



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER

Fostering community through faith, love, and service

A Letter from the Pastor

In Gospel of John 14:1–14, Jesus speaks some of the most tender and reassuring words in all of Scripture:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me.”

These words were not spoken in a calm moment. They came on the night before Jesus’ crucifixion. The disciples were confused, anxious, and afraid. Jesus had just told them that he would be leaving them. Their world felt uncertain, unstable, and frightening.

And into that fear, Jesus does not offer a plan. He offers himself.

“Believe in God. Believe also in me.”

We know what troubled hearts feel like. We experience them when the news is unsettling, when health concerns arise, when relationships strain, when the future feels unclear, or when grief settles in. Troubled hearts are not new to humanity. The disciples felt them. We feel them too.

Jesus’ response to troubled hearts is not, “Figure it out,” or “Be stronger,” or “Try harder.” Instead, he invites us into trust.

He points beyond circumstances to relationship.

Jesus goes on to say that he is going to prepare a place for us. This is not simply a promise about heaven someday. It is a reminder that we belong to him now and always. Our place with Christ is secure, even when everything else feels uncertain.

Then Jesus makes a bold and comforting claim:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

When our hearts are troubled, we often want a map. Jesus gives us himself as the way. We want answers. Jesus gives us himself as the truth. We want relief. Jesus gives us himself as the life.

Troubled hearts are calmed not by perfect clarity, but by a trustworthy Savior.

Finally, Jesus tells his disciples that those who believe in him will continue his work in the world. This means that even in anxious times, our lives still have purpose. Even when our hearts are unsettled, God is still at work through us—bringing love, hope, and grace to others whose hearts are troubled too.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled” is not a command to ignore our feelings. It is an invitation to bring those feelings to Jesus and to place our trust in him.

Because the peace of Christ does not come from everything being under control. It comes from knowing the One who is. In every season of uncertainty, may we hear again these gentle words of Jesus and hold them close:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me.”

In Christ’s peace,

Pastor Gary

An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Connie Stover Council needs one more person for the audit team.

The council discussed the letter from Pastor Gary where he explained that he needs surgery. He will likely be having surgery in June and will need to have at least 2 months for recovery. The council will be meeting with representatives from the surgery to help with the planning of the time that Pastor Gary will be recovering. Pastor Gary has spoken to Pastor Vickie Brown, and she will be available to provide interim coverage on a part-time basis. She will be able to attend council meetings, provide pastoral care, and cover worship. Pastor Katy and Pastor Justin have also offered to provide us with support at this time. We pray for Pastor Gary as he goes through his surgery and recovery.

Council has received the Building Assessment and Ministry Assessment reports. There was a discussion about the results of the reports. Council members were asked for their insights into the reports. It was decided that the executive committee will meet and bring a recommendation to council about the buildings. This recommendation will recommend one of the buildings and the reasons why that building is being recommended. Council will then vote on that recommendation. That recommendation will be presented to the congregation. We pray for God’s guidance as we go through this difficult process.

Ministry Team and Small Group Monthly Report

Outreach Team

We are asking for deodorant for the month of May for self care.

The youth lock-in in April was a success! We hosted 13 kids. Thank you to Rose, Kim, Chris, Kellie, Alyssa, Lauren, Connie, Sharon & Gary for their help in being our chaperones. The kids are asking when the next event will be!

Our last Panther Pack packing boxes is Wednesday, May 6th at St Andrews!

5 people from the outreach team helped pack food boxes for Veterans at Central PA Food bank in April.

We will be hosting the Red Cross Canteen on Wednesday May 27th Sign-up for volunteers and needed snacks is in the binder

We are starting to plan for our next Empty Bowl Dinner in the fall. If anyone would be interested in helping please talk to anyone on the outreach team!

Any questions, please let me know.

Steph Byers

Fellowship

Fellowship hour continues the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

The Ladies Tea will be held on May 2 at 2pm in the Social Hall. Ladies and guests are encouraged to dress for "afternoon tea" and will enjoy tea, sandwiches, and yummy desserts.

For Mother's Day and Father's Day, all ladies and gents will receive a surprise following worship on their respective days. A day at Knoebels is being planned for Sunday, June 28. Everyone should bring their own place setting and a dish to share.

The Crosscutters game is scheduled for July 12th. There will be a signup in the binder in the future.

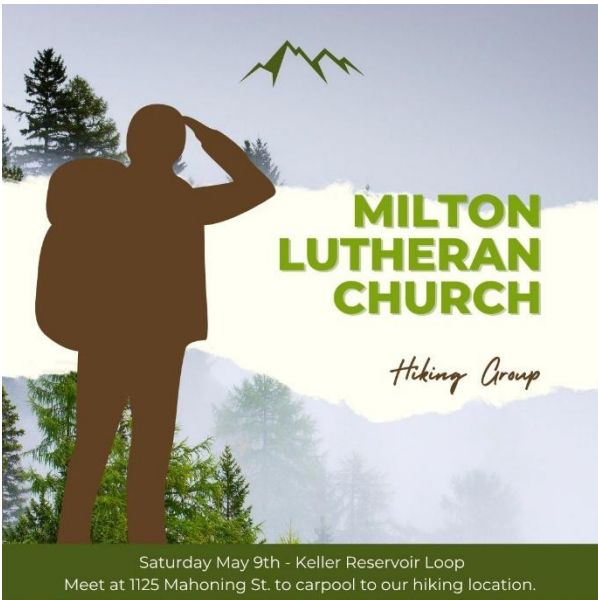
Please consider joining the Fellowship team. We meet once a month, generally on the second Sunday of the month during Fellowship hour. Meetings are set to resume on June 14. Thanks Carol - Fellowship chair

Carol Yost

Announcements



Our capital campaign is still going strong for Camp Mount Luther! Any financial gift you make will be matched for 2026! 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!



