

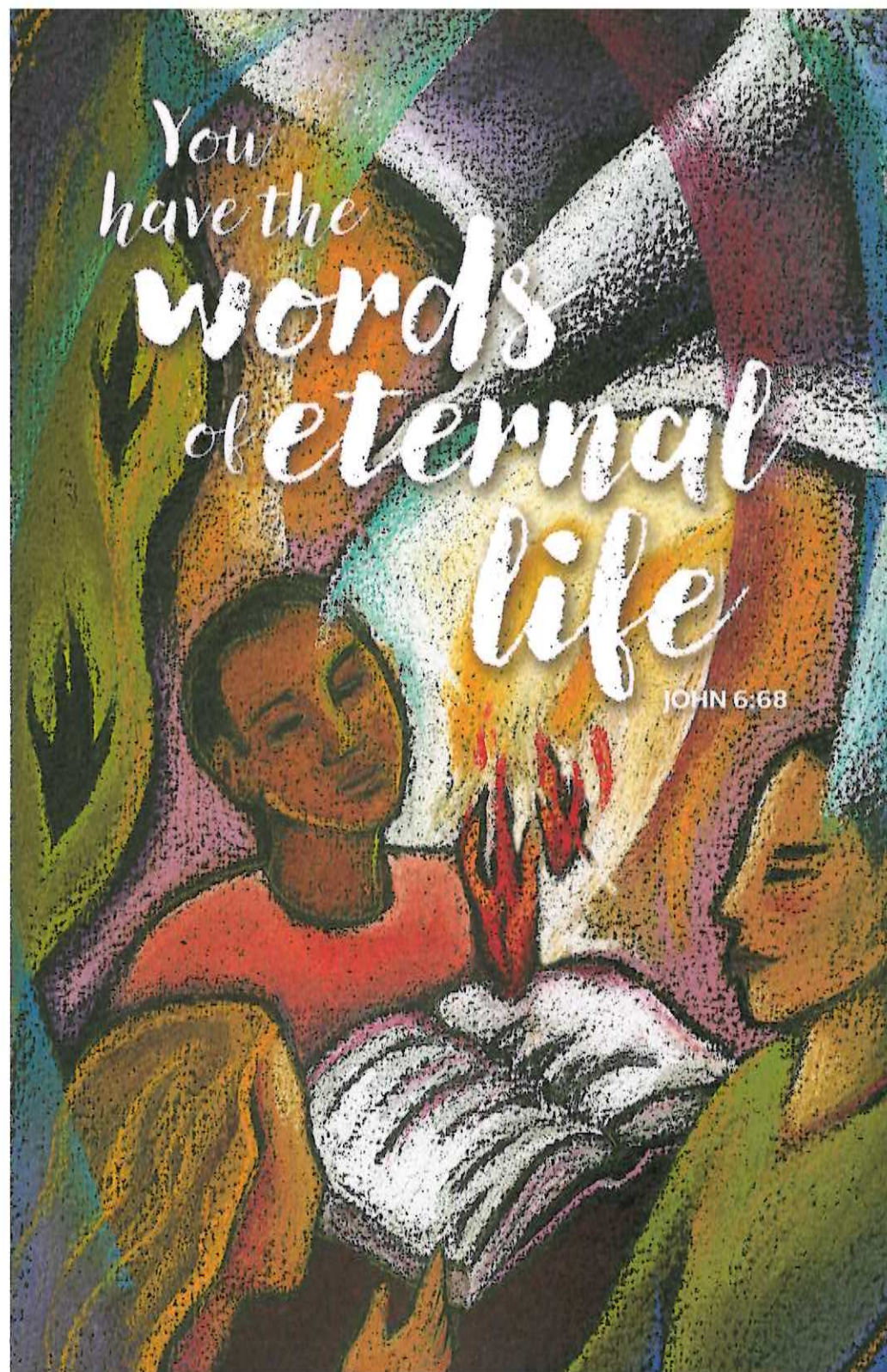
Questions Remain

Throughout his time on earth, Jesus taught the disciples what it means to follow him, delving deeper into difficult concepts with each step toward the cross. Jesus' thought-provoking and life-changing words challenged existing wisdom, stretching the boundaries of belief, forcing each person who heard them to reevaluate everything they thought they knew. How could they eat this bread and live forever?

