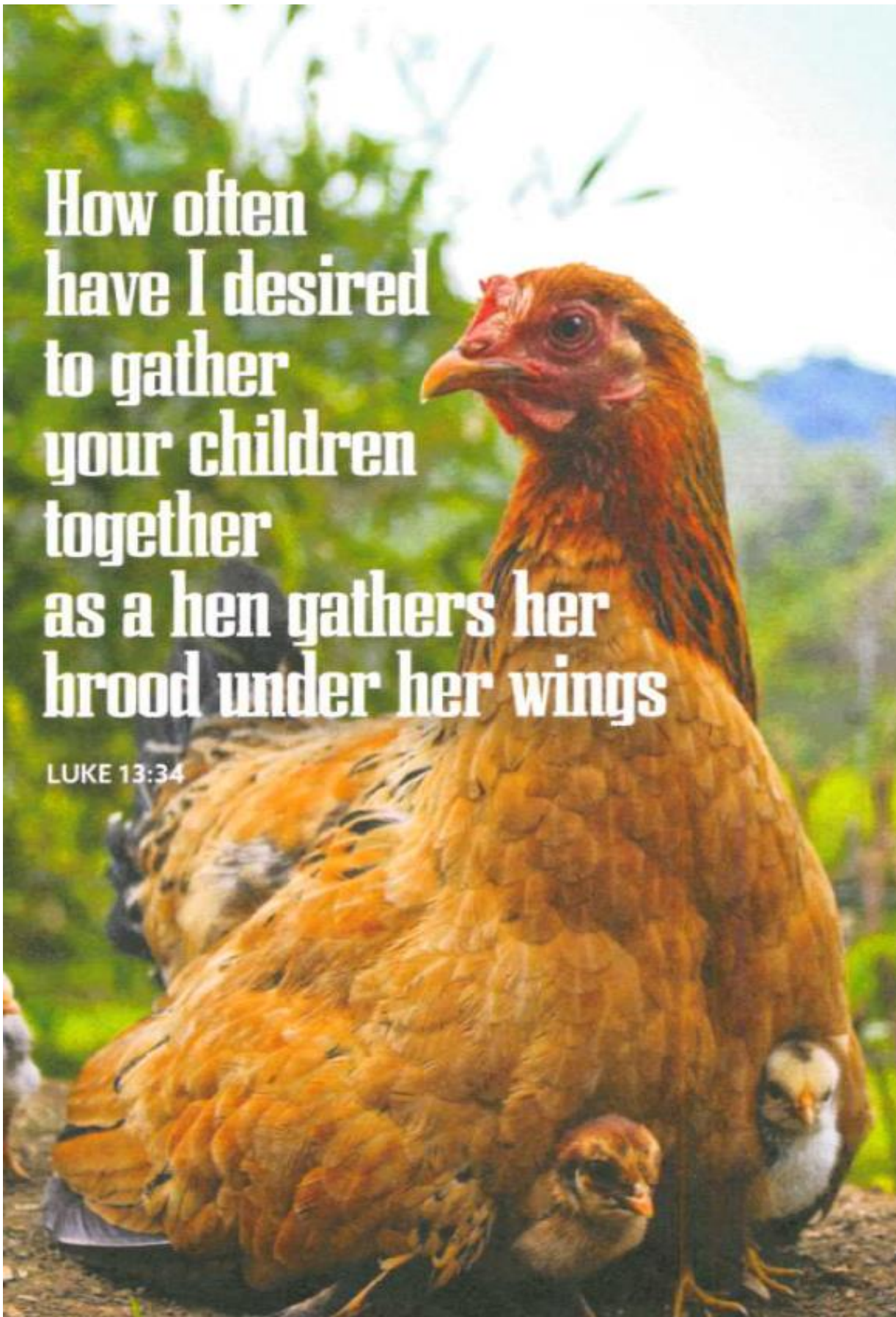


**How often
have I desired
to gather
your children
together
as a hen gathers her
brood under her wings**

LUKE 13:34



Judgment in the Name of the Lord

Some of us in the room, likely more of us than we imagine, know what a conviction is like. We've had experience with a physical, undisputable, black-robed conviction, the kind handed down by a judge or jury. It's a statistical fact that nearly half of the American population is personally affected in some way by the criminal justice system. Those numbers are staggering; even more so is the weight of guilt that welds itself to the convicted one's shame like steel clenching iron. To be convicted, found guilty as charged, is no small matter.

