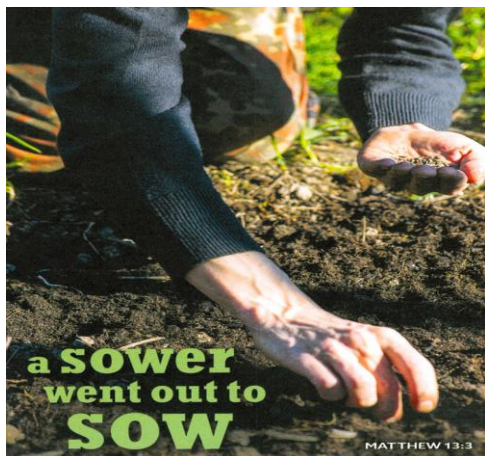




Millcreek Lutheran Church
July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

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, 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 or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Eternal God, whose kingdom continues to grow in spite of the threat of sin: Encourage us in our ministry, that we may overcome discouragement by confidence in your power at work through your church. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
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**

LBW p. 56

***Opening Hymn:**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

LBW #250

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so-e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

***Greetings:**

LBW p. 57, line 5

***The Kyrie**

LBW p. 57-58, line 6

Hymn of Praise, *Glory to God*

LBW p. 58

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.
 By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to
 it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our
 Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
 making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13 (read responsively)

[¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to
dwell there!**

**They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the
holiness of your temple.**

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our
salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your
marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for
joy.]**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak
themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

***Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day Christ Taught Us of a Farmer

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")

Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds,
Yet others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.
You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.*
Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.
We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways:
For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise,
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.
The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.
In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search,
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.
Your Spirit gives us vision — and hearts and lives made new.
Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.

*The Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

*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 gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks that the root of your goodness runs deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. 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 Lord's Prayer**

LBW p.71

***Blessing:**

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

***Closing Hymn**

On What Has Now Been Sown

LBW #261

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

Postlude

On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth-er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

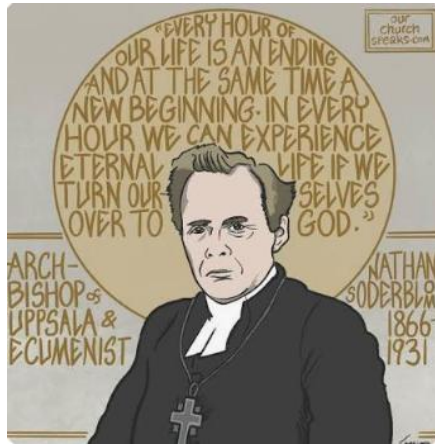
Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

Commemoration

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 & women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931



A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.



The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God, and in memory of Sterling Batdorf, by William & Cheryl Batdorf.



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

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

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

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
Candy Hibshman, friend of Rachel Mock

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, July 23rd • 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 FREE Small Gelati from The Ice Shack
- Certificate for a \$10 Coupon at any Good's Store
- \$5 Rutter's gift card
- Blood Donor T-Shirt



THE ICE SHACK



Traditional Good Family Shopping



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



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- 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

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



MIDDLE CREEK

WILDLIFE ART SHOW

Friday, July 31 | 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, August 1 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 2 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Featured Artist: Jennifer Lynn Becker

100 Museum Rd, Stevens, PA, 17578



FEATURING ART FROM:

Jocelyn Beatty
Jennifer Becker
Scott Calpino
Dan Christ
Catherine Colsher
Sheree Daugherty
Laura Mark-Finberg
Patrick Gnan
David Hughes
Ken Hunter
Stephen Lead
Bob McGee
Michael McNelly
Sue Ann Myers
Chris Pagano
Jack Paluh

Gerald Putt
Susan Bankey-Yoder
Chance Tedesco
Catherine Zeigler
Sarah Smith (Gersbach)
Mackenzie Fish
Roy Hoglund
Ed Johns
Doug Anderson
Toni Kelly
Craig Boyhunt
Robert Heinrich
Phillip Jaquith
Rich Gdovin
Wade Prescott



The Generous Gardener

In this parable, Jesus tells the disciples a story of a gardener. While many people carefully plan where to plant seeds (with some modern farmers using technology to map out, down to the millimeter, where each seed will grow best), the gardener in Jesus' story scatters seed generously, almost carelessly.

As the disciples, familiar with farming and fishing, would have known deep within themselves, things don't come easy in this life. Faith is the same. Like seeds that take their time, when the conditions are right to grow and bear fruit, faith isn't always a steady path. There are seasons of cold isolation—times when prayer and devotions don't warm the heart as they once did. There are seasons of scorching busyness—times when endless distractions overwork the head enough to overheat. Faith might look different at these times, but no matter the season, faith is never gone.

Ultimately, faith isn't measured down to the millimeter. Instead, this haphazardly generous gardener extends faith into the impossible places. And when rocks, sun, or thorns from this world and within choke this faith that God has given us, the impossible becomes possible. In every season, God comes again and again to sprinkle more and more seed and to reach out to us before we can even try to grow on our own. And with time and divine Presence, that seed of faith starts to sprout.

Because of this never-ending abundance, every season is an opportunity to engage with God the generous gardener, whose nearness is always available and who gives the gift of faith, no matter the conditions. Today, let the summer breeze remind you of how close God's Spirit is, always nurturing and providing the abundance that is the essence of faith.

The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a

Based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)



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

PLANTS
WITHER
FELL
ROCKY

SCORCH
BIRDS
PARABLE
SHALLOW

FARMER
ROOT
SCATTER
GOOD

THORNS
CHOKE
SEED
SOW

CROP
SOIL
GREW
PATH