



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Fostering community through faith, love, and service

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Church

Last month we started our review of the book “Gone For Good- Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Building Transition”. In our first part of the summary, we talked about the history of churches in the United States and the current reality that many church buildings will be sold/repurposed over the next decade.

This month, I'd like to share some helpful information that the contributors of the book provide when considering what to do when you are facing the reality of needing to sell or repurpose a building.

As I mentioned last month, for a long time the church was the center of the community. It was a gathering place for many different groups of people throughout the week, in addition to Sunday morning. Although this is not our present-day reality, we need to recognize that selling or repurposing a church building can create a void in the community and have a lasting impact toward the people, groups, and organizations that have utilized the space.

It's important for us as a church to consider who uses the space, what it is currently being used for and what possible uses there may be in the future. As a church it's easy for us to talk about the impact of selling or repurposing one of our buildings has on us personally. It is equally important for us to consider the impact that it would have on the community around us. How would people respond if a building was torn down to build something new? How would people respond if a building ceased to exist as a place of worship?

The contributors mention in the book that these are unavoidable consequences of a difficult decision, but they encourage church communities to be mindful of this reality as they seek to make those decisions. They also encourage church communities to be proactive in communicating the decisions they've made, the reasons behind those decisions, and naming the difficult reality for people who live in the community around the building.

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Connie Stover

Council news

Council is moving forward with the rental of the sanctuary and 2 classrooms at 100 Mahoning Street to the Community Mennonite Church while their church is going through a construction process. It would start in August, and they hope to be back in their church by January. They would also pay custodial fees along with their rent.

The Raised Garden Beds for Getting Ahead are being led by Bethany Soromski from the Venturing Scout Program. Council approved her proposal that she presented after a review from the property team. It will consist of 4 48x24in raised boxes. The scouts will be responsible for taking care of the boxes and the area around them. They will be assembled by Venturing Crew 2605, one of the three Scouting America chartered by Milton Lutheran Church.

The Strategic Planning committee is planning to meet with the participants in the cottage meetings who signed up to help establish objectives for the goals. This is scheduled for May 16th and 17th. At the next council meeting, May 19th, Council will meet with the Strategic planning teams along with the facilities team, to develop a recommendation to be presented to the congregation. There will be at least 2 cottage meetings to discuss the recommendation.

Council passed the Rules of Procedure for the June 29th congregational meeting. These procedures will be mailed to the congregation before the June 29th meeting.

Where are We in the Strategic Planning Process?

Cottage Meetings were held during the week of April 6th through 10th with a total of 49 participants. Two meetings were held at 1125 Mahoning Street and the other four sessions were in facilitator's homes. Strategic Planning Team members conducted the meetings assisted by council and congregation members. Each participant received Cottage Meeting packets prior to the meetings and were encouraged to thoughtfully process the information. This included: MLC's vision, goals, and facilities assessment. The information was reviewed and discussed at each meeting. At the conclusion of the meetings, participants were given a questionnaire to complete which was returned to their facilitator or to the church office.

On April 23rd the SP Team held a Zoom meeting with Pastor Gary and our consultant Keith Johnson. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the feedback gathered at the Cottage Meetings. This information was taken from 44 questionnaires and summarized by Keith. The summary reflected the open dialogue of the meetings.

As chairperson of this team, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who helped facilitate the meetings and to those who participated. Thank you everyone!

Cindy Coup, Chairperson

June 25'

Strategic Plan Launch

May 25'

Strategic Planning Retreat

March-April 25'

Cottage Meetings

January- March 25'

Facilities Assessment

January 25'

Visioning Retreat

November 24' - January 25'

Train Teams, Community Assessment

September -October 24'

Recruit Teams, God @ the
Core Worship Series



Listening for God Planning for the Future



Together in Faith

Ministry Teams and Small Group Monthly Reports

Fellowship Team

Easter Sunday we enjoyed fellowship with a delicious Easter breakfast with approximately 50 in attendance. An egg hunt followed the service and kids really enjoyed this.

May 4th will be the annual trivia night hosted at MLC. Come on out for a really fun evening!

