
The Parish Echo

Millcreek Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 399, 221 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown, PA 17073 October 2023

“Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and ourselves.”

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SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM

WORSHIP AT 10:15 AM

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 10:15 AM. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line.

PARADISE CORNER



“A Fugitive’s Capture Brings Relief to a Corner of Pennsylvania.”

That’s the headline from *The New York Times* on September 13, which was right around the time I was planning this installment of “Paradise Corner.” The article goes on to summarize the situation that became familiar to all of us. After escaping from a county jail at the end of August, a convicted killer eluded hundreds of law enforcement officers. After nearly two weeks of combing the cornfields and forests of Chester County, with hundreds of law enforcement officers and a battery of drones, dogs and helicopters, the capture itself took about five minutes giving both a headline and a starting point for this article.

I found the story to be an illustration of how far-reaching our fears can be. There are a good sixty (60) miles between Longwood Gardens and here. (This is a botanical garden consisting of over 1,077 acres of gardens, woodlands, where officials believe the escapee spent a lot of time.) Yet, many in our area (including me!) were sometimes nervous. I kept my wits about me more than usual when I was leaving our church home at the end of my time in the office.

Part of our experience of being human is that we become afraid of things that risk making our world different from what we are used to. This is usually because something (like an escapee from prison) has changed reality as we experience it. Changes in reality have caused fear to become prominent in new and unsettling ways. The Covid-19 pandemic was an example of this. While we are in all these challenging situations, we also have resources that can help us not only cope, but also move beyond our fears.

My deeply held belief is that within challenging situations and fears, we have what I like to refer to as “God’s Certainty.” God’s Certainty does not take away the situations that challenge us. To be human is to struggle with realities that cause us to be afraid. What God’s Certainty gives us are resources from outside of ourselves that help strengthen the resources we have inside of ourselves. This helps us face the fear of challenging situations.

For example, my very quick and informal (no checking of Hebrew or Greek!) reveals that some variation of the phrase “Don’t be afraid” appears 78 times in the Bible. I celebrate such a reminder that—when it comes to struggling with fear—we stand within a long line of faithful ones who not only experienced the challenges of fear just as we do, but also experienced the ways in which God’s Certainty brings us through the challenges of those fears.

The fear around the escape of a convicted killer ended on September 13. Life continues. Change continues. Uncertainties continue. God’s Certainty helps us face life, change, and uncertainty with God’s promising presence for strength and promise.

Live as children of light!
Pastor Scott Paradise

Pastor Scott will be on vacation from Friday, September 22 through Saturday, October 7. He will be back for worship on Sunday, October 8. If you have a pastoral emergency while he is away, please **contact Pastor Angie Hammer (717-682-6580).**



Filling in for the pastor on **October 1** will be the **Rev. Michael Yesenko**. He is serving as Chaplain to Spang Crest, a Luthercare Community, in Lebanon and provides pastoral care to residents, families, and staff. Michael completed a Chaplain Residency at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. His Lutheran Studies were completed at United Lutheran Seminary. He worked in the Federal and private non-profit sectors after he received his Master of Divinity at

Vanderbilt University and Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Psychology at Concordia College. Michael grew up on a farm in central North Dakota and now calls Pennsylvania home. His hobbies include hiking and kayaking.

PRAYER LIST

We remember the following **MLC members** in our prayers: R. Hart Beaver, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, the Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Daryl Strickler, Kiersten Sweigart, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, and Michael Yiengst Jr.

2024 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2024 will be prepared for distribution in mid-November. **PLEASE** let me know if you **DO NOT** wish to remain on the envelope list to receive them, or if you would like to be **added to the list, including your present address**. If you are currently on the list, notify me of any address changes that need to be made for the financial statements. **The information is needed no later than October 31.** Contact information is by letting a note in my mail slot in the office, seeing me personally, emailing secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or calling 610-589-2570. Thank you, Linda Sheetz

CHURCH NURSERY NEWS

The Nursery at Millcreek will once again be open during the church service. Ages accepted are 0-8 years old (once your child moves to third grade, they are encouraged to sit in the church with their parent(s)). Care is given to every child in all forms. If the parent(s) can bring diapers, and pullups for their children, that would be preferred and appreciated. Other items recommended to bring are snack foods, bottles already made for the really little ones, and any comfort items your child may want/need during the service. If you would like to reach out to me personally, either to help volunteer in the Nursery, to ask questions, or speak with me regarding specifics for your child/children, I can be reached by phone at 717-639-4767, or by email at stephselah0125@gmail.com.

I am looking forward to caring for your child in the nursery. Stephanie Sheetz

MUSIC MINISTRY

There will be choir rehearsals at 7 PM each Wednesday.

Many thanks to all the talented musicians who shared their musical gift with the Millcreek congregation over the summer!

MILLCREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH now has **automatic open doors** at the main entrance. For entry, just press the button/plate on the brick wall to the right, the doors will open and close behind you automatically. When leaving the church, there is another button/plate on the right on the inside wall to push for easy exit. This is another way Millcreek is accommodating those in need of assistance to enter and exit the church, as well as for everyone coming into the church. If you choose to enter or exit manually as before, you may still do so, but the doors are rather heavy for all ages.

Church Council

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **October 1 after worship**.

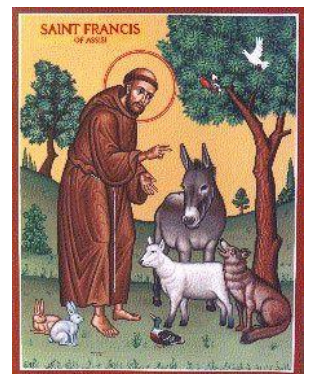
Blessing of the Pets

Millcreek Lutheran Church will once again celebrate the Commemoration of Saint Francis by blessing pets and animals on **Sunday, October 8**. (If the weather allows it, our 10:15 AM service will be outdoors or moved to the Multi-Purpose Room if the weather does not allow.)

Here are some ways to participate:

*Bring your pet for blessing on Sunday, October 8. Pets that are well-socialized are best, although any pet is welcome. (We don't have space limitations outdoors!) Please make sure your pet is in a carrier or on a leash that is 6 feet long or shorter.

*If you have photos or cremated remains of deceased pets, please consider bringing them along so that Pastor Scott can thank God for the many good memories.



SWEET SECOND SUNDAY

For those of you who have missed Charmayne Balsbaugh's baking, **Sweet Second Sunday will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship on October 8, 2023**. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!



CHURCH BREAKFAST

The breakfast group that meets monthly at Country Fare Restaurant **will not be meeting in October**. We hate to cancel but the weekend of October 14th (which is when the breakfast group meets) is also the weekend of our church pictorial sittings. Many of the people who enjoy this breakfast time together will be involved with setting up and organizing things for the photographer as well as for those who have scheduled sittings. Remember...no church breakfast in October but we hope to see you in November when we'll meet on Saturday, November 11th.

Nancy Deiter

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: The committee's next meeting will be **Wednesday October 11, 2023 at 2:00 PM** at the church.

Spang Crest News

The fall Friends of Spang Crest chicken BBQ was a success--745 chicken meals were sold and the baked goods table brought in an amazing \$750 in profit. Some members of our congregation decided to donate their purchased tickets to be used for other church members, especially shut-ins. It was truly appreciated by all that received the meals. Thanks to the members who baked and to Mary Ream for making all the deliveries. Maybe next spring we can keep this in mind again. If members want to purchase a meal and donate it to our shut-ins or others to enjoy, it would be another way to reach out to our members.

If you get into Spang Crest and the gift shop is open (10:30-2:30) please try and stop in to browse. It's quite small but beautifully decorated for the seasons with many small items that have been donated. The Friends of Spang Crest organization is responsible for the gift shop. Many things are available such as candy, jewelry, cards and seasonal items priced very reasonably for sale. Want to consider getting rid of such items let Margie know, the gift shop may be the answer.

Church Pictorial

It's hard to believe but the sitting dates for our new pictorial directory are almost here! The photographer from Universal Church Directories will be at our church on **Thursday, October 12th, 13th & 14th** to photograph those people who have registered. If you have not already signed up for a sitting, please do so. We realize that many of our members no longer feel a need to have a professional photo taken of themselves, however, the directory serves as a working tool for church committees and staff only when a high percentage of the church family is included in the book.

If you have not registered, you can go online at www.ucdir.com. Enter "PA1035" in the church code field and enter "photos" in the church password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your appointment time. If you are not comfortable signing up on line, you can register on Sunday mornings in the Narthex up until October 8th. Committee members will be in the Narthex ½ hour before and after church to handle your registration.

Get registered, get photographed and get included in our 2023 church pictorial directory.

Nancy Deiter, Committee Chair

Stacey's Toy Drive

Since 2016, the Seldomridge/Pennington/O'Connor family has held an annual toy drive in honor of Stacey, who was tragically killed in an act of domestic violence. Toys for Tots was her favorite charity and we have dedicated ourselves to carrying on this tradition and continuing her legacy through an annual toy drive in her remembrance. This year is our 8th annual toy drive and all collected toys will be given directly to the children of Queen Anne's County, MD (home of Lindsey, Stacey's sister).

We hope you will consider donating a new, unwrapped toy for ages 0-12 yrs. old that can be brought to MLC's church office. **Stephanie Seldomridge will transport the toys to Lindsey in mid-October.**

If you prefer to order on Amazon or elsewhere, you can ship directly to Lindsey at 321 Narnia Drive S, Grasonville, MD 21638

Thank you for helping to keep Stacey's legacy alive and for helping the kids of Queen Anne's County.



Parish Echo: Deadline for items you want in the church newsletter for November, 2023 is Sunday, October 15. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to either Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com or millcreek.echo@gmail.com. Items may also be submitted to the Hoglunds by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone: Roy 717-228-8175, Dotti 717-228-8177.

