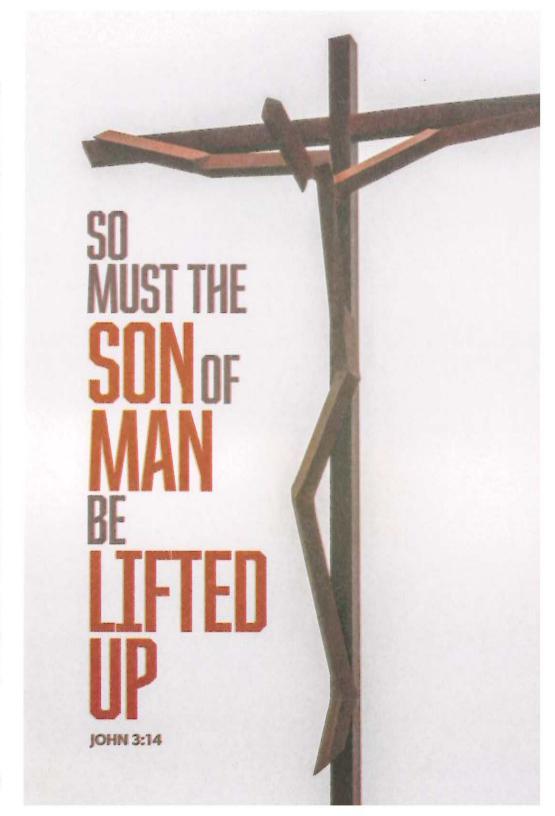
Lifted Up for Us

So must the Son of Man be lifted up," Jesus says. There is a double meaning to this. Just as God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole to effect healing for the Israelites (Numbers 21:4-9), Jesus will be lifted on the pole of the cross. The image of Jesus crucified reveals how human power tries to dehumanize those who threaten the status quo or violate the norms decreed by those at the top of society's ladder. It is a horror to consider this happening to anyone, but so much more when the victim is the perfect Holy One, God in the flesh. It confronts us with humanity's rejection of God, in how we treat other human beings and in how we dehumanize ourselves by following our sinful impulses—what Ephesians calls "the passions of our flesh" (2:3).

This, though, is not the only meaning of Jesus being "lifted up," for "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." The cross is more than the humiliation of Jesus; it is also his glorious exaltation. The crucifixion of Jesus is his coronation as Lord of all, who rules by grace and mercy. By defeating death in the resurrection, he will indeed disrupt the status quo of shame, violence, and greed through the power of love, truth, and peace.

This was prefigured in the story of poisonous serpents. When the people looked on the emblem of their sin, a bronze model of the snakes that poisoned them after they grumbled against the Lord, they were healed. So, too, when we turn to the Crucified One, we do not find condemnation but salvation. Beholding the Savior lifted up on the cross by our sin, we receive mercy and healing. In the death of Jesus, God forgives and embraces us with eternal life. In the proclamation, prayer, song, and sacraments of our assembly, we remember and affirm that the crucified yet exalted Christ extends saving love to us and to the world.



Cover: Metal aculpture of a crucifix against an overceal sky in Ourem Municipality, Santarem District, Portugal by Kelth Levit/Brand B. Copyright © 2023 Alamy Stock Photo. Used by permission.

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Millcreek Lutheran Church Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024

Welcome, friends in Christ! We appreciate your presence here today. If you are a visitor, we hope you will consider joining us – knowing that you can expect to find people who love God and who want to know and love you. Visitors, please sign our guest book, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you are here.

Prayer: O God our heavenly Father, whose love for mankind is so intense that you gave your only Son to die on our behalf: Grant us the faith to believe his death on the cross atones for our sins, that we may know your gift of eternal life is ours. In our Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

The Service

Prelude of Entrance Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56
*Opening Hymn: No. 520 LBW (green),

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

Greetings: Page 57, line 5

*The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6

*Prayer of the Day: On the lesson insert (read in unison)

Children's Sermon The First Reading

The Psalmody: On the lesson insert (read responsively)

The Second Reading

*Return to the Lord: Page 63

*The Gospel

*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: No. 377 LBW (green), Lift High the Cross

Presentation by the Girl Scouts

*The Nicene Creed: Page 64

Choir Anthem

*The Prayer: Page 76

*The Lord's Prayer: Page 71 (sing)

*The Benediction

*Departing Hymn: No. 191 NCH (red), Keep Me Near the Cross

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude
*Please stand

Serving You This Morning:

