



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / JANUARY 2026

# NEWSLETTER

*Fostering community through faith, love, and service*

## A Letter from the Pastor

### Living the Blessing After Christmas

The lights have come down, the decorations are packed away, and the familiar rhythms of daily life are settling back in. Christmas, it seems, has passed. Yet Scripture reminds us that the heart of Christmas does not belong to one day or even one season—it belongs to a promise that continues to shape our lives.

In Ephesians 1:3–14, the apostle Paul proclaims that in Christ we have already received “*every spiritual blessing*.” That message speaks powerfully in January, when the celebrations are over and we are left to live out what we have received. The child born in Bethlehem did not arrive for a momentary celebration, but to claim us, redeem us, and hold us in grace long after the carols fade.

Paul tells us that in Christ we are chosen and adopted, forgiven and sealed with the Holy Spirit. These words remind us that Christmas was not simply an event we observed—it was God’s decisive act on our behalf. The gift of Jesus does not expire when the calendar turns. It continues to define who we are and how we live.

January often invites reflection. We take stock of where we have been and wonder what lies ahead. In the midst of that uncertainty, Ephesians offers a steady foundation: our lives are rooted in God’s grace, not our resolutions or accomplishments. We move into the new year not empty-handed, but richly blessed, already claimed as God’s beloved children.

The Spirit, Paul says, is God’s seal upon us—a promise that God is not finished yet. The same God who came to us in Christ continues to work in us, drawing us toward hope, healing, and purpose. Christmas has happened, but its promise is still unfolding.

As we step into this new year, may we live with the quiet confidence that Christmas did not end—it continues in us. Rooted in grace, sustained by hope, and held in love, we move forward “*to the praise of God’s glory*.”

# An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Connie Stover

Council news

Council did not meet in December.

As a reminder, Council members are available to answer many questions that the congregation may have.

## Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports

### Outreach Team

- Outreach would like to share that we are planning to host a meal at Milton Towers in February (date not yet determined). If anyone would like to help, please have them see Stephanie.
- For the month of January, SCS will be collecting tissues. The Self-Care team is happy to announce that we have received a \$500 grant from the Susquehanna Valley Corvette Club. We have also been awarded a grant from Service 1<sup>st</sup> that will be picked up before Christmas. I will provide an update with the amount in the coming days.
- We will once again be doing our Easter Candy project. We are looking to make the candy on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, so please mark your calendars!
- The Red Cross Bloodmobile Canteen's next event date is Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm - 6:00pm. We are looking for donations of food.
- We will be helping with packing bags for the Panther Pack Program on January 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Steph Byers

### Fellowship Team

We had our 3rd annual Beers and Carols sing-a-long on Dec 3 at Rusty Rail and it was so much fun! All three churches were well represented and we filled pretty much the whole dining area downstairs.

New Member Sunday is Dec 21 followed by fellowship time.

Plans have started for the annual Chili cook off, ice cream social, and game night. All will be held in Jan and Feb in the new year.

We always welcome more help. Please reach out if you are interested in serving.

Merry Christmas to all and prayers for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Carol Yost



For the month of January, we are requesting donations of tissues.

We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!



Our pet pantry is the first Sunday of the month from 11:30am-12:30pm held in conjunction with our Self-Care Sanctuary. Our next one is January 4<sup>th</sup>.



Our Fidget Quilt group is next meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, contact Connie Stover.





The purpose of the Milton Lutheran Church Endowment fund is to further the Mission of MLC by supporting projects, programs, and events sponsored by our members. Endowments will be granted for areas dealing with children and youth, matching funds for existing fundraisers, service projects, local, national, and international initiatives, and existing church partnerships. Applications will be reviewed by the endowment team and granted upon their approval. Deadlines for requests are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

Applications can be found on the website on the *documents & videos* page, under *Milton Lutheran Church Documents*, and at the church office.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the office and your questions will be directed to whomever can best answer the query.

