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# *The Parish Echo*

Millcreek Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 399, 221 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown, PA 17073 January 2024

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

**Pastor: Rev. Scott Paradise**

**Cell: 540-335-1693**

**Home: 717-628-1241**

**[pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com)**

**Church: 610-589-2570**

**Office Administrator-Linda Sheetz**

**[Secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:Secretary@millcreeklutheran.com)**



**Lay Leader-Scott Johnson**

**Website-Frank Hoffman**

**[www.millcreeklutheran.com](http://www.millcreeklutheran.com)**

**Parish Echo Editors: Roy & Dotti Hoglund**

**[Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com)**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 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.

## **WORSHIP AT 10:15 AM**



## **PARADISE CORNER**

My family had a silly game we would often play. Someone would ask, “What’s new?” People would then try to generate as many place names starting with “New” as they could. “New Brunswick.” “New York.” Sometimes the responses were family specific like “New Lisbon,” which is the town in New Jersey where my father worked. The larger world view I have today makes me realize I missed some great global replies like “New Caledonia” while wondering if someplace like “Papua New Guinea” would have been allowed. To be honest, this game got old pretty fast and even a little annoying as I grew older.

Now that I am even a little older still, I realize that the church is a place where we expect God to do new things. Churches frequently cite Isaiah 43:19, where the LORD says, “Behold, I am doing a new thing....” The LORD intends this promise to be filled with hope because the people are hoping for rescue from exile, which is a promise on which the LORD ultimately delivered.

That is where the little game my family played might still be helpful. Sometimes, especially back then, the “new” things were simply a twist on something we have already experienced—like where we lived or where my father worked. Personal growth and new experiences brought totally new options.

For me, that is part of the magic of a new calendar year. So-called “New Year’s Resolutions” only remind me of how I break resolutions daily, so I don’t make them. However, I am one to take the opportunity to look back over the past year to see what new things God may have done. I am also one to expect God to do new things in the year ahead. The struggle becomes one of whether I should tell God what new things I want or not. I certainly have my preferences. I also know that God knows what I need better than I do. The bottom line is that

standing between the old and the new requires humility and humility requires trust in God and trust in God requires the expectation of new things.

I could say that “walking in a circle” isn’t such a bad expression both for the transition of the calendar year and also the spiritual life. I see where I have been. I also see where I will be going. God invites full awareness of both. (This is an old spiritual idea, by the way. For example, part of the point of the spiritual practice of walking a labyrinth is realizing that staying on the path will always lead to the center. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has no dead ends.)

We play the same old games. We sometimes give the same (both right and wrong) answers. We see new things happening. We stay on the path. Comfort comes not from those things themselves but from God’s own self. God’s promise remains true. “Behold, I am doing a new thing....”

Live as children of light!

Pastor Scott Paradise

### **PRAYER LIST**

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

### **IN SYMPATHY**

The congregation extends its sympathy to the family and friends of MLC member **Daryl Strickler who died on December 9, 2023**. He was the son of members **Julie and Gerry Strickler** and brother to members **Derek and Dustin**, and step brother to **Kerry**. He leaves his wife **Lori**, and 2 sons, **Carter and Lucas**, 3 step children and 4 grandchildren.

### **2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS:**

*The 2024 sheets are now available so congregation members can sign up for the date(s) they want to sponsor the flowers and/or bulletins for the worship service on Sunday. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.*

**YEARBOOK 2023-24:** I am gathering information for the 2023-2024 yearbook so I can have it to the congregation hopefully at the end of January or the beginning of February. I would prefer **all reports and information to me by December 31**. If you have changes in address, phone numbers, email addresses, weddings, births, or deaths in your family, please let me know so we may include the information in the new yearbook. Your help is appreciated. Again, all updated information may be put in my mail slot in the office, on my desk, or emailed to me at [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com). Thank you, Linda

### **HAPPENINGS IN JANUARY**

#### **Church Council**

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** following worship.



*I have a Dream*  
**Martin Luther King Day**

## Evangelism

The next meeting of the Evangelism Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 2:00 PM** at the church. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome!



### EVANGELISM HAPPENINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

JANUARY: Achoo, achoo,...Colds and flu!!! Allergies abound AND we have found that our elementary schools need some extra tissue! Can we "COUNT ON YOU" for a box or two? It's as simple as that. Our January project includes collecting Kleenex or Puffs.... No brand "X" please...tissues need to be tough! Those elementary noses need the good stuff! See January bulletins for guidelines.

