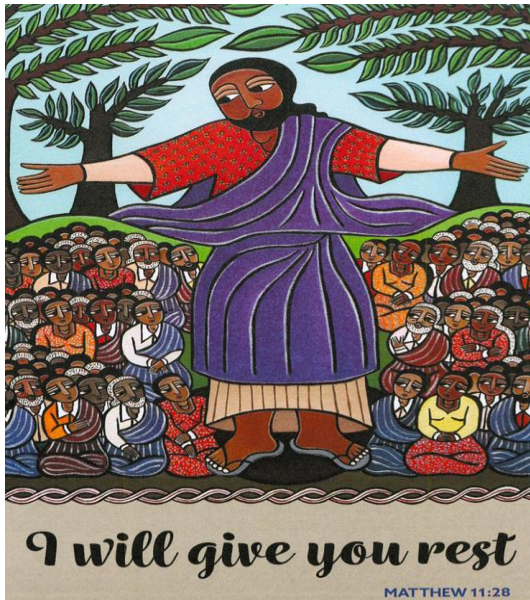




Millcreek Lutheran Church
July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

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: Holy Father, whose Son has seen the burden of sin which we carry, and has offered his grace to lighten our load: Receive us with our heavy burdens, and give us rest, that we may learn from our Lord the joy of salvation. In our Savior's name we pray. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Dara Wolfe
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation *with Julie Strickler*

Independence Day Litany

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen!

On July 4, 1776, our forefathers bravely advanced the cause of freedom and liberty by declaring this nation's independence and sovereignty and that all her citizens possessed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness given by our Creator. It is appropriate therefore as we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday that we give thanks to that Creator for our liberties and pray for continued blessings upon our country, our government, and our fellow citizens.

The earth is the Lord's. **And all who dwell in it.**

God is king over the nations: **God sits on the holy throne.**

God rules with might forever. **God's eyes keep watch on the nations.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. **For God judges the peoples with equity and guides the nations upon earth.**

O Lord, be gracious to us and bless us. **And make your face to shine upon us.**

May your ways be known upon the earth. **Your saving power among all peoples.**

***Opening Hymn: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* LBW #332**

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bo - som that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword;
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.



Refrain
 Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910
 Music: BATTLE HYMN, American, 19th cent.

As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world. **We thank you Lord.**

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation. **We thank you Lord.**

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation. **We thank you Lord.**

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all. **We thank you Lord.**

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town. **We thank you Lord.**

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice. **We thank you Lord.**

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good. **We thank you Lord.**

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows. **We thank you Lord.**

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far. **We thank you Lord.**

Lord, we pray for the United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice. **We pray to you, O Lord.**

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray. **We pray to you, O Lord.**

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness. **We pray to you, O Lord.**

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace. **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Greetings:**

LBW p. 57, line 5

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8-14 (read responsively)

⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**Lord, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures
throughout all ages.**

**You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your
works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

***Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to

you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. “For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Softly and Tenderly

NCH (red) #461

Will L. Thompson

Will L. Thompson

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing for
 2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, Pass - ing from
 4. O for the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised, Prom - ised for

you and for me; See, on the por - tals He's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not His mer - cies,
 you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death's night is com - ing,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, He has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

Watching for you and for me. Come home, — come home, —
 Mercies for you and for me? Come home, come home,
 Com - ing for you and for me.
 Par - don for you and for me.

Ye who are wea - ry, come home; — Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is calling, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

***The Prayers**

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest, we thank you for the gifts of life together. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **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**

***Blessing:**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. Amen.



1 God the om - nip - o - tent! King who or - dain - est
2 God the all - mer - ci - ful! Earth hath for - sak - en
3 God the All - righ - teous One! We have de - fied thee,
4 God the all - wise! . . . By the fire of thy chas - t'ning



great winds thy clar - i - ons, light - ning thy sword:
meek - ness and mer - cy, and slight - ed thy Word;
yet to e - ter - ni - ty stand - eth thy Word;
earth shall to free - dom and truth be re - stored;



show forth thy pit - y on high where thou reign - est;
bid not thy wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en;
false - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side thee;
through the thick dark - ness thy king - dom is has - t'ning;



give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord.

Text: Henry F. Chorley, 1808–1872, sts. 1–2; John Ellerton, 1826–1893, sts. 3–4; alt.
Music: RUSSIAN HYMN, Alexis F. Lvov, 1799–1870

Moments of Meditation (seated)

*Dismissal

LBW p.74

Postlude



*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory
of God, and to wish Tammy a happy 61st birthday!
A.M.L.U.E. Kent*



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, July 5, 2026

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at **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

A SPECIAL OFFERING: We will be collecting our quarterly donation for the Lower
Susquehanna Synod on Sundays July 5th & July 12th.