It is with such certainty and severity that Jesus unleashes his anguish over Jerusalem—anger and grief that rail with the reverberations of a gavel's blow in the courtroom when words, sharpened for penetration, are pronounced from behind a high bench. Judgments can last a lifetime, and they intentionally have the power to change futures. Jesus was about the work of God, to change futures.

There is no courtroom, no black robe, no jury of twelve peers in Luke's account of Jesus' encounter with some Pharisees. But there is an exacting judgment that rumbles like rolling boulders, a conviction meant to loiter hauntingly like shivering nightmares. Jesus' words prosecute with a burden that few gospel lines expose so solemnly; the accusations are decisive. His judgment falls on the religious.

No, we do not escape, do not get away by dismissing Jesus' words as ancient, frozen in a time long past, petrified among a people long gone, meant only for some others' failures—not our own. The judgment lives on. Pronounced then in the holy city, it ricochets even now through our sacred spaces and hallowed sanctuaries, aimed at the pious and devout who with self-appeasing righteousness look to tame God's word, rebuff God's scandalous mercies, silence God's voice, and break God's will.

The judgment: "How often . . . and you were not willing!" And yet, the promise: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 13:34-35).

Millcreek Lutheran Church
Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2025

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 loving God, who has promised your redemptive love to persons of every generation even though they do not deserve it: Grant us faith to believe you have included us in your promise of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may be united with you in a covenant relationship of redemption. Hear us for the sake of Jesus. Amen

Serving You This Morning:

Pastor,	The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Rachel Mock
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

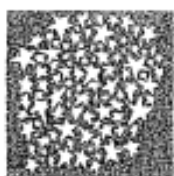
- Prelude of Entrance
- Announcements
- Prelude of Preparation
- *Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56
- *Opening Hymn: **No. 301 LLBW (green)** *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain*
- Greetings: Pages 57, line 5
- *The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6
- *Prayer of the Day: On the lesson insert (read in unison)

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. 294 LBW (green)**, *My Hope is Built
on Nothing Less*
*The Nicene Creed, Page 64
Senior Choir Anthem
*The Prayers: Page 65, line 22
*The Lord's Prayer, Page 76 (sung)
*Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43
*Departing Hymn: **No. 567 LBW (green)**, *God of Our
Fathers*
Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated
Postlude

***Please stand**

*The flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in
loving memory of our parents. ~ Ronnie & Carol Merkel*





Today's Readings

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans,

to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Psalms

Psalms 27; tone 9



The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then ¹ shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me
to de- ¹ vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies,
will stum- ¹ ble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart ¹ will not fear.

Though war rise up against me,
my trust will ¹ not be shaken.

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD;
one ¹ thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house
of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek God ¹ in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble
God will ¹ give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places
of the sanctuary,
and raise me high up—¹ on a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up
above my enemies ¹ who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice
in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music
¹ to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, ¹ when I call;
have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message—
¹ “Seek my face.”

Your face, O LORD, ¹ I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me,
turn not away from your ser- ¹ vant
in anger.

Cast me not away—
you have been my helper;
forsake me not,
O God of ¹ my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my moth- ¹ er
forsake me,

the LORD will ¹ take me in.

¹¹Teach me your ¹ way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path,
because of ¹ my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will ¹ of my foes,
for they rise up against me,
false witnesses ¹ breathing violence.

¹³This I believe—that I will see
the goodness ¹ of the LORD
in the land ¹ of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD ¹ and be strong.
Take heart and wait ¹ for the LORD!

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are

expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of

Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

TODAY'S READINGS March 16, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

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"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
pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

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

Sunday March 16, 2025

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.



Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

BLOOD DRIVE will be Thursday, March 20, 2025. Please see the enclosed green & white inserts for information.

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.

Please pick up a list of foods from our display and consider these words from Isaiah 58:10-
"Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness..."

Donations may be placed in boxes located in the multipurpose room.

Blessings,
Evangelism committee

EASTER EGG HUNT: Saturday, April 19 at 11:00 AM.

A sign-up sheet for gift cards and egg fillers/candy is on the table in the Narthex. We are also looking for prize donations for ages 0-12. Please place the prizes and egg fillers/candy on the table in the Sunday school room at the end of the hall just past the library. Thank you all so much for helping to make this egg hunt successful every year!

SUMMER CAMP: Open House for Summer Camps at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa are Sunday, March 16 and Sunday, April 6 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. Information is posted in the Narthex.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

FIRST COMUNION CLASS SCHEDULE includes the following Sundays, March 16 Sunday, March 23, Sunday, April 6, and Sunday, April 13 at 9:00 AM during the Sunday School hour.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL will not be held by Pastor Scott on these dates.

