



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

January 6, 2021

Dear Family and Friends of Milton Lutheran Parish:

I hope you are all doing well. Can you believe that it is already 2021?! If you are anything like me, I'm sure you are praying that this new year will be very different from 2020. It certainly has been a challenging year and it would be a blessing if we were able to place the Coronavirus in the past with the vaccines that are becoming available.

As we start off the New Year, I want to share some updates with you.

Worship- We will continue our livestream worship service through January each Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Our worship team and council leadership are hard at work figuring out a plan as we head into February and beyond. Once our decisions have been made, we will let you know. In the meantime, if you are unable to access the livestream worship because you don't have the technology, you are welcome to join us in the sanctuary. However, we need to keep our gathering small, so please contact the parish office if you wish to attend, so we can ensure there is enough space.

Home Devotional Kits- If you are unable to access our digital content, then someone will bring you a home devotional kit so you can participate in the ministry of our parish. Each Friday a member of the parish will drop the kit off at your home.

Parish Administrator- I am excited to share the Parish Council has hired Claire Weisner as our temporary Parish Administrator. Claire will be working with us over the next few months as we begin the search process for a permanent Parish Administrator. As Claire gets settled into this position, we want to ask for your patience as we figure out the different functions of the job and how to perform them. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask.

Starting in February we will have a Ministry Planning team that will begin at 9-12-month process of helping us move from where we are to where we want to be as a community of faith. This team will build on the work you have already done as a parish and help organize our ministry around our mission, vision, and values. The result of this process will be a ministry plan that will help us grow as a community of faith as we accomplish our mission. This month we are assembling our team members and will share their names with you once the team is in place. In the meantime, I ask that you pray for this team and their work as they get started.

Blessings,
Gary



We Warmly Welcome You to



Milton Lutheran Parish

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

January 10, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord

Contemporary 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

John Warfel



Prayer

Kellie Brouse

Gracious God as we gather today for worship let us take a moment and remember the gift of your grace in our lives. Help us celebrate that gift as we sing, as we hear your word, and as we pray. Guide our thoughts and feelings so that the Holy Spirit may move us to love one another. *Amen.*

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

Scripture Reading- Mark 1:4-11

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon: "Wild Water, Wild Faith"

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

Song: "Give Thanks"

John Warfel

Prayers-

Kellie Brouse

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.

Lord Listen to your Children Praying

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.

Lord Listen to your Children Praying.



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.

Lord Listen to your Children Praying.

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.

Lord Listen to your Children Praying.

Prayers of Intercession

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 encounter, the emotions we feel, and of course the 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 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 Song

John Warfel

Blessing

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

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

Sending Song: "Glorify Thy Name"

John Warfel

Blessing and Sending

Kellie Brouse

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.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

John Warfel

*News and Announcements from the Parish***A Note from Pastor Gary . . .**

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This Week at Milton Lutheran Parish . . .

- Sun., Jan. 10 9:30 AM LIVE Stream Worship Service. Those who do not have access to the internet and are unable to watch the LIVE stream are invited to worship in the sanctuary during the service. Please contact Parish Office if you plan to attend so we can ensure there is enough space.
- Mon., Jan 11 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 PM at Trinity
- Tues., Jan. 12 **Happy Birthday Daniel Day!**
- Wed., Jan. 13 **Happy Birthday Laura Spangler!**
Bible Study is Posted on the Website and Social Media
- Fri., Jan. 15 **Happy Birthday Allison Gardner!**
- Sat., Jan. 16 **Happy Birthday Dale Cochran!**
- Sun., Jan. 17 9:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service. Those who do not have access to the internet and are unable to watch the LIVE stream are invited to worship in the sanctuary during the service. Please contact Parish Office if you plan to attend so we can ensure there is enough space.

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, Connie Stover, Dawn Russell, Cindy Trapane
Worship Team	Jeff Coup, Kellie Brouse, Nancy Walters, Sue Warfel, John Warfel, Don
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.

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Home Devotional- January 11-17

Introduction

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.



Prayer of the Day

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalms

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Questions for Reflection

1. God's call can sometimes be missed. When have you heard a call to act against injustice? (1 Sam 1-20)
2. Psalm 139 is a favorite of many. How is it a comfort to know God has “searched and known” you? (Ps 139:1)
3. Who told you, “Come and see” regarding your faith life? And who needs to hear those words from you? (John 1:46)

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