EVANGELISM IN-GATHERING "STICKY NOTE" PROJECT:

Devastating losses can occur in the blink of an eye! During the January 2025 California
wildfires your PERSONAL CARE KITS helped many of those people affected. Lutheran
World Relief was asked specifically for those kits which filled a critical need! Doesn't that
make you feel good? Let's do what we can- like last year, grab a sticky note or two, purchase
the item(s) listed and bring to church during July & Aug.! We thank you for your support!

PERSONAL CARE KIT "STICKY NOTE" ITEMS

1. One lightweight bath towel (dark color recommended)
approx. 20" x 40" to 52" x 27". **see note**
2. Three bath size bars of soap, any brand (4 to 5 oz.), in original wrapping
3. One adult size toothbrush (packaged) ***see note***
4. One sturdy comb (LARGE TEETH), -remove packaging- NO fine tooth combs.
5. One "ADULT SIZE" (No infant size) metal nail clippers, with or without file, -
remove packaging

If using multi-pack toothbrushes, you may seal one in a business size envelope.

*** You can provide the towel if you'd like. Wrap items in the towel and tie securely with
ribbon or yarn. If not, the church will be purchasing towels to complete the kits***.
Otherwise grab a sticky note and "LET'S GO"!! Bins will be located in the narthex.

IT'S LEBANON AREA FAIR TIME!- The fair runs July 25th - August 1st. Great food,
entertainment and much more! If you are in need of information or BBQ tickets, please
contact Deb Tice, Morgan Hoffman, or Frank Hoffman. There are brochures and coloring
sheets available in the narthex. Coloring entries are due by July 3rd.

MINISTERIUM TRAIN RIDE: Saturday Aug. 22 (rain date Saturday Aug. 29)
Picnic & train ride on the Allentown & Auburn Railroad located in Kutztown PA. Train
leaves the station at 10:30am. Max 150 people. \$12 per adult, \$8 kids 4-10, 3 and under
free to sit on parents' lap.

Includes: hot dogs, burgers, grilled chicken, and drinks. You are welcome to bring a covered dish to share. Enjoy cornhole & other games. Any money raised over the cost of expenses will go to the Ministerium. Pay cash for tickets the day of, at the train station
Call Tulpehocken Trinity (717) 866-5190 to add your name to the reservation list.

Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Congregation

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

****July & August services will be held in the multi-purpose room****

- Sunday July 12- 9:30am regular service
- Sunday July 19- 9:30am regular service
- Sunday July 26- 9:30am regular service

SUMMER MUSIC:

July 12- open	August 16- open
July 19- Keith Frantz	August 23 - Brian Klinger
July 26- John Moyer	August 30 – Brothers in Grace
August 2 - Barry Wenrich	September 6- open
August 9 - Jamie Keener dance	

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

YEARBOOKS: The MLC 2025-2026 Yearbook is available for pick up in the Narthex!

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

Stewart Wolf
Celebration Villa of Lebanon Rm. 141
860 Norman Drive
Lebanon, PA 17042

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:

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

NON-MEMBERS:

Gary Beatty, brother in law 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
Ann Shallcross, sister of Stephanie Gahres
Kaylee Gordon, family member of Jamie Keener
Rev. Althea Seidel

Invited

Jesus offers a comforting invitation, “Come to me,” amid a reflection on the mystery of God’s wisdom and the failure by some to recognize it. Instead of making the search for wisdom into a game of hide-and-seek, Jesus sheds any presumption that God’s wisdom belongs only to the elite or adventurous. He declares that the gift of wisdom is accessible and available not just for the smart or those who have earned it in some way; it is for the willing, the burdened, and the heavy-laden. Do not worry about going to find secret knowledge. No need to try harder to figure it out. Just receive his invitation to come.

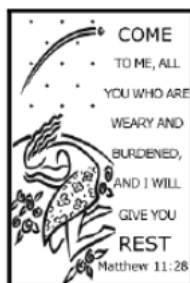
But in our culture, with so much energy and attention devoted to what we can earn, how do we hear this simple invitation from Jesus? When we find that the wise and intelligent are no closer to obtaining this gift from God, does that give us pause? Is all the effort to find the hidden things Jesus is speaking about part of the burden he asks us to lay down? How can we experience the rest Jesus gives?

The expression “come to Jesus” has varied usage in the broader culture, but our gatherings for the Lord’s supper reveal something about Jesus’ invitation and God’s gifts. When we receive the sacrament, we acknowledge a gift given—one that we need. When we come forward, we may not fully understand exactly how receiving those elements is “coming to Jesus,” but the space is made. We can accept Jesus’ invitation without knowing its full implications. And while the invitation is personal, it also helps us recognize that the community is united in a common response.

Rest for the Weary

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:30 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)



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

HUMBLE
SOULS
COME

ALL
WEARY
GIVE

LEARN
GENTLE
EASY

LIGHT
TAKE
BURDEN

YOKE
HEART
REST