



Millcreek Lutheran Church

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

A warm welcome to our church! We appreciate your presence here today and enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. If you are a visitor and believe that Christ is your Savior and present in the Sacrament, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. All children who have received Communion instruction and have been approved to receive Holy Communion either here or at another church are also welcome to commune with us. Any child may come forward for a blessing. Visitors, please sign our guest book or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, whose Son is the only way by which we can find you: Reveal yourself to us through Jesus; that we may have the assurance of your presence enabling us to do the work our Lord has directed us to do. In our Savior's name we pray. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

Guest Pastor,	Pastor Joel Risser
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Roy Hoglelund
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness**

LBW p. 56

***Opening Hymn:**

Christ Is Alive

LBW #363

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
 3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
 4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, He comes to claim the
 moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, He suf - fers still, yet

prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.
 here and now And con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.
 midst of life, Our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.
 loves the more, And lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.

5 Christ is alive! Ascended Lord—
 He rules the world his Father made,
 Till, in the end, his love adored
 Shall be to all on earth displayed.

*Greetings:

LBW p. 57, line 5

*The Kyrie

LBW p. 57-58, line 6

Hymn of Praise, *This is the Feast*

LBW p. 60

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (read responsively)

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who
persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation- ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those

who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel: John 14:1-14**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

[Jesus said to the disciples:]¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves.¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Holy Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

You Are the Way

LBW #464

You Are the Way



1 You are the way; through you a - lone can we the Fa - ther find;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



in you, O Christ, has God re - vealed his heart, his will, his mind!
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

*The Nicene Creed

LBW p. 64

Choir Anthem: *Peace I Leave with You*

*The Prayers

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken) LBW p.68

***The Preface** LBW p.68

The Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy LBW p.69

***Words of Institution** LBW p.69

***The Lord's Prayer** LBW p.71

Communion of the Faithful

***Communion Blessing** LBW p.72

Post-Communion Canticle, *Thank the Lord LBW p.72

***Post-Communion Prayer** LBW p.74

***Closing Hymn** *O Jesus, I Have Promised* LBW #503

***Blessing:**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, †
bless you now and forever. Amen.

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal** LBW p.74

Postlude

The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God and in memory of George Engle, by David & Ann Marie Engle.



O Jesus, I Have Promised



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693



Our Mission:
Motivating Lives Through Christ and our
community, our congregation, & ourselves.

Interim Pastor: Rev. Frank Terhune
Cell: 610-751-5472

Email: frankterhune@gmail.com

In Office: Tues. & Fri. 9am-12pm

www.millcreeklutheran.com

Secretary: Jennifer Miller Email: secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

Lay Leader: Jennifer Rosengrant

Sunday, May 3, 2026

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.



Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Community

BLOOD DRIVE: MLC will be hosting the Central PA Blood Bank blood drive on Thursday, May 14. See flyer for details!

SUMMER TUTORING: We will once again be holding summer tutoring sessions at the church beginning June 15th through July 17th for ELCO students in grades K through 5. If you can please share with family, friends and neighbors. There are fliers in the narthex.

Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Congregation

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS for 2026 are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10.

CHURCH BREAKFAST: The Church Breakfast will be Saturday May 9 at the Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at 8:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome with no reservations needed. Inform the hostess of the group you are looking for and she will direct you to our table. You can choose to come every month or only on an occasion. Either way, we'd love for you to be part of our group.

MUSIC: The choir is winding down their weeks to sing. If you have a special song you would like to hear before the end of our "season", please let Debbie know. That being said, we are also looking forward to Special Summer Music. If you have someone you would like to schedule, please also speak to Debbie. We hope to have a mix of old favorites and new folks. All musicians of all ages are welcome!

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday May 3- communion service
- Saturday May 9- church breakfast at Country Fare
- Sunday May 10- communion service
- Thursday May 14- Blood Drive

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:

Sandy & Dale Bashore
604 W. Franklin St.
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

DANCE! Anyone interested in learning a dance or two for special music over the summer, please see Jamie Keener or call/text 717-376-7027. No dance experience is necessary! We will be using tambourine, flags, and sign language with simple steps or movements. I will be making a video to share with those interested so they can practice at home if they can't make all the rehearsals. Both men and women are welcome!