Our capital campaign is still going strong for Camp Mount Luther! As we near the end of the year, we are tallying our total for 2025 for matching gifts through MLC! You still have the opportunity to donate to this cause to raise our total for matching!

You can make a contribution through a weekly/monthly donation in your offering to the church, noting the contribution is for the Camp Mount Luther Capital Campaign; a one-time donation to the campaign through your giving envelope to the church, or by going to the website: <https://www.campmountluther.org/capital-campaign/> and making a donation either by check to the camp or by credit card. It's as easy as that!

By giving through MLC's campaign, you basically double your giving as we match the gifts that come in!

Camp is a respite for so many. A place that spreads love and joy and the Word of God! Your donation will help improve Camp to be the best it can be for all who attend!







Bible Study at May's Drive-In (2675 PA-405 Milton PA). Our Breakfast Club Bible Study meets from 9am-10am on Tuesdays! We hope you join us to explore the upcoming Sunday's texts with us! See you there!



#### God Given Gifts Inventory

*Join a process that guides you through an inventory that will help you identify what your gifts are and provides opportunities for you to use those gifts in our church and community.*

January 4<sup>th</sup>- 12:00 P.M.-  
1:30 P.M.- (Lunch  
Provided)

January 7<sup>th</sup>- 6:00 P.M.-7:30  
P.M.- (Dinner Provided)



Pub Theology  
will be meeting  
on at the  
Turbotville  
Public House  
on January 8th  
at 7pm! We  
hope you join  
us for this  
opportunity for  
fellowship!!

## Announcements from our Friends



# BUFFALO VALLEY FAITH LAB



Scan to sign up!

1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month  
4:30pm-6:30pm  
September-May  
Grades K-6  
Free family dinner!

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday @ Christ's Lutheran  
100 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday @ United In Christ  
1875 Churches Rd.  
Lewisburg, PA 17837



## *Beat the Winter Blues Bingo*



Saturday, January 11  
@7:00 pm.  
at Christ's Lutheran Church

Everyone, please bring a  
"wrapped" gift up to a \$5.00  
value and a snack to share.



*Come and have fun. Everyone is a winner!*



<b>THU, JAN 1</b>	7pm Outreach Team Meeting
<b>SUN, JAN 4</b>	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11:30am Self-Care Sanctuary and Pet Pantry
<b>MON, JAN 5</b>	6pm Boy Scouts
<b>TUE, JAN 6</b>	LifeLine Screening 9am Breakfast Club at May's Drive-In Lewisburg 10am TOPS
<b>WED, JAN 7</b>	6pm Boy Scouts
<b>THU, JAN 8</b>	1pm Worship Team Meeting 7pm Pub Theology
<b>SUN, JAN 11</b>	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour 11am Fellowship Team Meeting
<b>MON, JAN 12</b>	Executive Committee Meeting 6pm Boy Scouts
<b>TUE, JAN 13</b>	9am Breakfast Club at May's Drive-In Lewisburg 10am TOPS
<b>WED, JAN 14</b>	6pm Boy Scouts



<b>SUN, JAN 18</b>	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice
<b>MON, JAN 19</b>	6pm Boy Scouts 7pm Council Meeting
<b>TUE, JAN 20</b>	9am Breakfast Club at May's Drive-In Lewisburg 10am TOPS 10:30am Movers and Shakers
<b>WED, JAN 21</b>	6pm Boy Scouts
<b>SUN, JAN 25</b>	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour
<b>MON, JAN 26</b>	6pm Boy Scouts
<b>TUE, JAN 27</b>	9am Breakfast Club at May's Drive-In Lewisburg 10am TOPS
<b>WED, JAN 28</b>	Red Cross Blood Drive 6pm Boy Scouts

**Please Contact the Office if You Have Any Questions About Any Upcoming Events**

**Donations Made in the Names of Loved Ones to the Abiding Memorial Fund**

**Christmas Memorials**

**Edward and Carolyn Coup**

**Robert and Ann Coup**

**Kelly and Shirley Stigerwalt**