Is it any easier for us to wrap our minds around Jesus' teachings? How do we open our hearts to the mystery of flesh given for us, blood shed for us, and bread come down from heaven when our culture insists that there is a simple black-and-white answer to every question? Who takes time to slow down and reflect on challenging Bible passages? Can we allow those words we do not understand to just be, to percolate and take root in the fertile soil of Christ's presence until the Spirit can coax a shoot of understanding to spring forth and grow into the light?

Too many unanswered questions weighed heavily on some of Jesus' followers. They wanted out; it was too difficult. They turned back to the safety of familiar routines and comfortable ideologies, prompting Jesus to wonder if all the disciples would abandon him. "Do you also wish to go away?" he asked the twelve (John 6:67). He asks the same question of us today whenever the circumstances of our lives challenge our faith, whenever our hearts are broken and our bodies exhausted, whenever it feels like we cannot take another step. Will we trust in Jesus' promise that his words are spirit and life? Do we believe he is the Holy One of God?

Questions remain, but the good news is that God's love is stronger than our doubts and fears, calling us back to worship, filling us with strength, and giving us peace in the midst of uncertainty.



You
have the
words
of eternal
life

JOHN 6:68

Millcreek Lutheran Church
14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 25, 2024

Welcome, friends in Christ! We appreciate your presence here today. 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, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Gracious Father, who desires true devotion from your children instead of rituals which allow them to pretend with their faith: Cleanse our hearts of all false pretenses; that our worship and service may be the fruit of committed love to Christ Jesus our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Service

Prelude of Entrance: *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*,
by Megan Fields, flutist

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation: *People Need the Lord*, by Megan Fields
Written by Greg Nelson and Phil McHugh

*Confession & Forgiveness: (booklet, page 1)

*Opening Hymn: *Praise Him! Praise Him!* (booklet, page 2)

*Greetings: (booklet, page 1)

*Opening Dialogue: (booklet, page 1)

*Hymn of Praise: *Glory Be to God in Heaven* (booklet, page 3)

*Prayer of the Day: On lesson insert (read in unison)

Musical Offering: *I Want to Know You*, by Megan Fields
Written by Chris Quilala

The First Reading: On lesson insert

The Psalmody: On lesson insert (read responsively)

*Alleluia Verse: *Alleluia! Lord and Savior* (booklet, page 3)

*The Gospel: On lesson insert
The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *O Christ the Same* (booklet, page 4)

*The Prayers: (booklet page, 5-6)

*The Lord's Prayer: (booklet page 6)

*Benediction: (booklet, page 6)

*Dismissal: (booklet, page 6)

*Departing Hymn: *Faith of Our Fathers* (booklet, page 7)

Moments of Meditation: Congregation Seated

Postlude

***Please Stand**

The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God, in memory of the Wedding Anniversary of the late Anthony and Mary Ann Caccese by David (in-laws) and Ann Marie Engle (parents).

Megan Fields has been playing the flute, piccolo, and singing for years including in the Cedar Crest Band, the Cedar Crest Concert Choir as well as the Marching Band, Concert Band, and Concert Choir at Shippensburg. Currently Megan plays in the Lebanon Community Band and worship band at Ono United Methodist Church, where she also sings in cantatas and works with children. This is Megan's second time playing at Millcreek and she thanks Julie Strickler for the invitation. Megan is a native of Lebanon, Pennsylvania is currently working on her Master's Degree at Shippensburg University in Special Education with a focus on Intellectual Disabilities. Megan graduated from Cedar Crest High School in 2017 and then from Shippensburg University (BS, Early Childhood and Special Education). Megan is currently entering her third year working in the Lebanon School District, where she works at Lebanon High School as a Life Skills/Autistic Support teacher.