PRAYER LIST: Please make requests to Jen M. by noon Wed. each week:
secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call: 610-589-2570. *Please provide updates when our prayers have been answered, so this list can be kept current.*

MILLCREEK MEMBERS:

Debbie Hartman	Violet Hepler	Liz Leibig	Dale Bentz
Portia Lindermuth	Brian Ream	Norm Sharp	
Gerry Strickler	Stewart Wolf	Aaron Yiengst	
Devon Yiengst	Greer Zellers	Michael Yiengst, Jr.	

NON-MEMBERS:

Gary Beatty, friend of Debbie Hartman
JoAnn Deahl, Brandy Gahres' mother
Linda McMullan, sister in law of Greta McMullan
Jennifer Clinton, daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler
Alethea Grissinger, friend of Deb Buffington
Kevin Kochinsky, family friend of Stephanie Seldomridge
Pastor Frank Terhune
CMDR Stanley Kahl-USNR , Deployed ,Epic Fury for 60 Days
Ann Shallcross, sister of Stephanie Gahres
Kaylee Gordon, family member of Jamie Keener

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, May 14th • 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 \$5 Rutter's gift card!

Rutter's

**PAPA
JOHNS**

3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

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



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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.

**Central
Pennsylvania
Blood
Bank**

Your Community Blood Bank

HEADED TO THE 2026 DAISY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Dine Out & Support Our Shooters!

Sunday, May 17th 2026

Open 8AM - 9PM

12 E. Main Street, Richland, PA 17087

****Reservations Encouraged****

****Take-out option ****

Call (717) 866-9394

RAFFLE BASKETS AND 50/50
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

10% of food sales breakfast,
lunch, and dinner will be donated
directly to help cover travel and
competition expenses



Love, Love, Love

That's what it's all about! Jesus loves.

Jesus' love is a constant in scripture. From his humble birth to his teachings, parables, healing miracles, feeding of the multitudes, power over creation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus loves.

Some people wanted the Messiah to take a much different approach. They thought their savior would come as a strong military leader, but Jesus did not start a violent overthrow of the Roman Empire. He just could not and would not do anything in conflict with love. He gave himself up and loved until the very end. In his last breath on the cross, he forgave everyone involved in crucifying him. This is the depth of the amazing love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Stephen, "a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5), strove to live as Jesus lived and to love as Jesus loved. As he was being stoned to death, Stephen shouted, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (7:60).

Following Jesus was not easy for Stephen and other early Christians. It is not easy today. But in today's gospel reading, Jesus assures his followers—then and now—of three things. First, the great doors to a place with God will be open to us, in a house with many rooms. Second, he is the way, truth, and life, and by knowing him, we come to know God the Father. Third, we can ask him for anything. These are promises of Jesus' continuing care for us, for people of every time and place, and for all creation.

Jesus loves.

Finding the Way

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

The puzzle is based on John 14:1-14 (NIV).



T J Y C O M T W A Y Z C P V A
A E E H I S I A U J S S R L F
H L X B U D Y R N H Y T E Y R
W R A R X H T Z A I I J P E T
T U T Z P E R H F C M X A D N
R F M E L A S R O H L W R Z P
O V J X A R T H T M B E E B X
U X R L C T O I O O A Q S L E
B K L O E S A W I W W S V V V
L C L I O F F A T H E R E O H
E Q A D V M J O I F L I R T O
D F D E L I S K R Z L C U N U
S Y I K I K N O W E M R J X S
L I N S F P I G B D T I S P E
Y J I Q E M C E N O U G H J Z

ENOUGH
THOMAS
SHOW
FATHER

WAY
LIFE
BELIEVE
FAITH

HEARTS
MIRACLES
KNOW
PLACE

TROUBLED
HOUSE
ROOMS
PREPARE

TRUST
SEEN
LIVING
TRUTH