TREASURER'S REPORT: March 9, 2025, Current Offerings- \$765, Plate-\$90, Building Rental-\$75, **Total-\$930** Attendance- 65 Sunday School- 12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please note- information to be included in the weekly announcements will now be due by noon on Wednesdays to the church secretary. Email is preferred, secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025 are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10

SHUT-IN EASTER BAGS will be placed in the Narthex 3/16/25 through 4/13/25. If any names were missed, please reach out to Nikki Johnson and I will have them added. A sign-up sheet will be on the table for those of you wanting to help deliver the bags.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS: Audrey Putt, 1125 Birch Rd. Unit 112, Lebanon, PA 17042

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.

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: Chub & Peg Auman, Lorraine Eberly, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Ream, Norm Sharp, Sarah Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

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

NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Mike Nelson, (friend of Kristin Bender), Jane Yocum, (friend of Debbie Hartman), JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' Mother)



APPLE DUMPLING SALE, from Sycamore Spring. As this business is being sold, it could be one of the last. See order form on the narthex table. Orders due April 7 and will arrive April 17.

LUMINARIA ORDERS CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME - check with either Deb for details. There are times when they are on sale for \$5 each instead of the normal \$10. Lanterns are also available for \$30.

As always, thanks to all for supporting Relay for Life as the American Cancer Society strives to find a cure.

See Debbie Buffington or Debbie Tice for more Relay details.

**See Susan Long for more
ELCO "cookbook" information.**



**ELCO
COMMUNITY
COOKBOOK**

We want your recipes!

The ELCO Education Foundation is asking for your help in creating a one-of-a-kind community cookbook as a fundraiser project to benefit the students of ELCO.

Whether it's your grandmother's pot pie, a quick weeknight dinner, or a show-stopping dessert, your recipe can bring flavor and heart to this special collection. By contributing, you'll help showcase the tastes and traditions that make our community so unique.

Don't miss this chance to share your story through food and support our ELCO students!

Use this QR code to submit your type-written recipe.



Use this QR code to submit photos of a handwritten recipe.



Future Services for Lent and Holy Week 2025

All services begin at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, March 19

Elias United Church of Christ, 9 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown

Topic: "Giving Up Superiority," – sermon by Pastor Tad Barnhart, Newmanstown United Christian Church

Wednesday, March 26

Richland Community Bible Church, 215 South Race Street, Richland

Topic: "Giving Up Lives" – sermon by Pastor Jay Heberling, Elias Church of Christ and St. Paul's (Millbach) United Church of Christ

Wednesday, April 2

St. Paul's (Millbach) United Church of Christ, 13 Church Road, Newmanstown,

Topic: "Giving Up Control" – sermon by Pastor Jim Artz, Church of Christian Outreach

Wednesday, April 9

Tulpehocken Trinity, 961 Tulpehocken Road, Richland

Topic: "Giving Up Enemies" – sermon by Pastor Jay Heberling, Elias Church of Christ and St. Paul's (Millbach) United Church of Christ

Wednesday, April 16

United Christian Church, 2 Memorial Boulevard, Newmanstown

Topic: "Giving Up Expectations" – sermon by Pastor Bill Wink, Richland Community Bible Church

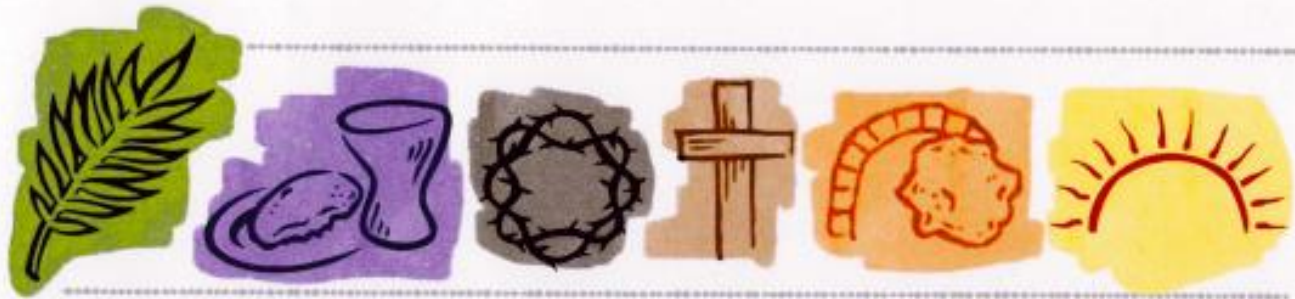
Good Friday, April 18

Grace United Church of Christ, 22 Church Street, Richland

Topic: "The Story of the Cross" – sermon by Pastor Mario Madden, Tulpehocken Trinity United Church of Christ

Light refreshments and fellowship will follow each service.