FEBRUARY: Nothing special. Bring your valentine to church. Maybe Pastor will have extra candy; now wouldn't that be dandy!!!!

MARCH: Sharing Cupboard Food Collection. A worthwhile endeavor we've been asked to consider.....having a food drive for one month (along with other churches) to help ELCO families in need. Specifics to follow in bulletins.

APRIL: Our annual BIRTHDAY/entertainment night with Spang Crest residents enjoying "name that tune".

Ingathering project will see some changes this year. When the time is appropriate, you'll just have to lend us your ear.

Evangelism Committee ☺

### 2024 Upcoming Activities for Friends of Spang Crest

**February/March** — Annual membership drive for the Lutheran churches in Lebanon County to help raise funds for the activities for residents of Spang Crest and to help with benevolent funding. Last year our church raised an all-time high of \$456.

**April**--Millcreek will again be hosting the April birthday celebration for the residents.

**May 3**--First of 2 chicken barbeques and bake sales that Friends of Spang Crest sponsor.

**Summer 2024**--2 summer free music concerts for residents and community

**September 6**--Second of the Friends of Spang Crest Kaufman's chicken barbeque and bake sale

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** at Spang Crest open to anyone wanting to volunteer:

- 1) be a friendly visitor for those residents that have no one
  - 2) assist with chicken barbeques in May and September, or contribute to those bake sales
  - 3) pet visits--Have a pet that is very friendly and well behaved? Think about taking them to visit the residents—residents love to see animals
  - 4) volunteer to work in the gift shop a few hours a month
- ( If you have any of these interests please contact Karen Kreiser- activities director at Spang Crest).



### Church Breakfast

The breakfast group that meets monthly at Country Fare Restaurant will meet on **Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 8 AM.**  
Nancy Deiter

### Millcreek's Parish Echo is in need of an editor(s)

We have been doing the church newsletter for over 10 years now--since 2012. We would like someone to step in and become the new editor(s). If you have any interest, we will gladly talk with you about how we have done it, but it would also be great to see some new ideas! The Hoglunds **Deadline** for items you want in the **church newsletter for February, 2024 is Monday, January 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.**

### January Birthdays

3 Ariana Warnick  
4 Pat Sharp  
8 Layne Strickler  
Scott Johnson  
10 Brett Flory  
11 Dotti Hoglund  
15 Linda Hable

16 Joseph Tice  
18 Mark Sova  
21 Brigitta Scheib  
23 Angie Bentz  
24 Rachelle Keath  
25 Stephanie Sheetz



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.

Thank you to the planning committee and decorators for all your work for **Hanging of the Greens**: Nancy Deiter, Terri Frederick, Stephanie Gahres, Barbara Heckendorn, and Dara Wolfe





## THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY

A musical about peace, joy, hope, and love.

Presented by the Sunday School kids and teachers on December 17, 2023.

Grandparents: Rachel Mock, Roy Hoglund

Accompanist: Debbie Tice

Scenery: Cheryl Stoudt, Deb Buffington

Left to right: Maddie Johnson, Ariana Warnick, Skylar Johnson, Laura Long, Matthew Long, Anderson Stoudt, Cheryl Stoudt



## CONGRATULATIONS

*Lexus Linderemuth and Ariana Warnick were both named ELCO Intermediate School Students of the Month. We're so proud of you both!*

**Blood Drive:** Next blood drive is Thursday, January 18, 2024.

**THANK YOU:** In memory of Betty Schware, Greg and Deb Schware donated the Victorian style houses seen throughout the church in December.

## 2 FUN NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

--MAKE VANILLA PUDDING. PUT IN MAYO JAR. EAT IN PUBLIC.

--WEAR A SHIRT THAT SAYS "LIFE" AND HAND OUT LEMONS ON A STREET CORNER

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



**2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>-Communion</b> <b>-Council</b> <b>3 PM Girl Scouts</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>2:00</b> <b>Evangelism</b>	<b>11</b> <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>8:00</b> <b>Breakfast</b>
<b>14</b> <b>3 PM Girl Scouts</b>	<b>15 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY</b> <b>-Deadline for February Parish Echo</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>11:00-7:00</b> <b>Blood Drive</b>  <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>-Communion</b> <b>-Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			