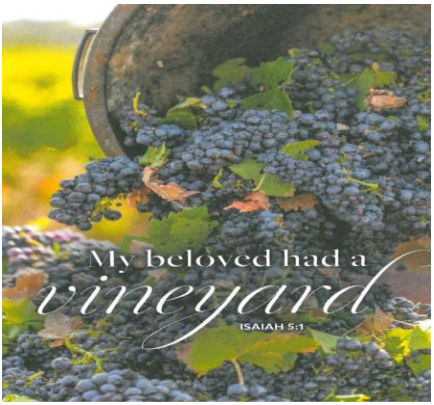


Millcreek Lutheran Church
October 4, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost

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: Eternal God our Heavenly Father, who blesses us with love and life, and who asks us to surrender our lives to you: Give us receptive hearts to your Son, who came to claim us as your children, that we may enjoy your Kingdom forever. 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,	Roy Hoglund
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

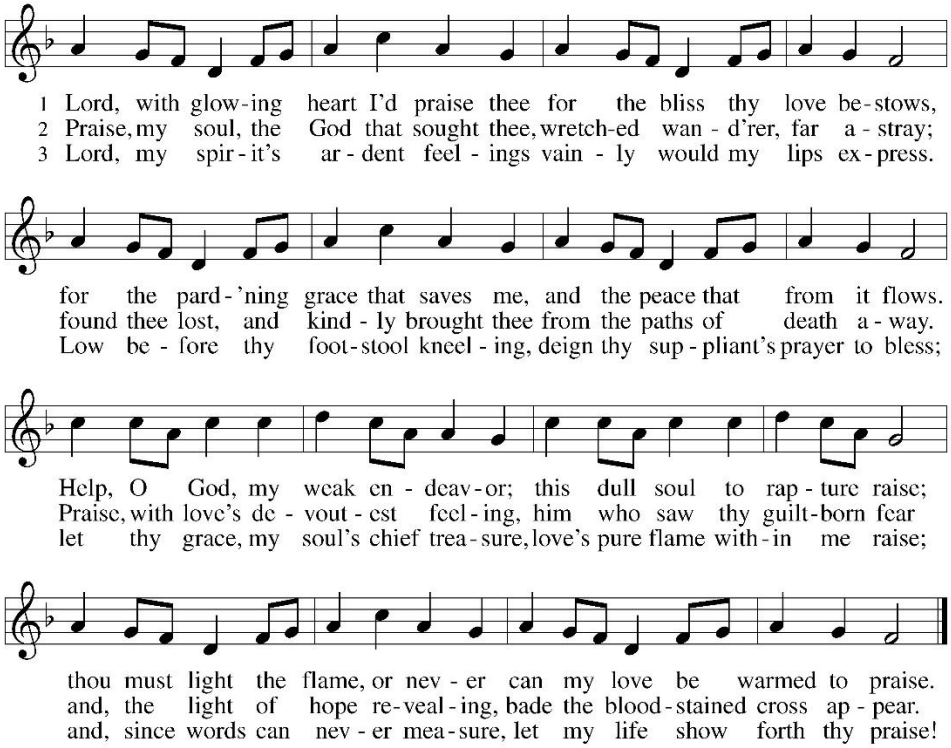
Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness** **LBW p. 56**

Opening Hymn:** ***Lord with Glowing Heart **LBW #243**

Lord, with Glowing Heart



Text: Francis S. Key, 1779–1843
Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, J. Scavitt, *Christian Lyre*, 1831

***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 God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7
1 I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved
had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones and
planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and
hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten
grapes. 3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge
between me and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard

that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? 5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

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

Psalm 80:7-15 (read responsively)

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
8 **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and planted it.
9 You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.
10 **The mountains were covered by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
11 You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.
12 **Why have you broken down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
14 **Turn now, O God of hosts,**
look down from heaven;
15 behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have

laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation, *Alleluia verse **LBW p. 62**

***Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

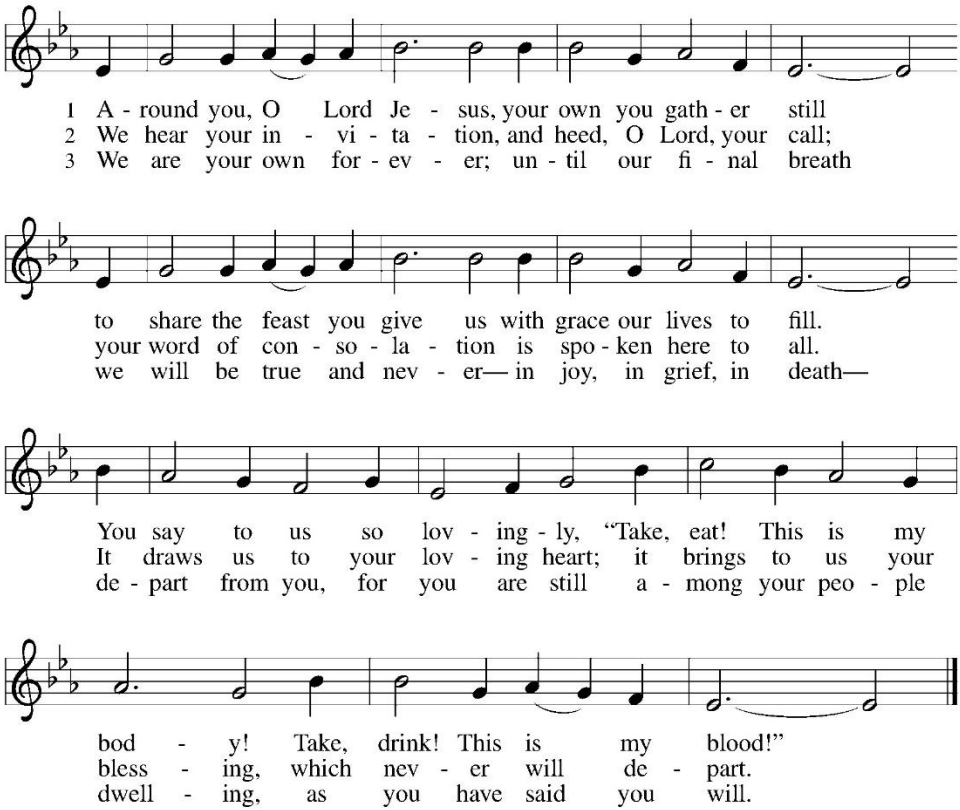
[Jesus said:] 33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."
42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?
43 "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."
45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ***Around You, O Lord Jesus*** **LBW #496**

Around You, O Lord Jesus



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
Music: O JESU, ÄN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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***The Nicene Creed** **LBW p. 64**

Choir Anthem

***The Prayers**

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

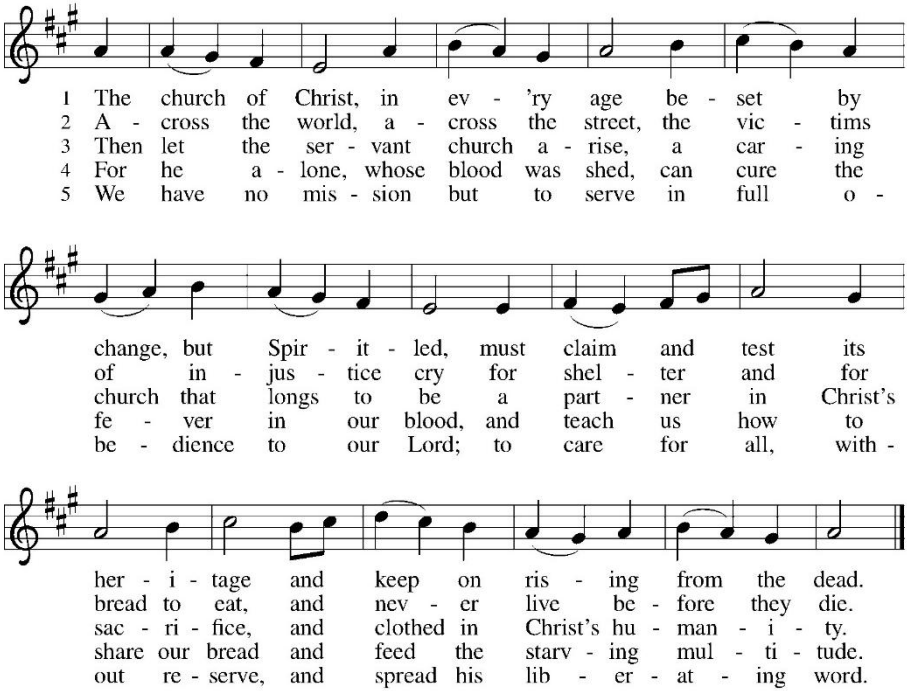
***Communion Blessing** **LBW p.72**

***Post-Communion Prayer** **LBW p.74**

***Blessing:**
The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn** ***The Church of Christ, in Every Age **LBW # 433**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768
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Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal** **LBW p.74**

Postlude

The flowers are given in honor & glory of God, and in honor of Dan & Deb Hogeland's 50th wedding anniversary!