Offering taken will go to the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium Emergency Fund to assist local families facing unexpected financial challenges. Please make checks payable to "Newmanstown-Richland Ministerium."



Holy Week and Easter at Millcreek Lutheran Church
221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown, Pennsylvania
www.millcreeklutheran.com • 610.589.2570

You and your family are welcome to join us
anything and everything.

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 13 at 10:15 AM

We begin with a festive celebration with palm branches and
continue with a dramatic reading of the story of Jesus' last week.

Healing Service for Holy Week

Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM

This is a simple, quiet service that includes time for personal prayer for
yourself or someone else.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 PM

On this night we remember Jesus' gift of Holy Communion and his
new commandment to love one another.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19 at 11:00 AM

This annual tradition is for children ages 0 through 12 and the grown
ups who like to watch them have a good time.

Easter Day

Sunday, April 20 at 10:15 AM

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection with festive worship.
This service will include a special "kids only" activity.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, March 20th • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive:

- Certificate for a \$10 gift card at any Good's Store
- 3oz. Bag of Beef Stick Bites from Stoltzfus Meats
- 10% off coupon for Stoltzfus Meats or Amos' Place



3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to 717GiveBlood.org & click on **DONATE NOW**
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code



A form of ID is
REQUIRED to donate

- We kindly 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.



RICHLAND COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS....

BIG JOHN NOLT'S

CHICKEN

BBQ

\$12

TUESDAY APRIL 29TH!

DRIVE THRU 4PM - 6PM

600 E. LINDEN STREET RICHLAND

If companies want to do a
big, collective order, we will
deliver for lunch time!

Can purchase
Tickets From
Margie Kriss at church



Includes: Chicken BBQ,
Cheesy Shredded Potatoes,
Baked Beans, Applesauce,
Roll, Dessert and Drink

Message RCA FB Page or Andy Kriss @
7176730572
for more info!

MILLCREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

EASTER EGG HUNT

AGES 0-12 PRIZES FOR ALL

APRIL 19, 2025

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10:15AM

EGG HUNT AT 11:00 AM

THE SHARING CUPBOARD WISH LIST

Donations may be placed in boxes located in the
multipurpose room.

Cereal
Boxed Crackers
Cookies
Tuna
Spam
Canned chicken
Peanut Butter
Spaghetti sauce
Pasta meals
Beefaroni
Beef stew
Chunky soups
Granola bars
Instant mashed potatoes
Canned fruit
Lance sandwich crackers



SWEET SUNDAY DONATIONS

Council has approved that we put a box in kitchen for baking items for our "Sweet Sunday Lady". I will put a box in kitchen for the next 2 Sundays for anyone to add any of the following for her use:

Flour
Granulated Sugar
Brown Sugar
Confectioners (10X) sugar
Baking Powder
Baking Soda

If anyone wants to contribute Eggs and/or Butter, please put in refrigerator.

Our hopes are to help with Charmayne's rising costs for her delicious Baked Goods.



EASTER FLOWERS



Anyone interested in purchasing Easter Flowers this year, please contact Carol Sova at 717-507-4721. This is my cell number. You may text me or call. I will confirm all orders if you don't sign-up directly at church. If you don't hear back from me to confirm, please call me.

The flowers will be available on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.

The choices of potted flowers are as follows: tulips (request color), daffodils (regular), hyacinths (one color or pink, blue, white trio), Easter lilies (white), L.A. Hybrid lilies) or mums. The cost is \$8.00 each except for the lilies which are \$9.00.

I will be available after church most Sundays or you can call me. I will place the order mid-March. If you want to specify color, please have your order in as soon as possible for the best selection. (Those I will be ordering as soon as possible as there were some supply issues in the past).

Thank you,
Carol Sova

Parables Jesus Told in Luke 13

DTNEESRDREPENT
RAIMHJBEP EALEA
ANAU VSEESIRAH P
YMEURMISESARHH
EALVN FIDUOBGRS
NOTSALRR ESLEDS
IATJREBAASETAH
VRMERRLTECSRDT
RNDOOMFSFBLESA
TAUAWTIURNSELB
DKINGDOM OFGOD B
EMELASUREJTPFA
SFIGTREEVREETS
ERNUEUGOGANYSO

bear fruit
Blessed is He
fig tree
Jerusalem
Jesus
kingdom of God
large tree
leaven
miracle
mustard seed
narrow gate
parables
Pharisees
repent
Sabbath
synagogue
vineyard
woman