Ruth Scott, Fellowship Chair

Outreach Team

Outreach would like to thank everyone that supported the Easter candy sale by donating, making or buying the candy. We made 174 dozen eggs. We are still selling Hoagie tickets \$8 each for Breaking bread cold hoagie/pizza. Expiration of June 30. See an outreach team member to purchase tickets. Anyone interested in packing food boxes with our friends at United in Christ at Central Food bank in Williamsport on Tuesday June 3 from 9 to 11. Sign up sheet in binder. Next Redcross event is Wednesday May 28. Looking for food donations see sign up in binder. Thanks!

Steph Byers

A Note from the Byers Family

We wanted to thank our church family for all of the prayers, care and concern that the congregation has given us during moms hospital stay and passing away on April 11th. We received so many beautiful cards with hand written notes. We greatly appreciate everyone's support at this most difficult time. Thanks!

Hiking Group

Wednesday, April 9th the MLC Hiking Group traveled to Yost Run Falls & Kyler Fork Falls on the Chuck Keiper Trail, North of Moshannon, Pa. It was an easy 3 mile hike and on the way home we stopped at the Twilight Dinner at the Loganton Exit off I-80 for refreshments. (first two pictures)

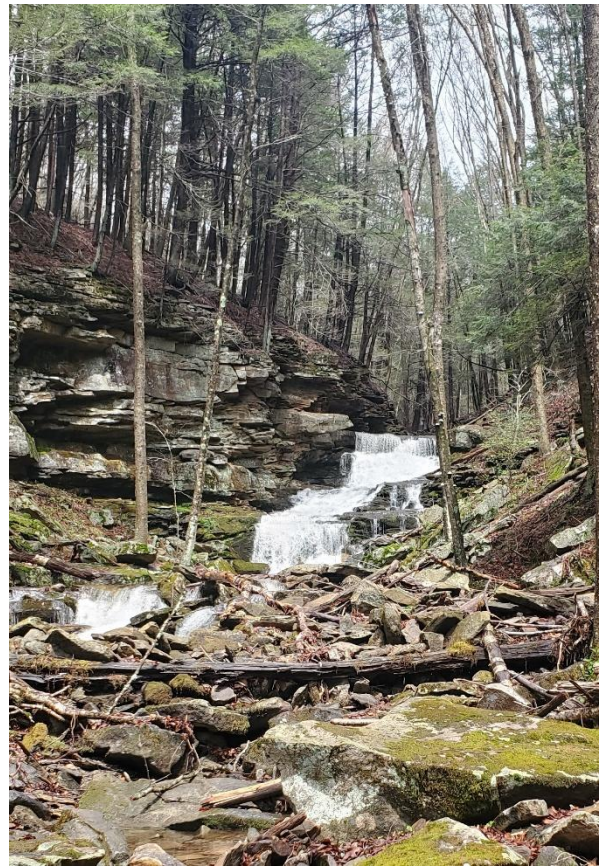


On Saturday, April 12 we did a hike to Bar Bottom Hollow which is North of Montoursville off of Wallis Run Road. It turned out to be close to a more difficult 10 mile hike, but the weather was kind to us and we only had a few sprinkles during the hike. When the hike was over we had refreshments at Pier 87. (second two pictures)

On Saturday, April 26, the hiking group again ignored the rainy weather predication and held their hike. And once again the rain stopped as soon as we got out of the vehicle. During the hike we had a few sprinkles, but by the time we got our rain coats on, the rain stopped. We had two short hikes to beautiful waterfalls. The large waterfall is Tamarack Falls and has become one of my favorites. The second waterfall is Alpine Falls. The falls are only about 3 miles apart and both were roaring with all the rain they had up north on Friday and Friday night. On the way home we stopped at D&D Brew Works near Laport for refreshments.



Our next hike is this Saturday, May 3rd. It is called the Victoria Loop on the South Side of Peters Mountain. It is a more difficult 5 mile hike. We will leave from the church parking lot at 9 am and pack a snack or sandwich for eating on the trail. On the way home we will stop at the historic Doyle Hotel in Duncannon for refreshments.





Milton Lutheran Church is preparing to kick off our matching funds campaign for Camp Mount Luther!

Over the next month you'll be hearing from people in the congregation about their love for Camp Mount Luther and the ministry camp provides.

