



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH / DECEMBER 2024

# NEWSLETTER

*Fostering community through faith, love, and service*

## An Update from MLC Church Council

From Council President Lynnette Weisner

Council news

The council met on November 18, 2024. MLC's council reviewed and approved the agreement for rental of MLC's facilities. The contact person is Chuck Stahl if anyone wishes to rent any of the facilities at either of MLC's buildings.

The previous rental agreement for the Hispanic Free Methodist Church to worship in our sanctuary and for use of the fellowship hall for special occasions was updated and approved. They plan to begin worshipping at 1125 Mahoning Street on Sunday December 8, 2024, at 11AM.

The annual council and staff Christmas dinner will be held on December 16, 2024, at the home of Lynnette Weisner.

### Where are We in the Strategic Planning Process?

The Strategic Planning Team held an open meeting on Sunday, November 3rd at 8:30am. The meeting was held to address any lingering questions concerning the strategic planning process. Our consultant, Keith Johnson, was in attendance via Zoom and he spoke to the group explaining the function of strategic planning, the teams involved in the process, and how strategic planning helps to define our mission as a church family.

A training session was also held on Nov. 3rd at 1:00pm for the Strategic Planning Team. Consultant, Keith Johnson conducted the training via Zoom. Keith outlined the responsibilities and tasks of the SP Team and the key components involved in strategic planning. The team will assist in conducting a SWOTT analysis of our congregation (i.e. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats and Trends). Information from the SWOTT analysis will be used in conjunction with feedback from the Community Assessment Team and the Facilities Utilization

Team to help us establish a new vision for MLC. **We plan on encouraging people to participate in the SWOTT analysis in the following ways:**

1. The various ministry teams will be asked to complete a SWOTT worksheet at their monthly meetings. Pastor Gary will meet with the ministry team leaders to help with this process.
2. Also, we are asking all congregation members to be an active part of this process. We are planning to hold Conversation Church on a Sunday morning. (date to be announced) where everyone will have an opportunity to respond to the SWOTT analysis.

The community assessment team met on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 P.M. with Keith to review the community assessment process. Carol Yost, Linwood Hill, and Karen Fry are serving on this team and they identified over a dozen people/organizations to interview. Carol Yost volunteered to lead this team. **We encourage people to participate in the community assessment process in the following ways:**

1. Take a look at the list below. Are there people or organizations that we missed?
2. Do you have a relationship with a person or organization that you are willing to conduct an interview. (A member of the community assessment team or Pastor Gary can give you the interview guide with questions and help you prepare to conduct an interview.)

**Community Assessment List-** *(Items in bold need a person to conduct interview)*

Chief of Police	Chamber of Commerce	USS Synod
Director of YMCA	Director	
<b>Hand-Up</b>	Coup Agency- Realtor	
<b>Getting Ahead Foundation</b>	Milton Fire Department	
<b>Scouts</b>	Milton Public Library	
Neighboring Churches	Volunteer of the Year	
<b>Salvation Army</b>	Milton Code & Zoning Department	
Mayor of Milton	<b>Love Inc.</b>	
<b>Central PA Food Bank</b>	<b>DIG</b>	
Mental Health Counselors	New Pastors- St. Andrews & St. Joseph's	
The Standard Journal		
Milton School District	Noah's Ark Day Care	
Kiwanis Club	Breaking Bread Company	

Carol Ann will compile the information from the SWOTT analysis, God at the Core Surveys, and Community Assessment Interviews, in preparation for the January visioning retreat. All of the above items will need to be completed by January 9<sup>th</sup>.

The next Strategic Planning Team meeting will be held Dec. 8th at 1:00 P.M. in the church lounge behind the sanctuary.

Cindy Coup- Strategic Planning Team 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

Our 2nd annual Friendsgiving was a huge success! We hosted approximately 40 people and enjoyed some amazing food! Thank you to all who came out and joined in this fellowship opportunity. We are thankful for you all!

Ruth Scott

### Outreach Team

Outreach team is looking for cookie bakers to donate cookies for the meal we are delivering to Milton towers on Saturday December 14. Sign up sheet is in the binder in the lobby asking for donation of 2 dozen cookies or more pre bagged in groups of 2. Also if you would like to help make the meal for the residents at the towers please sign up for a shift from 8 am to 4 pm questions see Stephanie Byers. Thanks!

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE STATS:

#### November 20, 2024 Goal: 30

28 heroes registered to give 🙌

26 units of lifesaving blood were collected 🩸

More than one person per donor may be assisted 😊

Thank you to everyone who came out, whether donating blood or volunteering your time. 🙌

Steph Byers

### Hiking Group

On Saturday November 2nd the Milton Lutheran Church Hiking Group did a pilgrimage hike to the Bob and Dotty Webber homestead and graves. Bob Webber was a District Forester in the Pine Creek area and was responsible for laying-out and maintaining many of the hiking trails in that area.

