connie Sholly
Mary Billhime	Kimberly Handy	Karen Walters
Rosie Bingaman	Valerie Handy	Nancy Walters
Georgia Boyer	AnnaMae Harpster	Harold Webb
Betty Callenberger	John Heffelfinger	Nancy Weikel
Barbara Coup	Doris Heffelfinger	Mike & Lynnette Weisner
Mary Jane & Melvin Crist	Mina Hoover	Janie Woodcock
Terry Deaner	Pete & Florence Ishler	Darlas Yost

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or offer an update, please contact the Parish office.

This Week at Milton Lutheran Parish . . .

Sun. Jan. 3

Happy Birthday Mary Billhime

Happy Birthday Dave Robinson

LIVE stream worship online at 9:30 am

Visit the Parish Website to connect <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>



- Mon. Jan. 4 **Happy Birthday Lee Brandau**
Happy Birthday Linda Trate
- Wed. Jan. 6 Epiphany of Our Lord
 Pastor Gary's weekly Bible Study is posted on the website.
 Access the recorded link anytime for a deeper focus on the week's bible text.
- Thu. Jan. 7 **Happy Birthday Ruth Greenly**
Happy Birthday Florence Ishler
Happy Birthday Ann Kaye
- Fri. Jan. 8 **Happy Birthday Jack Aunkst**
Happy Anniversary Leroy & Bonnie Hauck-39 years
- Sun. Jan. 10 First Sunday of Epiphany-Baptism of Our Lord
 LIVE stream worship online at 9:30 am
 Visit the Parish Website to connect <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

*Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?
 Please call the parish office to let us know and help us get all our records up to date!*

Milton Lutheran Parish Leadership Team	
Pastor	Gary Schaeffer
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, Kevin Fry, Bill Heimbach, Seth Reitz, Dawn Russell, Cindy Trapane
Worship Team	Jeff Coup, Kellie Brouse, Nancy Walters, Sue Warfel, John Warfel
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
 Additional Campus Location: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street Milton PA 17847
 Website: <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>
 Be sure to follow us on Facebook Instagram and our YouTube Channel to connect with us online.
 CCLI License: A709164





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

December 28, 2020

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

I hope this letter finds you all doing well and enjoying the Christmas season. I hope you had the opportunity to join us for worship either online or in person for one of our parking lot services. It was a unique worship experience filled with a sense of adventure, joy, hope and expectation.

As we look into another week in the life of our faith community, I want to take a moment and say thank you to all of the volunteers that continue to work hard in making the ministry of our parish possible. It would take up the whole page to list all of the names, but it's important that we recognize our parish council, both church councils, our ministry teams and several other volunteers who give of their time. Without their hard work we would not be able to live out our mission as a parish.

I also want to share some sad news with you. Effective December 29, our parish office administrator, Donna Riccio, is no longer serving in her position. We give thanks for the several years that she has served in this capacity and wish her God's blessings as she moves on.

Our parish office will be closed through January 3, as we transition to new office leadership. I will also be away on vacation from December 28 through January 3. Our parish council is hard at work to develop a staffing plan that will enable us to keep the office running. Once we have a plan in place, we will send a communication out to everyone to let you know.

In the meantime, if you have a pastoral need, please contact Krista Yaiko or Donna Spear directly. Pastor Justin Lingenfelter from United in Christ Lutheran Church is providing pastoral coverage while I am away. Either Krista or Donna will be able to get you in contact with him if you need it. You can also leave a message on the office voicemail and someone will be in contact with you ASAP.

I hope you have a great week and God Bless!

Gary



Home Devotional- December 28 – January 3

Introduction

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.



Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalms

Jeremiah 31:7-14 *Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock*

Psalms 147:12-20 *Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.*

Ephesians 1:3-14 *The will of God made known in Christ*

John 1:[1-9] 10-18 *God with us: the incarnation of the Word*

Questions for Reflection

1. When in your life has your mourning turned to joy and dancing? (Jer 31:13)
2. Snow makes a surprise appearance in Psalm 147:16. How does God make a surprise appearance in your life?
3. In what ways does God dwell, take up residence, with you or with us? John 1:14

Pray the Lord's Prayer Together

Bless one another saying:

May God bless you this week and always. AMEN

Resources:

Opening prayer: Sundaysandseasons.com - Questions- Workingpreacher.org