For more information on who and what this campaign benefits, visit Camp Mount Luther's website and navigate to their campaign page, or talk with Pastor Gary or CarolAnn.



We wanted to say a special word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to this campaign so far. **We have raised \$26,430.** Due to some unexpected expenses that have come up this year our Church Council has decided to conduct a special appeal to help offset the cost for the purchase of a new steam boiler, reseal the parking lot at 100 Mahoning St., moving expenses, and fixing the air conditioning at 1125 Mahoning St. We invite you to make a contribution to help cover these expenses. You can do so by making a contribution through your regular giving or make a contribution online through Tithe.ly. Please just be sure to place 'Moving Forward Campaign' in the memo line.



For the month of May, we are requesting donations of soap.

We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!

Registration for Summer Day Camp is now open!

We hope to see you there this summer!





Our Fidget Quilt group has changed their meeting schedule!

The meeting dates for this year are:

June 4th

September 3rd

And December 3rd!

If you have any questions, contact Connie Stover.

**BUFFALO VALLEY
FAITH LAB**

Second Sunday of the Month
4:00pm-6:00pm

Free family dinner!

Sponsored by:

You're invited to the launch of a new monthly family faith formation program!

Logos for Christ's Covenant Lutheran Church, Milton Lutheran Church, and United In Christ Lutheran Church.



Our next meeting of Faith Lab is on May 11th at United in Christ Lutheran Church (1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837). From 4pm-6pm. Free family dinner. Register above via the QR code.

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 May 4th.

**HAPPY TAILS
PET PANTRY**

May 4th 11:30am-12:30pm

Free pet food products for anyone that needs them

1125 Mahoning St.
Milton PA 17847
miltonlutheranchurch.org



Pub Theology will be meeting at the Bull Run Tap House in Lewisburg on May 8th at 7pm! We hope you join us for this opportunity for fellowship!!

Contact Helen Billhime if interested in donating flowers for an open Sunday.





Milton Lutheran Church is taking a group to Lutheran Day in the State Capitol! This is a non-partisan advocacy day where we will attend workshops and learn more about Lutheran advocacy in Pennsylvania.

We will be gathering at Salem Lutheran in Selinsgrove and carpooling from there. We will be departing at 7:15am and will return around 7:30pm. We will stop for dinner on the way home.

Early Bird Rate – \$55 – Closes at 5 p.m. on *April 11*

Registration Rate – \$60 – Closes at 5 p.m. on *May 6*

Student Rate – \$35 – for middle school, high school, college, and grad students. All youth and young adults will have the option to join together for a youth and young adult track, accompanied by Pastor Justin Lingenfelter, Policy Council Member from Upper Susquehanna Synod.

Use the QR code for more information on this trip or contact the office for the website!

This trip is for middle schoolers, teens, and adults. If a student needs a note for excuse from school, that can be provided.



On May 18th, join us at Camp Mount Luther (355 Mt. Luther Ln. Mifflinburg PA) for a chicken barbecue from 4pm-6pm!

Chicken and drinks will be provided. We ask you bring a side dish to share.

There will be outdoor games, a guided hike, and a walkthrough of the bathhouse and Maple Hall projects which our matching funds campaign is going to support!

The outreach team is selling tickets to redeem at Breaking Bread for a hoagie or a pizza. The tickets are \$8 a piece and will benefit the Self-Care Sanctuary Ministry. Tickets are valid from now through June 30th. We will be selling these tickets through the months of April and May. See a member of the outreach team to purchase tickets!



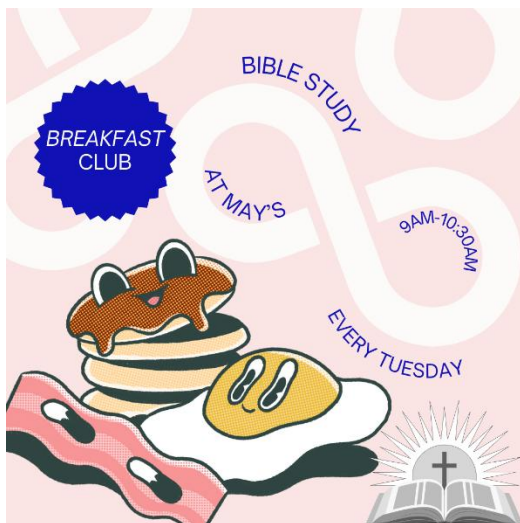
If you are graduating this year, send a photo, where you're graduating from, and what your next steps are to the office by June 4th to have them put in the announcements!