Pastor, The Rev. Scott J. Paradise

Lay Leader, Susan Long
Organist/Pianist, Debbie Tice
Lay Reader, Dara Wolfe

Ushers/Audio, Frank Hoffman & Scott Johnson

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of "Boss"....Luv ya, "Chick"

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

Today, the church invites us to remember two renewers of society. Harriet Tubman (died 1913) was born into slavery and escaped with the help of the Underground Railroad. After that, she helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. After the Civil War, her home in Auburn, New York, became a center for women's rights and served the aged and poor. Sojourner Truth (died 1883), whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving. In later life, she also became a popular speaker against slavery and for women's rights.



Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." 6Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; tone 8



Give thanks to the LORD. for the | LORD is good, for God's mercy en-1 dures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe, ³gathering them in ¹ from the lands; from the east and from the west.

from the north

and I from the south.

17Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted. 18 They loathed all man- I ner of food and drew near 1 to death's door. ¹⁹Then in their trouble

they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from | their distress.

20 You sent forth your I word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

continued

Psalm, continued

21 Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices 1 of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with 1 shouts of joy.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-by grace

you have been saved—6and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of Godnot the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Gospel

John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned:

but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

TODAY'S READINGS March 10, 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

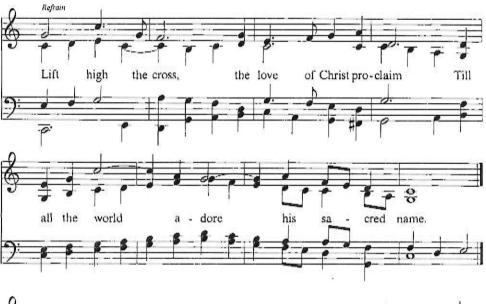
Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebraws 5:5-10; John 12:20-33. TODAY'S READINGS (ISBN 1089-0168, USPS 009828) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Fluor, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster, Send address changes to Today's Raudings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers. P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-6730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly pan \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Carriette subject to exchange rates. Minimum orde 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortness. All rights reserved, May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Stendard Version Bible with Apportypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and pealm from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006, admin. Augaburg Forcesa. Pealm force accompaniment is in Pasitor for Worship, Year 8 (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year 8. 3 of 15 Tracks 1 and 2

520 Give to Our God Immortal Praise!



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793 Lift High the Cross

377







5 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

DUKE STREET





"The Church on the Hill"

Church Office (610) 589-2570 secretary@millcreeklutheran.com 221 North Sheridan Road PO Box 399 Newmanstown, PA 17073 www.millcreeklutheran.com

> Pastor Scott Paradise Home: (717) 628-1241

Cell: (540) 335-1693

pastorscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

Sunday March 10, 2024

Today, we welcome the members and leaders of troop 70363 of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, who meet here at Millcreek. Today, two of the scouts will share about the Silver Award, which is one of the Girl Scouts' highest honors. (Cadettes earn the Silver Award by researching an issue, making a plan to address it, and then taking action to improve their communities.) The scouts will also have Girl Scout cookies available for sale in the Multi-Purpose Room following worship.

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. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.



Don't' forget to turn your clocks
AHEAD
Saturday March 9 before going to bed.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS DURING LENT: The Sharing Cupboard food pantry has been a local food resource since 2008. It was started at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren for people living in the ELCO School District who experience food insecurity. Since then, the pantry has seen an increase in the number of families needing help. Now they serve approximately 100 families monthly.

THE SHARING CUPBOARD asked area churches if they'd be willing to choose a month during the year to have a food drive. The Evangelism Committee at Millcreek Lutheran decided to take on this challenge and chose the month of March. Coincidentally, Lent and Easter are in March this year. The Committee will have an area in our church narthex for you to place your donations. Please pick up a list of foods at that display that the pantry is saying they need. This project will begin March 1 and end March 31. Isaiah 58:10 "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness..."

Members and friends of Millcreek are invited to Friedens Lutheran Church (301 West Washington Avenue in Myerstown) on Saturday, March 16 at 1:30 PM as they celebrate the Ordination and Installation of Stacy Chavis as their pastor. Bishop Dunlop and Pastor Scott (in his role as Dean of the Lebanon Conference) will be leaders in the service. This is a terrific way for the congregations in the ELCO school district to celebrate good happenings in our church and community.