Shoe box Ministry

We will be participating in Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child this year by filling shoe boxes for children who would otherwise not receive any gifts at Christmas. There are brochures and labels in the narthex with instructions. (Please read them carefully as there are restrictions as to what can be included in the shoe boxes.) There are preprinted shoe boxes that can be assembled, or you can wrap a shoe box of your own, just make sure the lid can be opened. Finished shoe boxes should be placed on the table in the multi-purpose room. If you are including shipping charges, it is \$10 per box, payable to Samaritan's Purse (put your check in an envelope inside your box) or you can refer to the instructions in the brochure to donate online. The **deadline for completed boxes is Sunday, November 5, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610-589-5505) or Pat Ontkos (610-589-4350).**

October Birthdays

1	Margie Kriss	21	Sara Bentz
4	Donald Leibig	23	Daryl Strickler
	Mary J. Ream		Phyllis Stettler
5	Debra Tice		Sarah Webber
9	Lindsay O'Connor	25	Doris E. Bergman
10	Ann Marie Engle	28	Jordan Rosengrant
11	Audrey Putt		Theresa Frederick
16	Peter Bergman	29	Donald Kriss
17	Aidan Heck		



If you want to be included on the birthday list, please contact Dotti at 717-228-8177, by email at Millcreek.ECHO@gmail.com, or place a slip of paper in the Newsletter mail slot in the church office.

Blood Drive Results from September 14

37 people registered, 32 units collected, 96 lives saved.

Lebanon Rescue Mission Food Drive

Bring non-perishable food items to the Donations door at 1223 Bittner Blvd., Lebanon, PA **October through December.**

LCCM

On August 23, **48 lbs.** of pantry items were delivered to LCCM from Millcreek Lutheran. Thank you to all who donated and to Julie Strickler for delivering everything to LCCM.

Top of the Hill clean-up 2023

The top of the hill clean-up for 2023 has been completed. I want to thank the following people for taking time out of their busy Saturday schedule on September 9th to help give the church a good cleaning. It was a hot day and those working in the Narthex and Sanctuary with no air conditioning were struggling: Mike and Kristin Heck, Barb Heckendorn, Dara Wolfe, Rachel Mock, Linda Bump, Scott, Nicole and Maddie Johnson, Pastor Scott, Steph Seldomridge, Rachelle Keath and Nancy Deiter.

A special thank you to those who came in & worked independently on a specific area since they were unable to join the work crew on Saturday: Sheldon and Terry Frederick, Dave Engle, Dottie and Roy Hoglund and Linda Sheetz.

The church is kept locked for security reasons. Should anyone feel they have the time and would like to come in to clean a specific area within the church on your own in cooler weather, the pastor can put you in touch with someone who is able to let you in the building.

The stone beds around the church building are often in need of weeding and they are always accessible. Evenings on the hill are always pleasant and quiet. Sitting on the ground to weed a section of our “stone garden” can be relaxing and good for the soul.

Thanks again everyone for all your hard work! We love Millcreek Lutheran Church and want our love to show by the way we keep our church.

Nancy Deiter

RALLY DAY

On September 10, the congregation found out that our goal for the **Renew and Restore campaign** had been exceeded!



Dedication of Sunday School Teachers: Deb Buffington, Nikki Johnson, Cheryl Batdorf, and Stephanie Sheetz.



After the blessing of their backpacks for the school year, Ariana, Maddie, and Celia received their Bibles.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MLC looks forward to hosting Trunk or Treat again this year. Bring your vehicle, decorate it, and hand out candy and snacks!! You may want to wear a costume also. For more information, contact Jen Rosengrant.

MILLCREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

free

TRUNK OR TREAT

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22ND 1:00 TO 3:00

221 N. SHERIDAN ROAD, NEWMANSTOWN 17073

MLC IS NEXT TO FORT ZELLER ELEMENTARY

**DRESS UP IN YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN COSTUME FOR AN
AFTERNOON OF FUN! WHILE YOU
TRUNK OR TREAT FROM DECORATED VEHICLES**

FUN SNACKS
CANDY MUSIC
FREE RAFFLE TABLE
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE VEHICLE

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Council Communion	2	3	4 7:00 Choir	5	6	7
8 -Blessing of the Pets -Sweet Second Sunday	9 Columbus Holiday	10	11 2:00 Evangelism 7:00 Choir	12 2:00-8:30 Church Pictorial	13 11:00-5:30 Church Pictorial	14 10:00-4:30 Church Pictorial
15 -Deadline Nov. Newsletter 1:00 Richland Library Bingo at MLC 3-5 Girl Scouts	16	17 10 AM-12 NOON Cooking Class	18 7:00 Choir	19	20	21
22 1:00-3:00 Trunk or Treat	23	24	25 7:00 Choir	26	27	28
29 REFORMATION DAY -Communion	30	31 Halloween				