The Millcreek Lutheran Church congregation is grateful you are here to provide the Musical Offering today.



Today's Readings

Sunday, August 25, 2024
14th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

God our refuge, when friends have forsaken us and enemies line all our paths, come quickly to our aid. Lead us out from captivity into the light of your freedom, secured for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

2 Chronicles 36:15–17

^{36:15}The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; ¹⁶but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD against his people became so great that there was no remedy.

Psalmody

Psalm 142

¹I cry to the LORD with my voice;
to the LORD I make loud supplication:
²I pour out my complaint before you
and tell you all my trouble.
³When my spirit languishes within me, you know my path;
in the way wherein I walk they have hidden a trap for me.
⁴I look to my right hand and find no one who knows me;
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for me.
⁵I cry out to you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of
the living."

Continued on reverse....

⁶Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought very low;
save me from those who pursue me, for they are too
strong for me.

⁷Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name;
when you have dealt bountifully with me, the
righteous will gather around me.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1–12

^{5:1}When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then
he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven. ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will
be comforted. ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will
inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed
are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed
are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹"Blessed are
the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

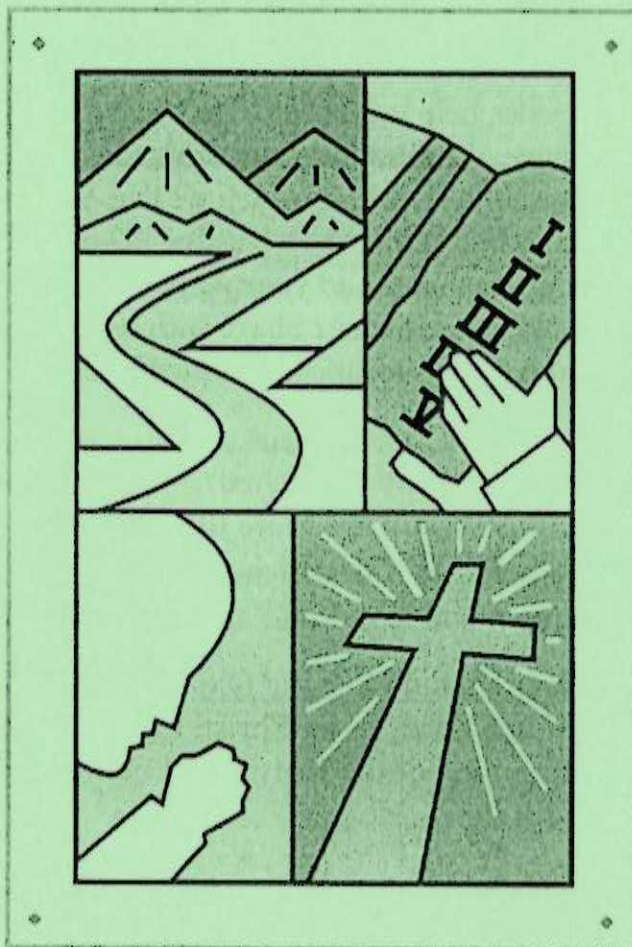
¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute
you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my
account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in
heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets
who were before you.



Worship Booklet

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 25, 2024



A Friendly Reminder: Worship in the Multi-Purpose Room is cool and comfortable, which is a refreshing change for the summer months. However, one of the challenges is that our voices do echo. It is a big help to our worshipping neighbors if we use soft voices for our conversations.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, **help us.** It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. **Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Apostolic Greeting and Opening Dialog

