



Millcreek Lutheran Church
July 26, 2026
Ninth 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: O God our Father: You have put within our reach the blessings of your Kingdom, more valuable than our minds can comprehend! Give us the wisdom to keep all our possessions and desires subordinate to your Kingdom; that we may receive the blessings inherent in your Kingdom. In our Savior's name we pray. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Jamie Keener
Lay Reader,	Mary Ream
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation, *I Believe*

By special guest musician, *John Moyer*

***Confession & Forgiveness**

LBW p. 56

Opening Hymn: *God of Grace and God of Glory

LBW #415

God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDIDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

***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)

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and

you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

Psalm 119:129-136 (read responsively)

- ¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**
¹³¹I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

- ²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.
²⁷And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all

of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

***Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: To What Can the Kingdom of God be Compared

To What Can the Kingdom of God be Compared?

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.11 with refrain ("To God be the Glory")

To what can the king-dom of God be com-pared? A small bit of lea-ven will change the whole bread; A While some look for treas-ure or one price-less pearl, God's must-ard seed falls where a field's been pre-pared, And there, where pre-poor wo-man sees that her neigh-bors are fed, A church rea-ches reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world. A girl sells poss- dict-a-ble plant-ings should be, There grows up a wild bush,- as out to the youth in the town, A man shares his faith and God's ess-ions to help those in need; A boy choos-es faith-ful-ness big as a tree! God of love, here on earth, hid-den things still sur-bless-ings a-bound. God of love, here on earth, hid-den things still sur-rath-er than greed. God of love, here on earth, hid-den things still sur-prise; Lov-ing deeds... signs of birth... faith-ful, Spi-rit-filled lives. Your praise: Lov-ing deeds... signs of birth... faith-ful, Spi-rit-filled lives. Your reign is a-maz-ing, your ways still as-tound, Just reign is a-mong us, cre-a-tion is blessed, When reign is a trea-sure that wise ones pur-sue; May like that new life spring-ing forth from the ground. e-ven a few faith-ful lives change the rest. we seek your king-dom in all that we do.

Biblical Reference: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875 ("To God Be the Glory")

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

*The Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

Special Music, *Sacred Choruses Medley*

By special guest musician, *John Moyer*

***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 wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way.

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

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places.

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

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us.

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

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. 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**

Be Thou My Vision

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

Postlude

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary F. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
 Music: SLANE, Irish tune



*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God, and in
 honor of the anniversaries of David & AnnMarie Engle
 and Joseph & Ashley Tice*



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 26, 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.

LEBANON AREA FAIR started yesterday and runs thru next Saturday.

Just a reminder that it is FREE every day to get in before 3 pm, and there is entertainment every night in both the pavilion and the main stage. Grab a friend and come out and enjoy!

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

SUMMER MUSIC:

July 26- John Moyer is a lifelong "Lebanonian", retired from Fort Indiantown Gap, both full time Federal Civil Service and part time PA Army National Guard. He is a volunteer driver at the VA Medical Center, volunteer with Compeer & Compeer Corp, and previously volunteered with Coleman's Park's "Music in the Park". Born and raised in the Church of God, John is currently attending Zion-Goshert UCC. John sings at many churches, community programs and Barnstormer and Senator baseball games.

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

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

ENVELOPE #54? Do you have offering envelope #54? If so, please reach out to David Engle at email: dengle@yahoo.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL has created a new email address: millcreeklutheranss@gmail.com. We will be using this email to communicate important information throughout the '26/'27 Sunday school year. Please use this email if you need to reach any of the Sunday school teachers. Thank you!

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

Franklin Bergman
Linden Village
100 Tuck St.
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:

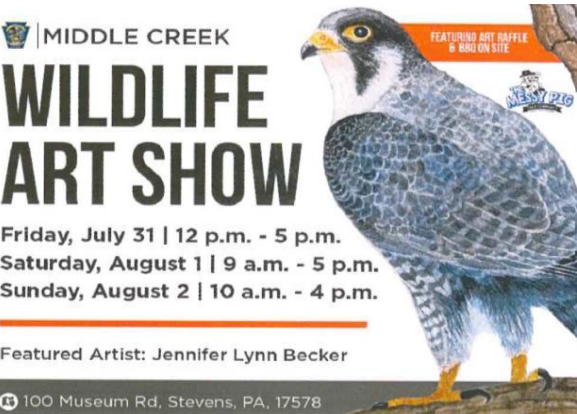
Violet Hepler	Liz Leibig	Michael Yiengst, Jr	Dale Bentz
Portia Lindermuth	Brian Ream	Devon Yiengst	Norm Sharp
Gerry Strickler	Stewart Wolf	Aaron Yiengst	Greer Zellers
Julie Strickler			

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
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



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

MLC member Roy Hoglund will be among the exhibitors.



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

Millcreek Community Group Presents the 2026
Music in Memorial Park
Newmanstown, PA



**The Karen Krater
Memorial Season**



Sunday Shows in August

Food & Drinks on Sale at 5pm | Shows begin at 6pm

Aug 2nd Barry Wenrich
Homegrown crooner returns from South Carolina!

Aug 9th Rustic Rewind
A variety of music types to delight!

Aug 16th Richland Express
A local band playing all types of music!

Aug 23rd The Youngers
Original Roots Rock / Americana

Aug 30th Jeff Krick Jr.
A must see Elvis impersonator!

**Bring
Lawn
Chairs!**

No Charge!
A free will offering
to be taken
at intermission

In Case Of Rain

To be held at Living Stones Church (Formerly Millcreek Community Center)
at 229 E. Main Street. Check out our Facebook page for details.

Be sure to get a list of our sponsors & visit them!

It's the Small Things

Children like to collect things: rocks, sticks, and more. Adults tend to pretend-love the items that are brought to them: "Oh, how beautiful!" "Oh, that's a good one." Children, encouraged, continue their collections, finding the smallest of things and displaying them like they are the most valuable items in the world.

Jesus' parables in today's gospel reading teach the disciples about things that are so small they are often overlooked: a mustard seed, a little bit of yeast, a tiny pearl, and even a net that is quite small until it is filled with fish. These little things in his parables are treasures important for understanding the reign of God.

Adults tend to overlook the small things while seeking larger things, heavier things, shinier things. We walk right past the tiny flower in the crack of a sidewalk, which once would have caught our eye. One pearl? A full necklace is better. A shrub that provides creatures a home? It's now in an inconvenient place.

But Jesus teaches that in God's reign all things, large and small, matter. All people matter. It is a wise disciple who recognizes this. Even King Solomon, with all his wealth, prayed for wisdom. Wisdom helps us see more clearly and begin to understand the depth of God's grace.

And that grace Jesus displayed immediately. "Have you understood all this?" he asked. The disciples answered simply, "Yes" (Matthew 13:51). What a bold answer! They were too worried to admit they did not understand. A little yeast, though, goes a long way. Jesus knew this. Each parable would build on another until the disciples understood the entire collection.

For us today, understanding God's grace takes study, prayers for wisdom, and walking the path while looking for the small things that matter. The reign of God is like a rose among a bramble bush? A child's picture of their home? However you visualize it, it is a treasure to cherish and to share.

Mustard Seeds and Yeast

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. Matthew 13:34 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:31-33

1. Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

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



MUSTARD
SMALLEST
POUNDS

KINGDOM
HEAVEN
YEAST

GROWS
WOMAN
DOUGH

FLOUR
PARABLE
BIRDS

LARGEST
SIXTY
SEED