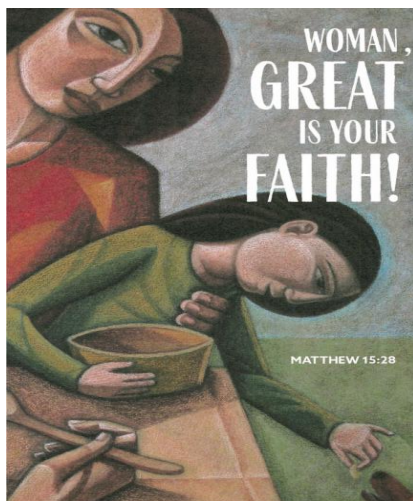




Millcreek Lutheran Church
August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

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: Father of love and mercy, whose blessings come in proportion to our faith: Make firm our faith in your redemptive grace for all people; and break down every barrier which would keep us from your love; that we may find healing for our souls. We pray in our savior's name. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

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

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness**

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can-cled sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
5 To God all glor-y, praise, and love be now and ev-er giv'n



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vails for me.
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

***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)

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67 (read responsively)

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on
earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

***Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

She Came to Jesus

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Slane

ancient Irish ballad



1. She came to Je - sus from out - side the fold—
2. Claim-ing a bless - ing, a touch of God's grace,
3. God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.



Ca - naan - ite wo - man! Per - sis - tent and bold!
 She knew God's love was not bound - ed by place.
 You wel - come dream - ers who faith - ful - ly dare.



Look - ing to Je - sus, she wan - ted to see
 Je - sus, you lis - tened, de - ba - ted— then healed—
 In Christ, now ris - en, your mer - cy ex - tends:



One who would help her and set her child free.
 For in her ask - ing, her faith was re - vealed.
 Those on the out - side are wel - comed as friends.

***The Apostles' Creed**

LBW p. 65

***The Prayers**

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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**

Jesus Shall Reign

LBW# 530

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

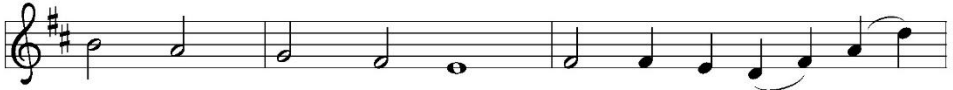
LBW p.74

Postlude

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron'g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God, and to wish Happy 75th Birthday to Linda Ream, from her family.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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, August 16, 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.

MUSIC IN MEMORIAL PARK:

Millcreek Community Group Presents the 2026 Karen Krater Memorial Season:

- 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 must0see Elvis impersonator!

In case of rain, to be held at Living Stones Church (formerly Millcreek Community Center), 229 E. Main St. Newmanstown.

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 August 16- 9:30am regular service with guest Pastor Joel Risser
- Sunday August 23- 9:30am regular service
- Sunday August 30- 9:30am regular service

SUMMER MUSIC:

August 23 - Brian Klinger
September 6- open

August 30 – Brothers in Grace

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: We are happy to share that *\$129,500 has been pledged toward our goal of \$200,000 in our Empowering the Future Capital Campaign.* We will be sharing updates monthly and watch for some additional tax saving/giving opportunities in the coming months. We are fortunate to have a wonderful church family committed to helping us achieve our goals!

SUNDAY SCHOOL has created a new email address: millcreeklutherans@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!

BINGO FUNDRAISER to benefit the Millcreek Memorial Cemetery in Newmanstown. Saturday, August 29th @ 1pm. Millcreek Lutheran Church Multi-Purpose Room- Cash Bingo, Raffle Baskets and Baked goods. Doors open at 12:15. Tickets are \$20 for 20 games. Tickets will be available at the door. There are ad-on games for \$5 that include 3 special games at the end. 50/50 raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Interested in volunteering? We are looking for 2-3 volunteers to help! This is a joint effort with Elias Church in Newmanstown. Please reach out to Jen Miller if interested.

