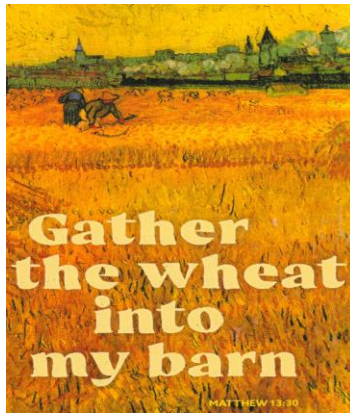




Millcreek Lutheran Church

July 19, 2026

Eighth 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: Almighty God, who, in the Final Day, will separate non-believers from those committed to Christ: Free us from our desire to judge one another, and make us faithful in your service, that we may be forever in your Kingdom with our Savior, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

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

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation, *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*, a medley of 2 tunes: *Beach Spring* by Benjamin F White and *Restoration* by William Walker. By special guest musician, *Keith Frantz*.

***Confession & Forgiveness**

LBW p. 56

Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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***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)

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You

are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

Psalm 86:11-17 (read responsively)

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent
people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your
handmaid.**

¹⁷ **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see
it and be put to shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me**

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

*Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day

LBW# 234

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, your quick - ning grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

**Special Music, *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name medley of 2 tunes: Coronation* by Oliver Holden and *Diadem* by James Ellor.
By special guest musician, *Keith Frantz*.**

***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 source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. 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**

LBW #261

Sing to the Lord of Harvest



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, sing songs of love and praise;
 2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - crts bloom and spring,
 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise.
 the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
 the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



By him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
 God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease;
 Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
 he crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
 and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
 Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1545–1613

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

Postlude



The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God, in honor of Dara Wolfe's birthday, and in memory of Ginny Wolfe.



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 19, 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

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.

SOCCER SHOTS: Summer camp will be held at MLC outside (or multi-purpose room in case of rain) on August 4, 5, & 6th. Soccer Shots is the most trusted & engaging children's soccer program for ages 18 months to 8 years.* Learn age-appropriate soccer skills, character-building, and have **FUN!** Register at: www.soccershots.com.

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.

CAN TAB COLLECTION: There is now container on the shelf by the men's bathroom for can tab collection, for donation to a local school.

Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Congregation

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

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

- Sunday July 19- 9:30am regular service
- Sunday July 26- 9:30am regular service
- Sunday August 2- 9:30am communion service

SUMMER MUSIC:

July 19- Keith Frantz is a well-known Baritone musician, playing in local churches and musical ensembles. He is currently treasurer and librarian for the Lebanon Community Concert Band. He also plays with the Washington Band of Annville.

July 26- John Moyer	August 23 - Brian Klinger
August 2 – open	August 30 – Brothers in Grace
August 9 - Jamie Keener dance	September 6- open
August 16- open	

General Fund- June Offerings

Current offerings:	7,425	Flowers	80
Plate	411	Bulletins	20
Recycling	13	World Hunger	100
Bldg. Rental	80		
Sweet Sunday	445	Total- \$8,574	

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:

Alfred & Barb Beck
153 Deck Road
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			

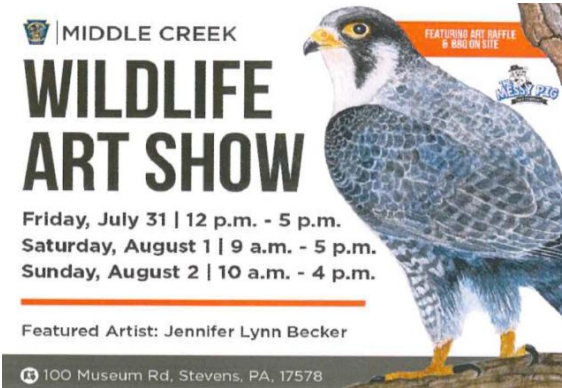
NON-MEMBERS:

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

MIDDLE CREEK WILDLIFE ART SHOW will be held at the Middle Creek WMA Visitor Center. Admission is free.

July 31st from 12-5pm
Aug. 1st from 9am-5pm
August 2nd from 10am-4pm

MLC member Roy Hoglund will be among the exhibitors.



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 Leed
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

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 General 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

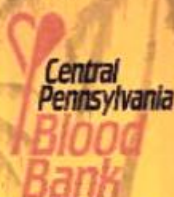


A form of ID is
REQUIRED to donate



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.



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

Deep-Seeded Grace

The things we learn early on in life matter. Maybe the first time you rode a bike taught you about a deep sense of fulfillment. The first time your heart swooned with romance taught you about a whole new dimension of love. Painfully, we find out the stove is hot by that first, uninformed touch, and we learn to watch for the flame. That first heartbreak sows some mistrust in future relationships.

These core memories inform how we see and interact with the world, shaping our expectations and actions. They are like seeds planted deep that grow and grow within. As Jesus speaks in this parable of weeds among the wheat, we are reminded that within us are both good seeds and invasive plants that get in the way. As our early memories remind us, people can sow both good and evil. There is fulfillment and romance, and there is pain and mistrust—good seeds and pesky weeds.

In a radical move, God the gardener has planted the deepest seed, a seed of grace. And herein lies the promise of this story from Jesus: Though we may try to uproot the sin—the weeds—separating us from God and each other, only God can make this grace come to life. With dusty overalls and a warm smile, God, the greatest gardener, removes the weeds of pain and mistrust. In Jesus, all that separates us from one another and from God is no more. The earliest seed planted deep within (even before we can remember) is the seed of grace that cultivates the deepest connection to God.

How have you seen God's grace at work in you, and how has the Spirit sown trust and connection in your life?

The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Mathew 28:26 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:24-29



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

SOW
WHEAT
PARABLE

FIELD
ENEMY
HEAVEN

GOOD
PULL
BURN

UPROOT
KINGDOM
GROW

HARVEST
SEED
WEEDS