The hike started just off Rt 44 south of the village of Black Forest and goes for 2.75 miles east to the ridge above Slate Run, PA. It is a great hike, made more special because two of our hikers that day were personal friends of the Webbers. Lori Bair and her husband lived for 5 years in a log cabin near the end of the Webbers lane, and Sue Wright was a Hiking friend of Bob's and even stayed at the Webbers cabin with him and Dotty. All the buildings have been torn down and the cabin moved to the PA Lumberman's Museum, but you can see most of the stone foundation of the cabin, the flagstone of the front porch and the beautiful vistas that the Webbers loved so much. Three pictures are attached.



Our next hike, and the last one until hunting season is over, will be on Black Friday, November 29th. We will meet at the church parking lot at 9am and travel to the Swift Run, Kerb Gap & Thick Mountain Trail in the Snyder-Middleswarth Natural Area. This 4.4 moderate difficulty hike is often referred to as “Tall Timbers”. A map of the hike is attached. According to the DCNR, as of 2007 Snyder-Middleswarth Natural Area is 500 acres, of which 250 acres is virgin forest. The tallest trees at Snyder-Middleswarth are more than 150 feet tall and measure more than 40 inches diameter at breast height. As measured by its growth rings, one fallen tree was found to be 347 years old.

Bring a daypack with water, snacks or a sandwich, trekking poles if you use them and tick repellent. If you don't want to meet us at the church at 9 am, you can meet us at the parking lot of brick, Grace Church, on Rt 235 just as you are entering Troxelville. We should be there about 9:40 am and you can follow us the rest of the way. After this hike I have to head home, but if the others want to stop for food and drink I can drive separately. If you will be joining us, please let me know before 6 pm the day before (Thanksgiving).

Jeff

R. Jeffrey Coup



We wanted to say a special word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to this campaign so far. **We have raised \$24,980.** 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 Tithely. Please just be sure to place 'Moving Forward Campaign' in the memo line.



**December 1st  
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Self-Care Sanctuary**

Free hygiene / self-care products for anyone that needs them.

MILTON Lutheran Church  
1125 Mahoning St. Milton, PA

For the month of December, we are requesting donations of facial tissues.

We appreciate anything you can give to this ministry!

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA

**MOVERS & SHAKERS  
SENIOR'S GROUP**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH 10:30AM - 12:30PM

MEAL

CONVERSATION

BINGO



There will be no Pub Theology for the month of December!

Our next meeting of Faith Lab is on December 8th at Milton Lutheran Church (1125 Mahoning St. Milton, PA 17847). From 4pm-6pm. Free family dinner. Register above via the QR code.

**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!



Fidget Quilt is an event where we will gather to make small, lap quilts with fidgeting items on them for people who have Alzheimer's to keep their hands busy.

We are looking for people to help who are willing to cut, sew, and generally lend a hand to our creating of these quilts.

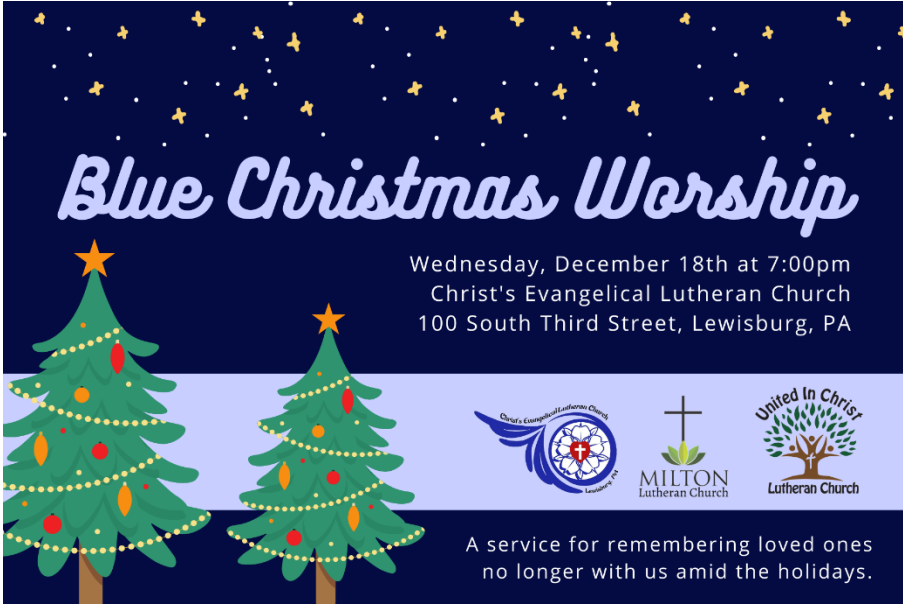
We are gathering on Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup> from 1pm until 3pm.

Contact Connie Stover if you have any questions.



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 December 1<sup>st</sup>.

There will be no grief group meeting for the month of December. Instead we will gather on December 18th at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lewisburg for our annual Blue Christmas Worship, a service to remember loved ones who are no longer with us as we move through the holiday season.







**FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 8TH &  
22ND**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP** In our fellowship hall.

Sign-ups to help in cooking and prepping the meals for the Milton Towers are in the binder.

