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# The Parish Echo

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

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**“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**

I am a person who gets bogged down in details far too easily. Sometimes I manage to fit those details into the larger picture in an appropriate way. Sometimes I fail to fit those details into the larger picture in an appropriate way. The bottom line is that, whether I succeed or fail at fitting the details into the larger picture in an appropriate way, managing the details is a skill I work on continually.

This is one of the reasons I am grateful to be part of a religious tradition that keeps a liturgical calendar. It is easy for me, as someone who preaches every Sunday, to get bogged down in the details of the Scripture readings that come our way. What our liturgical calendar gives me is a way to fit the details into the larger picture. In fact, part of the research I was doing in preparation for preaching during the seven Sundays of Easter helped me to do that. (Our liturgical tradition keeps Easter not for one day, or even for a week, but for seven weeks, or “a week of weeks.”)

My research revealed that an overarching theme of the Easter season is one of belonging. Throughout the season, the Scriptures remind us about our place in God’s family. The author of an unsigned article I came across regarding our Scripture readings for the Easter season suggests Russian nesting dolls as a helpful illustration. Jesus is within God, and we are in turn within Jesus. Just like those smaller dolls nest inside the larger dolls, God embraces and protects us. We are not just with Jesus but also within Jesus. We are as much a part of Jesus as he is of God. The same author concludes, “The security that knowledge brings can be a springboard for action in the world.”

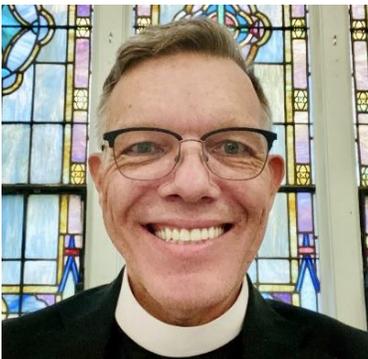
Actions to help others belong are an important part of showing we have a community where everyone belongs. We help others belong because we ourselves belong. I am always grateful our church family does a great job in helping as many people as possible belong. We

usually welcome visitors warmly. We celebrate and support our children. We value our older members for their wisdom. And, during the month of April, which is Autism Acceptance Month, we will celebrate each individual's unique differences that help us to experience the inclusivity and connectedness God intends especially for the most vulnerable among us.

I believe that one of the most faithful things we can do this Easter season is keep the inclusivity and connectedness God intends for us and the world within our field of vision. Details matter, but without the larger picture, the details draw attention to themselves. For this reason, I invite us to use these days of Easter to remember that because we all belong to God we all belong to each other as well. God assures us of that in the resurrection of Christ, which we celebrate in a special way throughout the Easter Season through which God brings all of the details together in one glorious picture of life in Christ—connected to God and connected to one another.

Live as children of light!  
Pastor Scott Paradise

**Pastor Scott will be on vacation from Saturday, April 6 through Saturday, April 13.** If you have a pastoral emergency during the time Pastor Scott is away, please **contact Pastor Angie Hammer (717.682.6580)**. Pastor Scott will be at Millcreek for worship on **Sunday, April 14.**



The guest pastor for **Sunday, April 7** is **Chaplain 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**

Please remember the following **MLC members** in your 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., Greer Zellers

### **HAPPENINGS IN APRIL:**

#### **Church Council**

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **Sunday, April 14, 2024** following worship.

#### **Church Breakfast**

The February church breakfast will be on **Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 8 AM.**  
Nancy Deiter

## Sweet Second Sunday

Sweet Second Sunday will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship on **April 14, 2023**. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

## Evangelism

The next meeting of the Evangelism Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 2:00 PM** at the church.

The evangelism committee will be celebrating the April resident's birthdays along with "general fun and merriment" when we visit the Spang Crest campus on Monday April 29th at 7:00 p.m. A music sing-along and light refreshments with small gifts for the residents who attend is being planned for the evening. Julie Strickler and Deb Tice will be providing the music. Volunteers are definitely needed for this evening! If you'd like to help with the festivities, please contact any member of the committee.

## Upcoming Spang Crest Events

Please mark your calendar for the two chicken barbeques that are sponsored by the Friends of Spang Crest. The date for the spring BBQ is **Friday, May 3rd** and the fall one will take place in September. Members who would like to purchase a BBQ meal for one of our shut-ins for that day is also being planned. This is just another one of the little things we can do for our church shut-ins that they would so much appreciate.

Two of the activities that Friends Of Spang Crest provide for the residents are the free summer band concerts that are free for all to enjoy. This summer the two concerts are the Perseverance Band and the Lebanon Big Swing Band.

Please contact Margie Kriss for more information on the above events.



## Parish Echo

**Deadline** for items you want in the **church newsletter for May, 2024 is Monday, April 15**. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to [mlc.parity.echo@gmail.com](mailto:mlc.parity.echo@gmail.com). Items may also be submitted by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone.

## Mission Trip

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lebanon is organizing a local mission trip for the **week of June 23-29**. Participants will work on various projects at Camp Kirchenwald, which is right here in Lebanon County.

They would love to see members from Millcreek participate as a way to show our community working together to support our local Lutheran camp. All ages and skill levels are welcome. You can pick any or all of the days to participate according to your schedule.

**(There will be a \$10 per-person cost for each day to cover food and drink.)**

If you are interested, please let Pastor Scott know and he will connect you with the folks from Holy Trinity.



## Upcoming Concert

Tulpehocken Trinity Church will be hosting the show "I'll Fly Away" presented by Servant Stage on **Sunday, April 14 at 7:00pm**, admission is **pay-what-you-will**. For more information visit [servantstage.org](http://servantstage.org) or call 717-455-0255.



3 Lori Strickler

7 Garrett Strickler

8 Roy Hoglund

Cole Pennington

9 Donald Long

13 Conner Pennington

14 Kerry Strickler

15 Debra Hogeland

18 Phil Martin

19 Skylar Johnson

20 Bryan Breidigam

21 Kyle Rosengrant

26 Alyssa Keath

27 Breah Strickler

28 Baylee Frederick

29 Lisa Martin

If you would like to be included on the birthday list, please contact David and Aislinn Staaby by email at [mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com](mailto:mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com), or place a slip of paper in the Newsletter mail slot in the church office.

### ***Spring Cleaning Humor***



A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him that he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty old box while cleaning out his attic for the spring. He happened to mention to the book collector that Guten-somebody-or-another had printed it. The book collector responded with a gasp saying, “Not Gutenberg?!?!” The man nonchalantly responded with, “Yes, that was it.” The book collector exasperatedly stated, “You fool! You’ve thrown away one of the first books ever printed! A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!” The man responded again in a nonchalant manner, “Oh, I don’t think this book would have been worth anywhere close to that much.” The book collector asked with surprise, “Why not?” The man replied, “It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther.”



“The Church on the Hill”

**APRIL 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 7:00 Choir	5	6
7	8	9	10 2:00 Evangelism	11 7:00 Choir	12	13 8:00 Church Breakfast @ Country Fair
14 -Communion - Council - Sweet Sunday - 3PM Girl Scouts	15 Deadline for May Parish Echo	16	17	18 7:00 Choir	19	20
21	22 Earth Day	23	24	24 7:00 Choir	26	27
28	29 7:00 April Resident B-Day Activity Evening @ Spang Crest	30				