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

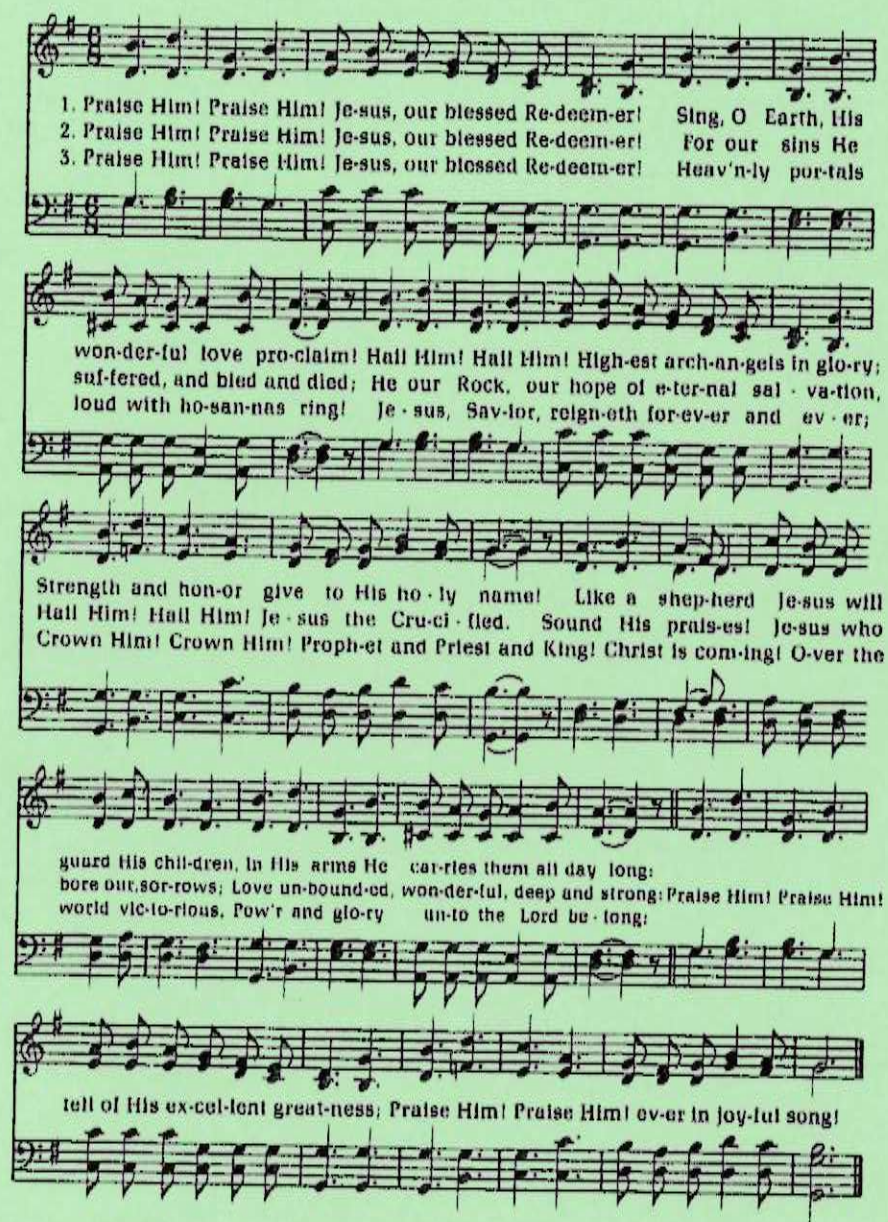
God of our hope, we journey with you.

Stay with us when difficulty comes.

Grant us courage and peace in the face of persecution.

Turn our pain into joy, our mourning into dancing.

Gathering Song: "Praise Him! Praise Him!"