Saturday, May 9, 2026 Keller Reservoir Loop Difficult 5.2 miles 1,565' elevation We will carpool from the church at NOON and arrive at the trailhead lot, Exit Rt 220 at the McElhattan Exit and travel S. on Reserve Rd to the parking area about 12:50 pm. On the way home we will stop at the Restless Oaks Restaurant.

For the month of May, we are requesting donations of deodorant. 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 July 5th.

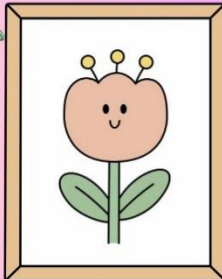


Our Fidget Quilters are next meeting: June 3rd , Sept 2nd, Dec 2nd. If you have any questions, contact Connie Stove.

ART WALL



THERE ARE COLORING SHEETS FOR KIDS OF ANY AGE IN THE PRAYGROUND AREA



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

SUNDAY, MAY 10TH AND 24TH

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

In our fellowship hall.

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH
1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA

MOVERS & SHAKERS

SENIOR'S GROUP

MAY 19TH 10:30AM - 12:30PM

MEAL

CONVERSATION

BINGO

SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP



MAY 17TH

11:00AM

IN THE LOUNGE



LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED



We all have gifts, if you want to learn about your gifts and how to use them, come to the workshop.

Sign-ups are in the binder in the lobby. Sign up by May 10th.



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.

JOIN US AT



Knoebels

Sunday, June 28th @ 1pm, Pavilion U

Bring a side dish to share!





**Williamsport Crosscutter's
baseball**

**Save the date to join us
Sunday July 12th
Game starts at 4:05 PM**



BREAKFAST CLUB

BIBLE STUDY

AT MAY'S

9AM-10:30AM

EVERY TUESDAY

Our breakfast club Bible Study at May's Drive-In is every Tuesday morning from 9am-10:30am! Mark your calendars! We hope you'll be able to attend!

Both/And

Real people don't fit
inside boxes.

April 19th-May 10th

April 19th-May 10th

Clearcut categories can be helpful and make life easier to understand. But people are different. What we believe, our values, our upbringing, experiences, and future goals all shape who we are. Sometimes we can be tempted to label people, make assumptions about them and place them inside nice, neat boxes. But people don't belong inside boxes. We are full of tensions and paradoxes that – when embraced – can bring immense depth and beauty to life. Through this series, we will explore how faith in Christ calls us away from simplifying our experience of one another into an “either/or” perspective and embrace the beauty of the “both/and.” Join us as we learn how to celebrate the diversity of being Children of God.

Week 3: Us & Them | Galatians 3:28-29, Hebrews 13:1-2 Categories like “us” and “them” can give us a false sense of identity and community based on who is inside and who is outside. But through Jesus, we no longer must identify ourselves this way. We are called to reach across those boundaries with God's love in action.

Week 4: Saint & Sinner | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 In our divided world, it can be easy to cast blame on those we think have it wrong, seeing ourselves as “holier-than-thou.” But Paul reminds us that we are all sinners in need of God's grace and that Jesus is continually working in and on all of us – saints-in-progress.

Announcements from Our Friends

21st annual
**BISHOP'S
OPEN
GOLF
CLASSIC**
to benefit

**CAMP MOUNT
LUTHER**

May 11, 2026
Susquehanna Valley
Country Club

**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!

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

3rd Sunday @ United In Christ
1875 Churches Rd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

**Annual
Work Day**

*We need your help!
Together, let's
spruce up camp for
the summer.*

**CAMP MOUNT
LUTHER**

**May 16
9 AM to 1 PM
LUNCH PROVIDED**

**RSVP by
May 11**

SAVE THE DATE

SAT, MAY 2 2pm Ladies Tea

SUN, MAY 3 9:30 am service 10:30 Choir practice 11:30 Self Care Sanctuary and Pet Pantry

MON, MAY 4 6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, MAY 5 10am TOPS 9AM May's Drive-in Breakfast Club

WED, MAY 6 6pm Boy Scouts

THU, MAY 7 1pm Worship Team meeting 7pm Outreach Team Meeting

SUN, MAY 10 9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Team

MON, MAY 11 Executive Meeting 6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, MAY 12 10am TOPS 9AM May's Drive-in Breakfast Club

WED, MAY 13 6pm Boy Scouts Council Meeting

THU, MAY 14 1pm Worship Team meeting 7pm Pub Theology

SUN, MAY 17 9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Spiritual Gifts workshop

MON, MAY 18 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm Council Meeting

TUE, MAY 19 9am May's Drive-in 10am TOPS 10:30am Movers and Shakers

WED, MAY 20 6pm Boy Scouts

SUN, MAY 24 9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour

MON, May 25 6pm Boy Scouts

TUE, MAY 26 9am May's Drive-in 10am TOPS

WED, MAY 27 Red Cross Blood Drive 6pm Boy Scouts 6pm Pageant Meeting

SUN, MAY 31 9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice

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

For the Month of April

Mary Billhime by Connie and Paul Stover

Mary Billhime by Lynnette Weisner

Mary Billhime by Stephanie Byers

Mary Billhime by Sara Delp

Ernie Delp Sr. by Connie and Paul Stover

Ernie Delp Sr. by Joyce Zellers

Ernie Delp Sr. by Lynnette Weisner

Ernie Delp Sr. by Helen Billhime and Chuck Stahl

Cuff Greiner by Connie and Paul Stover

Cuff Greiner by Lynnette Weisner

Cuff Greiner by Helen Billhime and Chuck Stahl

Cuff Greiner by Charles Shreck