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.



Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Millcreek
LUTHERAN CHURCH
"The Church on the Hill"

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, October 4, 2026

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at **10:15 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

TRUNK OR TREAT: This year's trunk or treat event will take place on Sunday, October 25th from 1-3pm (rain or shine). To make this event a success we need volunteers to decorate their vehicles to hand candy or treats out to the children. We are looking forward to another successful trunk or treat event, but we wouldn't be able to do it without all your help! Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex starting September 27th.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE- OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:
We will be participating in Samaritan's Purse- Operation Christmas Child this year by filling shoe boxes for children who would otherwise not receive any gifts at Christmas. There are brochures and labels in the narthex with instructions. (Please read them carefully as there are restrictions as to what can be included in the shoe boxes.) There are also pre-printed shoe boxes that can be assembled, or you can wrap a shoe box of your own, just make sure the lid can be opened. Finished shoe boxes should be placed on the table in the multi-purpose room. If you are including the shipping charges, it is $10 per box, payable to Samaritan's Purse (put your check in an envelope inside your box) or you can refer to the instructions in the brochure to donate online. The deadline for completed boxes is Sunday, November 8, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610) 589-5501.

Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Congregation

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

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday October 4- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am communion service
- Sunday October 11- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am Blessing of the Pets outside service, weather permitting
- Sunday October 18- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am regular service
- Sunday October 25- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am communion service. Trunk or Treat 1-3pm

General Fund- September Offerings

Current offerings:	4,805
Plate	340
Bldg. Rental	40
Baked Goods	28

Flowers	90
Bulletins	20
World Hunger	100
Capital Campaign	4,100
Total:	**$9,523**

CHURCH BREAKFAST will be Oct. 10th, at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at 8:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome with no reservations needed. Inform the hostess of the group you are looking for and she will direct you to our table. You can choose to come every month or only on an occasion. Either way, we'd love for you to be part of our group.

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

Franklin Bergman
Linden Village
100 Tuck Street
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	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
Candy Hibshman, friend of Rachel Mock
Pat Ontkos, friend of MLC
Gary, friend of Kristin Bender

One Word: *Jesus*

The tennis team had a word for the season: *rally*. That one word centered everything: "Extend each rally." "Rally when you're down." "Rally back after a rough week." Each practice began with the word "Rally" at the top of the chalkboard above the conditioning drills. The huddle before each meet was broken with the shout "Rally!" And it wasn't just on the team. At night, when the coach's family sat down to dinner, they all shared what they'd done that day to "rally" in their lives. Everything and everyone was centered, gathered around that one word. In our lives of faith, that one word is *Jesus*.

Jesus reminds his hearers that he is the cornerstone of faith: for the Pharisees, for the rest of the crowd gathered at the temple that day, and for us, the church here and now. The grace we find in Jesus' love—the love that goes to the cross, to the empty tomb, and even beyond for us and our salvation—is the bedrock of our faith as we live out the life to which we are called in baptism. *Jesus* is the one word—indeed, Jesus is the Word—that gathers us together, that centers our lives.

United to Jesus, the cornerstone of our lives, in baptism, we are also united with one another. Today's parable certainly showcases what human division can be and do at its worst, but in Jesus, we are not divided. Where division causes hurt and suffering, unity in Jesus brings hope, healing, and restoration. Where hope seems lost, Jesus rekindles that flame. Centered and united around Jesus' baptismal grace, we are empowered and emboldened to proclaim the good news of Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith.

Cover: Red Primitivo grapes near Salento, Italy. Photo by Cosmo Calabrese. Copyright © 2025 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images/Moment Collection. Used by permission.

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The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. Matthew 21:37 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)



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

LISTEN	WATCHTOWER	PARABLE	SON	SERVANTS
SENT	WALL	HARVEST	KILLED	COLLECT
BUILT	LANDOWNER	LAST	TIME	FARMERS
DUG	FRUIT	REJECTED	VINEYARD	JOURNEY