
The Parish Echo

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

May 2024

“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 currently in my second used car in fourteen years. This is in spite of the fact that I never previously bought used cars. The policy I followed came from my parents. They insisted that to buy a used car was “to buy someone else’s problems.” Then, a neighbor who was also a member of the congregation I served sold used cars. He knew I was looking for a car and called me when a vehicle I “wouldn’t believe” came in on the carrier. He was looking out for my wellbeing. I trusted him. The experience of buying that first used car was good. I drove that car for thirteen years. Since then, I have had conversations with people who say things like, “I only buy used cars” and wonder what took me so long. Their logic, as I understand it, often lines up with all of the bugs being “worked out” and the vehicle being “broken in.” Experience, along with care and trust, are things we frequently bring to our decision making.

When someone notices my car (both of which I think have been pretty sharp looking) and describes it as “new,” the more accurate response is to describe the car as “new to me.” I want this article to be about how I have engaged both my personal practice (which I changed regarding used cars) and about my relationship with a much larger community (lots of people buy only used cars). I believe the “new to me” response is helpful in understanding this in many places—even in the life of the church.

For example, during the Sundays in Lent, our adult Sunday School class used a video series purchased by, but unused by Eddie Wolf before he died. One of the lessons (not the first one) asked us to sing a hymn related to the lesson’s theme. Although the hymn was one I knew, it was not one our congregation uses. (It isn’t in either of our hymnals.) Instead of us singing (badly if I had anything to do with it), I played the hymn and we followed along. The class loved the hymn and described it as “easy to sing.” My point here is that the hymn was not new. (It was from 1719, so over three hundred years old, hardly “right off the showroom floor.”) Yet, the hymn was “new to us.” I was happy when the class asked if we could sing it in worship some Sunday, which I am working with our music leaders to do.

A good way of expressing our faith is to engage in experiences like this. The fact that this particular hymn has lasted over three hundred years means it is both “used” (quite extensively!) and also “broken in.” Other Christian worshipers, who wanted to be as faithful as we do, found the hymn meaningful and used it over and over. (As the used car comparison, would say, “they put a lot of miles on it.”) if something has served the faithful so well over the centuries, we can make the case clearly that it might also be helpful to us. “New” sometimes simply means “new to us.”

Being able to incorporate new practices into our existing spiritual practices is a way to grow in faith and life. Realizing that others have claimed the same faith as us for longer than we have helps us remember what we are part of something larger. Or, to put it in a future-oriented way, the place we are isn't the place we need to stay. Many have gone before us to show us how to use old things in new ways. They have broken in the gifts and invited us to make them even more used than they already were. We can go to new places in our talk of God knowing that even the “old” can be “new” again and celebrating the church's way of making that happen.

Live as children of light!
Pastor Scott Paradise

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

PREVIOUS MONTH'S HAPPENINGS (APRIL):



Thank you to Chaplain Michael Yesenko for serving as the guest pastor on Sunday, April 7 during Pastor Scott's vacation! Pictured are Chaplain Yesenko and Isabel Rivera who did a wonderful job making the welcome sign!



Easter egg hunt, pictured: Laura Long, Maddie Johnson, Isabel Rivera, Celia Bender



Keener family with egg hunt prizes.



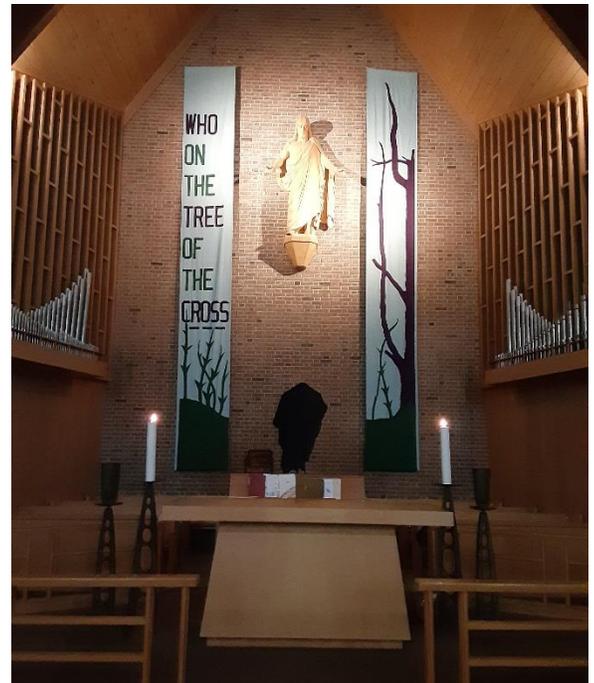
Egg Hunt: 3, 2, 1.... GO!