Lists for information on Lenten services are on the table in the narthex. The next service (March 13 @ 7:00 PM) will be held at Tulpehocken Trinity, 961 Tulpehocken Road, Richland with Pastor Bill Wink speaking. Topic: Return to the Kingdom of God - John 18:36-38a. Light snacks/refreshments will be served after the service.

THE BLOOD DRIVE is March 21, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00p.m. See the flyer included in the bulletin for more information.



GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY is today. The Girl Scouts will meet at Millcreek to sell Girl Scout Cookies following the worship service.

THE FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST 2024 annual membership drive is presently going on and will continue till March 31. By donating towards this membership drive Friends of Spang Crest help provide special activities and projects for the Spang Crest residents. In the last year Millcreek has lost two of its longtime faithful givers to this wonderful cause and we need some additional new faces to step in with any donation certainly appreciated. Last year Millcreek helped this cause by having 23 contributors and raising \$456 - please consider stepping forward this year if you didn't already. Please see Margie to contribute.

CAMP KIRCHENWALD: There will be an Open House for Camp Kirchenwald on Sunday, March 17 from 2:00-4:30 PM. Pamphlets for camp registration are in the wall rack in the narthex.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

PARISH ECHO: It is with great pleasure and thanks that we announce the new editors for the Parish Echo. David and Aislinn Staaby will be taking over those duties beginning with the April newsletter.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for items you want in the church newsletter for April, 2024 is Friday, March 15. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com. Items may also be submitted to the Staabys by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone.

TREASURER'S REPORT: March 3, 2024-Current Offerings-\$2,570.00, Plate-78.00, Restore & Renew-25.00, Building Rental-150.00, Coffee-10.00. Total-\$2,833.00 Attendance-67, Sunday School-21

The members of the Adult Sunday School class invite you to join them on Sunday, March 17 as Pastor Scott presents a lesson on "Who was Saint Patrick...Really?" The class meets in the room across from the Choir Room from 9:15 AM until 1:00 AM.

THE HEALING SERVICE will be held at Millcreek on Thursday March 21 at 7:00 P.M.

READERS FOR PALM SUNDAY are needed for March 24th when we will be reading the Passion. Rehearsal for this will be the week prior (March 17) after church, if that works for everyone. There are Passion booklets & a signup sheet on the table in the narthex.

EASTER EGG HUNT PRIZES: Millcreek's annual egg hunt will be held on March 30. We are requesting prizes to be donated by the congregation for ages 0-12. Prizes may be put in the Sunday School wing- last room on the right. Contact Nikki Johnson with questions - 717-639-1300.

THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE will meet Wednesday, March 13th here at the church @ 2:00 pm.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Our rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. Consider joining us in our music ministry. Contact Debbie Tice with questions.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS are available for folks to sign up for sponsoring. They are on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

ADDRESS & PHONE NUMER CHANGE for Paul Zimmerman. His address is now 139 Sweetwater Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073. Phone is 484-930-5978

SCRAP PAPER is available in the office on the shelf to the far right for anyone interested. You will see it clearly marked. Feel free to take as much or as little as you may need.

WEATHER ALERT: In case of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service.

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS: Barbara Potteiger, Henner Apts. 24 East High Street Apt. 105 Womelsdorf, PA 19567

IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.

NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or 610-589-2570

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Lenny Ontkos, Barbara Potteiger, Nancy Sauter, Norm Sharp, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Karl Koch



Easter Card Collection

The Sunday School classes are making a craft and organizing gift bags for our members who are unable to attend church. The list of folks is on the table in the narthex. They are asking members for Easter cards to add to the craft and palm branch. We are requesting volunteers to deliver the card and gift bags. A delivery sign-up will be located next to the gift bags in front of the display case. Cards can be dropped in the gift bags now through Palm Sunday.

Thank you, Nikki Johnson SS Superintendent







SATURDAY, MARCH 30 AT 11 AM

PRIZES FOR ALL AGES 0-12

Millcreek Lutheran Church 221 N. Sheridan RD, Newmanstown, PA 17073

EVENT HELD RAIN OR SHINE!



Sponsored by the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium

All services begin at 7:00 PM Lenten Theme: "Return..."