TOP OF THE HILL CLEAN UP Saturday, September 12, 2026 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Please note the time change. The yearbook lists the time as 10am; the time has been moved up an hour. Additional jobs may be added to the list, but this is the current list from which you can select a task. Please contact Nancy Deiter with your selection. email: Indeiter@comcast.net Phone: 717-866-4665 or 717-383-0899

1. ~~Enlarge cut out circle around evergreen tree to the left of the Sunday School entrance & lay mulch.~~
2. ~~Enlarge cut out circle around the little evergreen tree known as "David" that is off the area to the tractor room & lay mulch.~~

3. Clean & weed the bell/cross outdoor area.
4. Sweep furnace room.
5. Sweep & tidy garbage area outside the kitchen.
6. Clean & “spruce up” the council room.
- ~~7. Cut off low & dead branches of maple trees off patio area & pick up branches~~
8. Pull out half dead rosebush in front corner of main entrance & plant a new appropriate bush.
9. Pull out & replace low bushes on either side of front walkway at main entrance.
10. Weed stone beds around all sides of building.
11. Spray stone beds with weed killer once they have been weeded.
- ~~12. Clean & organize janitor’s closet.~~
13. Take Christmas lights off evergreen tree to left of the building & restring so it’s ready for Christmas. The lights are available.
14. Clean the brass standing candelabras so they are wax-free & ready for Christmas season.
15. Move outdoor patio furniture back against the wall in preparation for winter.
16. Give the kitchen & side room floors a good cleaning.

RALLY DAY: Mark your calendars for our annual Rally Day, Sunday September 13th - Connecting and Reconnecting with God's Family. Service will be outdoors followed by a covered dish picnic (MLC will provide the hot dogs), and the Giant Slip N Slide. Lots of Fun to be had with Trivia, Giant Connect Four, Giant Jenga and a Foam Blaster on the slip n slide. We hope you and your family can join us!

LARGE NARTHEX DISPLAY CASE: Do you enjoy showing your creative side? We are looking for a volunteer to assume the role of changing/updating the large display case in the Narthex. Please see Jen Rosengrant or Dara Wolfe for details if interested.

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

Violet Hepler
 Stone Ridge Poplar Run
 450 E. Lincoln Ave.
 Myerstown, PA 17067

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	Stewart Wolf
Portia Lindermuth	Brian Ream	Devon Yiengst	Norm Sharp
Gerry Strickler	Julie Strickler	Aaron Yiengst	Greer Zellers

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

Kaylee Gordon, family member of Jamie Keener
Rev. Althea Seidel
Candy Hibshman, friend of Rachel Mock
Laura Weist, friend of Debbie Tice

Breaking Boundaries

Jesus did not stay within the boundaries of his time, much to the frustration of authorities. He broke through not just geographic boundaries but religious, ethnic, and social boundaries as well.

Jesus intentionally broke geographic and ethnic boundaries in visiting the Canaanite communities of Tyre and Sidon. Canaanites and Jews had often been in conflict, so it was not that surprising when the disciples attempted to prevent a Canaanite woman from seeing Jesus. She was breaking boundaries herself in asking that Jesus heal her child. Jesus' first response seems harsh, but as the woman persisted and acknowledged him as "Lord" (something the disciples had been slow to grasp), he healed her child.

In this encounter, Jesus demonstrated that God's love cannot be held back by boundaries created by humans based on who we are, where we are from, what we have done, our background, our position in society, and more. God's grace and restoration are available to all, with no exceptions.

And yet, history is filled with accounts of bias, discrimination, oppression, segregation, persecution, and genocide. Tragically, this continues today in a multitude of ways and a multitude of places.

As present-day disciples, we are called to follow Christ in breaking boundaries, challenging biases, and welcoming all to celebrate God's love at the font and the table. So, what boundaries do we need to break to work for peace and proclaim the good news? How are we and our congregations fighting bias, discrimination, oppression, and persecution wherever we can? How are we persistently asking Christ to heal and restore fractured communities and nations around the world?

Crumbs from the Table

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Matthew 15:28 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)



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

HEALED
GREAT
DEMON
EAT

DAUGHTER
CRYING
HELP
FAITH

SHEEP
DOGS
TABLE
CRUMBS

FALL
LOST
ISRAEL
SUFFERING

MERCY
JESUS
WOMAN
KNELT