In this five week worship series, we will be exploring our vision statement together. We will have worksheets available for deeper exploration into our vision as a community in MLC.





MLC apparel is available for sale now!

All orders can be placed through a special website that will be sent out in a special communication on Monday.

Orders **MUST** be placed by May 10th. The store will close and will not take any more orders as the company needs time to print them and ship them. They can be picked up at the church on June 1st.

https://stores.inksoft.com/milton_lutheran_church_25a/shop/home

If you need assistance, the digital team will be able to assist. If you don't have a credit card for purchase, you can write a check or give cash to the church and we will put in the order for you.

Bible Study at May's Drive-In (2675 PA-405 Milton PA) is BACK! We are excited to start up our Breakfast Club Bible Study from 9am-10am on Tuesdays! We hope you join us to explore the upcoming Sunday's texts with us! See you there!

Announcements from Our Friends



Service-Learning Camp Mission Trip is for 6th-12th graders. The trip will take the kids to Toledo, Ohio from July 20th-26th 2025. It will cost \$425 per person.

Some possible projects during this trip will be: building beds, cleaning streams, community gardens, building picnic tables, and working at food banks.

The kids will learn about and experience serving people, interacting with the community. There will also be chances to hike, kayak/canoe, swim, and more.

We will be staying at a church and making most meals there.

Youth who want to go need to pay a deposit of \$100 by Easter.

You can contact the office for more information if interested.



This summer, Camp Mount Luther has an AMAZING program, with opportunities for all ages! There's overnight camp, day camp, off-site camps, mini-camp, and family camp!

Pastor Gary and Pastor Stina are going to be the chaplains for family camp and would LOVE to see you there that week! Family Camp runs from June 29th until July 2nd.

If you have any questions about camp, don't hesitate to ask CarolAnn in the office. She has worked at CML 5 summers, and LOVES to talk about camp!

From The Synod Youth Ministry Team

A red rectangular background with scattered multi-colored confetti (yellow, blue, pink, white, and purple) at the top and bottom edges.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

**AT CAMP
MOUNT LUTHER**

MAY 31, 2025

This event will take place
from 2-5 pm at Camp
Mount Luther. No cost
and snacks will be
provided.



THU, MAY 1	7pm Outreach Team Meeting
SAT, MAY 3	Synod Workshops
SUN, MAY 4	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11:30am Self-Care Sanctuary and Pet Pantry 5pm Trivia Night
MON, MAY 5	6pm Boy Scouts
TUE, MAY 6	10am TOPS
WED, MAY 7	6pm Boy Scouts
THU, MAY 8	1pm Worship Team Meeting 7pm Pub Theology
SUN, MAY 11	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour 11am Fellowship Team Meeting 4pm Faith Lab at United in Christ in Lewisburg
MON, MAY 12	Executive Committee Meeting 6pm Boy Scouts
TUE, MAY 13	Lutheran Day at the State Capitol 10am TOPS

WED, MAY 14	6pm Boy Scouts
SUN, MAY 18	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 4pm Chicken BBQ at Camp Mount Luther
MON, MAY 19	6pm Boy Scouts 6pm Princess Pageant Meeting 7pm Council Meeting
TUE, MAY 20	10am TOPS 10:30am Movers and Shakers
WED, MAY 21	6pm Boy Scouts
SUN, MAY 25	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour
MON, MAY 26	6pm Boy Scouts
TUE, MAY 27	10am TOPS
WED, MAY 28	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

For the Month of April

Tresha Sudol by Rosalyn Bingaman

Tresha Sudol by Jeff and Cindy Coup

Tresha Sudol by Rick and Judy Coup

Tresha Sudol by Ann Mellman

Tresha Sudol by Buss Family Trust

Tresha Sudol by Kathleen Bram

Tresha Sudol by Don and Peggy Fisher

All donations in the name of Tresha Sudol have gone to support the Happy Tails Pet Pantry
program