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Millcreek Lutheran, 221 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown, with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: "A Call to Return to the Lord" - Joel 2:12-14

Wednesday, February 21

Church of Christian Outreach, 101 W. Main Street, Newmanstown, with Pastor Mario Madden speaking. Topic: "Return to Prayer" -- Romans 8:26-28

Wednesday, February 28

United Christian Church, 2 Memorial Blvd., Newmanstown, with Pastor Bruce Farrell speaking. Topic: "Return from Betrayal" - Acts 2:22-24

Wednesday, March 6

St. Paul's UCC, 13 Church Road, Newmanstown, with Pastor Matt Grant speaking. Topic: "Return from Denial" - Mark 14:66-71

Wednesday, March 13

Tulpehocken Trinity, 961 Tulpehocken Road, Richland, with Pastor Bill Wink speaking. Topic: "Return to the Kingdom of God" - John 18:36-38a

Wednesday, March 20

Grace UCC, 22 Church Street, Richland with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: "Return to the Church" - John 14:6-7

Wednesday, March 27

Elias UCC, 9 N. Sheridan Road, Newmanstown with Pastor Scott Paradise speaking. Topic: "Return to the Table" - John 15:1-4

Good Friday, March 29

Richland Church of the Brethren, 215 S. Race St., Richland, with Pastor Jim Artz speaking. Topic: "Return and See Life" - John 10:10-11

Light refreshments and fellowship will follow each service.

Weather related cancellations to be determined by the home church and will be announced on the Ministerium Facebook page.

Offering taken will go to the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium Emergency Fund to assist local families in need. Please make checks payable to Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium.



Friends of Spang Crest 2024 Annual Wembership Drive

The Annual Membership Drive is your chance to join or renew your membership to the Friends of Spang Crest. This year's membership drive will run through March 31, 2024.

The Friends of Spang Crest is an auxiliary organization dedicated to supporting activities and projects benefitting the residents of Spang Crest, Luthercare's Senior Living Community in Lebanon, PA. In 2022-2023, the Friends of Spang Crest donated **over \$26,000** to Spang Crest for programs, services and purchases including:

Benevolent Care • Resident Christmas Presents

- Outdoor Patio Furniture
- Activity Program Equipment
- Outdoor Band Concerts Fish Tank Maintenance

Your membership dues, combined with generous donations from congregations, individuals, annual fundraising events and proceeds from the Spang Crest Gift Shop, will allow the Friends of Spang Crest to continue its work in 2024. Membership Levels for 2024 are:

Member: \$2.00 Sustaining: \$10.00 Contributing: \$5.00 Patron: \$25.00

You may submit your membership contribution directly to your congregation's Key Person: Margie Kriss, 103 Hardwood Street, Box 205, Schaefferstown, PA 17088. Please add "Friends of Spang Crest Membership" on the memo line of your check.

Thank You for Supporting the Friends of Spang Crest

7 ogether We Make A Difference!

SHARING CUPBOARD WISH LIST

CEREAL

CRACKERS

COOKIES

TUNA

SPAM

CANNED CHICKEN

PEANUT BUTTER

SPAGHETTI SAUCE

PASTA MEALS

BEEFARONI

BEEF STEW

CHUNKY SOUPS

GRANOLA BARS

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES



BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, March 21st • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive a Papa John's buy one Large pizza get one FREE certificate & a 3oz. bag of Beef Stick Bites from Stoltzfus Meats!





A form of ID is REQUIRED to donate

3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to 717GiveBlood.org & click on
- · call 1-800-771-0059

• scan the QR Code



DONATE NOW





FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 We strongly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help us improve your donation experience.

 Walk-Ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.

Who Depends on Blood You Donate

Liver transplant	6-10 units of Red Blood Cells 20 units of plasma 10 units of platelets
Kidney transplant	1-2 units of red blood cells
Heart transplant	2-6 units of red blood cells
Adult open-heart surgery	2-6 units of red blood cells 2-4 units of plasma 1-10 units of platelets
Newborn open-heart surgery	1-4 units of red blood cells 1-2 units of plasma 1-4 units of platelets
Prostate cancer surgery	2-4 units of red blood cells
Abdominal aortic aneurysm	4-6 units of red blood cells
Bone marrow transplant	1-2 units of red blood cells every other day for 2-4 weeks 6-8 units of platelets daily for 4-6 weeks
Automobile accident	4-40 units of red blood cells
Leukemia	2-6 units of red blood cells 6-8 units of platelets daily for 2-4 weeks
Sickle cell disease	10-15 units of red blood cells to treat severe complications
Premature newborn	1-4 units of red blood cells while in intensive care