Laura Long



Sunday School Children's Activity with Pastor Scott on Easter Morning



Maundy Thursday-stripping of the altar

Thank you to all who made our Lenten, Palm Sunday and Easter services meaningful. From the Palm Sunday Passion readers to the musicians, ushers, acolytes and all who helped, it was a beautiful season.

Looking forward, it's never too early to be looking for special musicians for the later spring and summer. Contact Debbie Tice to schedule.

HAPPENINGS IN MAY:

Church Council

The next church council is scheduled to meet on **Sunday, May 12, 2024** following worship.

Church Breakfast

The next church breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.** The breakfast is held at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown. No reservation is needed. Just inform the hostess that you are with the Millcreek group & you will be shown to our table. We meet the 2nd Saturday of every month. You are welcome to come every month or whenever it fits into your schedule. There is no planned agenda, just good conversation among friends over breakfast.

Nancy Deiter

Evangelism

The next meeting of the Evangelism Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 2:00 PM** at the church.

JOYFUL NOISE coin collection will be held on **May 19th** during the church service. The proceeds will be given to the LEBANON COUNTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY to help with various needs of families and individuals within Lebanon County. The youth will help with the collection!

M.L.C. members are simply amazing in their generosity to the ELCO community! The March Gladness collection for the Sharing Cupboard at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren yielded 196 items ; SOUPS, STEWS, SPAM and CANNED CHICKEN to name a few. Even 6 Birthday Kits to make someone's day a little special; all because of YOU! Blessings, Evangelism Comm.

Relay for Life

We are on the final push for Relay, which will be held **Saturday, May 18, 11 am to 11 pm** at the **Cedar Crest** track. ALL are welcome to attend anytime during the day. Our own Abbie Keath is the honorary survivor. We have tried to support Abbie and her family through all her struggles - let's do the same during Relay.



Pastor Scott, Deb Buffington and Deb Tice will be participating in the luminaria ceremony at approximately **8:30 pm**.

We are looking for cakes or other baked goods for the always popular cake auction. If you are interested, see Deb Buffington or Deb Tice. Stay tuned for info on luminaria and the entire day schedule.

Upcoming Spang Crest Events

The Friends of Spang Crest will hold their next chicken BBQ from **2:30-6:00 pm on Friday, May 3rd**. The **cost is \$11** and consists of 1/2 chicken, baked potato, roll and applesauce. Please see Margie Kriss to purchase tickets. Tickets are sold on the day of BBQ but on limited basis until sold out. Also if anyone would like to donate their purchased tickets to some of our shut-ins it would be greatly appreciated. Someone has already graciously stepped forward to deliver if needed! Millcreek always enjoys remembering our valuable shut-ins. Remember this chicken BBQ fundraiser helps provide some special activities for the Spang Crest residents.



GREAT NEWS—the Millcreek congregation has come through again! The Friends of Spang Crest annual fund raiser has been completed for the year and Millcreek has raised their all-time high of \$540 with 31 members contributing, a fabulous response from our congregation! Thank you to everyone who made this possible so that special projects can be done for the residents to include parties, band concerts, and providing benevolent funds so that no one is asked to leave the facility when money runs out. So proud of Millcreek!

Central PA Blood Bank

The next blood drive at Millcreek is scheduled for **May 23, 2024** from **11AM - 7PM**.

Camp Kirchenwald Volunteer Opportunity

On **May 4, 2024** at **9AM** Camp Kirchenwald will be holding their Spring Work Days. Volunteers are needed for all skills, ages, and abilities to help get the camp ready for the upcoming summer season. If you are interested in volunteering, please RSVP at LutheranCamping.org so the organizers can prepare enough tasks and lunch. If you are unable to volunteer giving opportunities are also available, information can be found at www.LutheranCamping.org/giving.

Parish Echo

Deadline for items you want in the **church newsletter for May, 2024 is Wednesday, May 15**. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com. Items may also be submitted by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS:

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.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Celebrating our High School and College Graduates

It's time to get your information into Linda Sheetz in the church office so that MLC can recognize your graduation! Just tell us where you are graduating from and your future plans. Thanks in advance! Proud grandparents may also submit information on their grandchildren. You may email her at secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or put the information in the secretary mail slot in the office.