We are looking for volunteers to help prep and distribute the food on Dec. 14th. Meal prep will be from 8am-12pm, cleanup, meal packing, and distribution is from 12pm-4pm.

There is also a sign-up for cookie donations in the binder for this holiday meal.



**MILTON  
TOWERS  
HOLIDAY  
MEAL**

**PREP AND  
DISTRIBUTION  
ON DEC 14TH**

If you want to eat for beers and carols, it is recommended to make a reservation for a table on the main floor, so you are guaranteed a place to sit and eat.



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

4:30PM CONTEMPORARY  
11PM TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT  
SPECIAL MUSIC AT 10:30PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

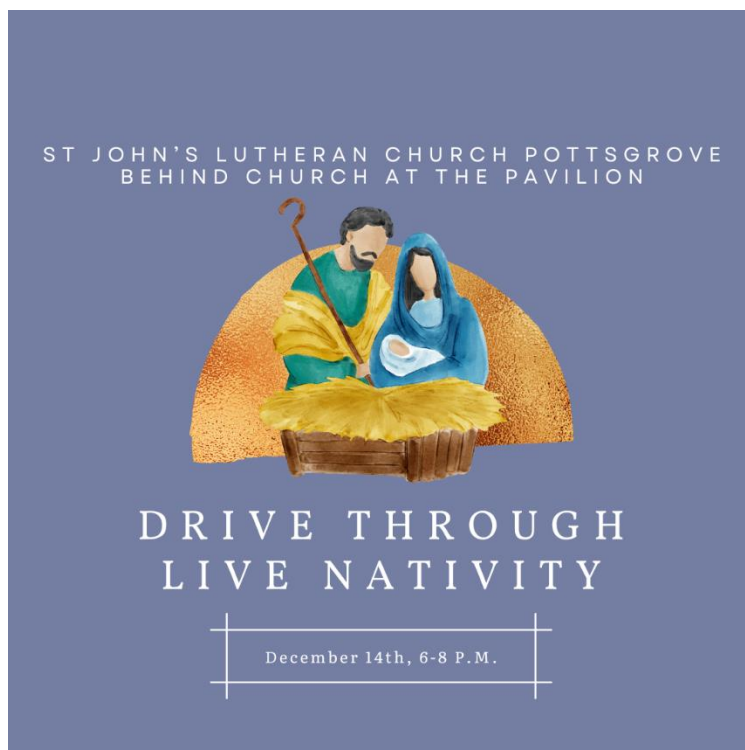




 <p>YOU'RE INVITED!</p> <h1>CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP</h1> <p>SATURDAY, December 7   3:00PM United In Christ Lutheran Church 1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, PA</p>	
<p>Sponsored by:</p>   	
<p>Crafts! Cocoa! Cookies! Carols!</p> 	
	



## Announcements from Our Friends



There will be goodie bags for all participants and there will be a Christmas hymn sing from 7-7:30pm.

70 S. Mill Rd. Potts Grove PA



**SUN, DEC 1**

9:30am Worship  
10:30am Choir Practice  
11:30am Self-Care Sanctuary  
11:30am Pet Pantry  
6:30pm MACB Rehearsal

**MON, DEC 2**

12pm Rotary 6pm Boy Scouts

**TUE, DEC 3**

10am TOPS  
6:30pm MACB Rehearsal

**WED, DEC 4**

1pm Fidget Quilters  
6pm Bell Choir  
6pm Boy Scouts  
6pm Beers and Carols at Rusty Rail Brewery in Mifflinburg

**THU, DEC 5**

5:30pm Getting Ahead  
6:30pm MACB Rehearsal  
7pm Outreach Team Meeting

**SAT, DEC 7**

3pm Christmas Craft Workshop at United In Christ  
7pm MACB Holiday Concert

**SUN, DEC 8**

9:30am Worship  
10:30am Choir Practice  
11am Fellowship Hour  
11am Fellowship Team Meeting  
4pm Faith Lab at Milton Lutheran Church

**MON, DEC 9**

12pm Rotary 6pm Boy Scouts

<b>TUE, DEC 10</b>	10am TOPS
<b>WED, DEC 11</b>	6pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts
<b>THU, DEC 12</b>	10am Upper Susquehanna Synod Meeting in 1125 Mahoning Fellowship Hall 1pm Worship Team Meeting 5:30pm Getting Ahead 7pm Pub Theology
<b>SUN, DEC 15</b>	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice
<b>MON, DEC 16</b>	12pm Rotary 6pm Boy Scouts
<b>TUE, DEC 17</b>	10am TOPS 10:30am Movers and Shakers
<b>WED, DEC 18</b>	6pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm Blue Christmas Worship at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
<b>THU, DEC 19</b>	5:30pm Getting Ahead
<b>SUN, DEC 22</b>	9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Fellowship Hour
<b>MON, DEC 23</b>	12pm Rotary 6pm Boy Scouts
<b>TUE, DEC 24</b>	10am TOPS 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service 10:30pm Special Music 11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**WED, DEC 25**

Merry Christmas!!

**SUN, DEC 29**

9:30am Lessons and Carols Conversation Church

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