FRESH Start Emergency Shelter & Resource Center

The Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM) has announced the completion, in January, of the LCCM's new FRESH Start Emergency Shelter & Resource Center. The LCCM started that "The road to this destination was long, but God's unseen hand guided the LCCM every step of the way." FRESH Start began as HOPES Shelter in 2012 as a collaborative effort between LCCM and Jubilee Ministries to address a gap in services provided in Lebanon County to help families affected by homelessness, this effort was later taken on fully by LCCM. The new facility officially welcomed its first guest on Monday, Feb. 13 and includes beds for 22 guests, three full bathrooms, full laundry, study area, children's play center, living room, full kitchen, and staff offices.

The LCCM is looking for volunteers for individuals to assist with the shelter to include staying overnight as well as other volunteer needs. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Wenda Dinatale**, Director of Shelter Operations at wenda@lccm.us or at **717-272-4400**.

LCCM 30th Annual Golf Outing

The LCCM will be hosting its 30th annual golf outing on **Friday, May 10, 2024** at the **Lebanon Valley Golf Course**. Breakfast and registration begins at **7AM**, the start of the golf outing begins at **8AM**. There will be prizes for the top 3 teams. Visit [LCCM.us/golf-outing](https://www.lccm.us/golf-outing) for details on how to register or sponsor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOU LETTERS:

Dear MLC Family,

Thank you so much for the snacks and Subway Gift Card. It warms my heart and I really appreciate it. Much Love and God Bless, Julianne Strickler

Dear Millcreek,

Thank you so much for the gift card to Subway and for thinking about me. I will definitely be using it. Cole Pennington

Hello Millcreek Family,

I just wanted to say thank you to the congregation for the Subway gift card and fun submarine craft! I really appreciate you thinking of me. There is a Subway right on the corner of my campus, so it's very convenient for me. Thanks again, Abbie Keath

Dear MLC,

Thank you for the Subway gift card and thinking of me at Shippensburg. Your gift was so generous. Every time I go to Subway I will think of our church family. Thank you again! Devon Rosengrant

Dear Millcreek Family,

Thank you for the care package and reminder that I have a much larger family to come back to than I realize. In the package, there were two crafts, so my roommate and I put them together after a long day of class. While putting them together we realized that I have the album Yellow Submarine, by the Beatles, on vinyl. Attached to this email is an image of both of our yellow submarines and the album on our record player in our dorm room.

Can't wait to be back, Aidan H.



The foam submarine puzzle was included in the mailing of the Subway gift cards to each college student. Cole and Aidan put their crafty talent to work and included a photo of the finished sub with their thank you!

Cole Pennington



Aidan Heck's with the *Yellow Submarine* Beatles album.

2	Gene Flory	18	Linda Bump
5	James Balsbaugh		Abbie Keith
	Leonard "Lenny" Ontkos	20	Robert Stettler
9	Rachel Mock	22	Stetson Staaby
10	Lourdes Kahl	23	Christina Strickler
12	Liam R. Gahres	24	David Engle
14	Jack Kahl	26	Peg Auman
	Maddie Johnson		



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, or place a slip of paper in the Newsletter mail slot in the church office.

Spring Gardening Humor

A pastor went out one Saturday to visit his church members. At one house, it was obvious that someone was home, but nobody came to the door even though the pastor knocked several times. Finally, the pastor took out his business card, wrote "*Revelation 3:20*" on the back of it, and stuck it in the door.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. – Revelation 3:20

The next day, the same business card turned up in the collection plate. Below the pastor's message of "*Revelation 3:20*" was written "*Genesis 3:10*"..... "*I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.*"



“The Church on the Hill”

May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 7 PM Choir	3 2:30 – 6:00 Spang Crest Chicken BBQ	4
5 Communion	6	7	8	9 7 PM Choir	10	11 8:00 Church Breakfast @ Country Fair
12 - Council - 3PM Girl Scouts	13	14	15 - Deadline for June Echo - 2PM Evangelism	16 7 PM Choir	17	18 -11AM to 11PM Relay for Life
19 Communion	20	21	22	23 -11AM to 7PM blood drive 7 PM Choir	24	25
26 Communion	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	