1. Praise Him! Praise Him! Je-sus, our blessed Re-deem-er! Sing, O Earth, His
 2. Praise Him! Praise Him! Je-sus, our blessed Re-deem-er! For our sins He
 3. Praise Him! Praise Him! Je-sus, our blessed Re-deem-er! Heav'n-ly por-tals

won-der-ful love pro-claim! Hall Him! Hall Him! High-est arch-an-gels in glo-ry;
 suf-fered, and bled and died; He our Rock, our hope of e-ter-nal sal - va-tion,
 loud with ho-san-nas ring! Je - sus, Sav-ior, reign-eth for-ev-er and ev - er;

Strength and hon-or give to His ho-ly name! Like a shep-herd Je-sus will
 Hall Him! Hall Him! Je - sus the Cru-ci - fled. Sound His prais-es! Je-sus who
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Proph-et and Priest and King! Christ is com-ing! O-ver the

guard His chil-dren, in His arms He car-ries them all day long;
 bore out, sor-rows; Love un-bound-ed, won-der-ful, deep and strong; Praise Him! Praise Him!
 world vic-to-rious, Pow'r and glo-ry un-to the Lord be-long;

tell of His ex-cel-lent great-ness; Praise Him! Praise Him! ev-er in joy-ful song!

Hymn of Praise: "Glory Be to God in Heaven"



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth,
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love,
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you, Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth;
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, throned on high, yet near to all;

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise,
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand,
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Alleluia Verse: "Alleluia! Lord and Savior"



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing Word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Hymn of the Day: "O Christ the Same"



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old, up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years;
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied;
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain;

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en;
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days,
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour,
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

The Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts—especially those on our congregational prayer list—Hart, Debbie, Violet, Abbie, Shad, the Leibig family, Norm, Julie, Deb, Stewart, Aaron, Devon, Michael, and Greer,. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year—especially in our ELCO School District. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence.

Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys and who now rest in you. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray....

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Benediction

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Sending Song: "Faith of Our Fathers"

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
2 Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is
3 Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too, who still must bear op -
4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who

fire, and sword, Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,
press - ion's might, rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,
fol - low you, shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross

Refrain
when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word, Faith of our fa - thers,
mak - ing love known and free - dom real, Faith of our moth - ers,
the cross of Christ still burn - ing bright, Faith for to - day, O
un - til the world is made a - new, Faith born of God, O

ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.

Though written by a Roman Catholic (Frederick W. Faber) for Roman Catholics in 1849 in a collection titled Jesus and Mary: Or Catholic Hymns for Reading and Singing, Protestants were singing "Faith of Our Fathers" as early as 1862. Most Protestants who have sung "Faith of Our Fathers" have been completely unacquainted with its Roman Catholic origins and have taken it as their own. That means, among other things, that "Fathers," which originally referred to priests, was understood to refer to everyone, which was broadened even further at the end of the twentieth century as in this text by Joseph R. Alfred from 1981.



"The Church on the Hill"

Church Office
(610) 589-2570
secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

221 North Sheridan Road
PO Box 399
Newmanstown, PA 17073
www.millcreeklutheran.com

Pastor Scott Paradise
Home: (717) 628-1241
Cell: (540) 335-1693
pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

Sunday August 25, 2024

Serving You this Morning:

Pastor,	The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
Lay Leader,	Susan Long
Organist, Pianist,	Debra Tice
Lay Reader,	Debra Buffington
Ushers/Audio,	Frank Hoffman & Scott Johnson

You can listen to the worship service over the phone patch at **9:30 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.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

INGATHERING PROJECT: Completed kits are due as well as any sticky note items Sunday, August 25th.

Thank you, Dara Wolfe



FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST will be holding their fall chicken BBQ and bake sale on Friday, September 6. Tickets are \$11 and include chicken, roll, baked potato and applesauce. Pickup time is from 2:30-6:00 pm. Please see Margie for tickets or to give donations of baked goods.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

TOP OF THE HILL CLEANUP: Saturday, September 7, 2024, 10:00-12:00 noon. Please see the flyer included in the announcements.

We will share in the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** Sunday September 1, 2024.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL will meet Sunday the 25th after the worship service.

TREASURER'S REPORT: August 18, 2024 - Current Offerings-\$1,581.00, Plate-184.00, World Hunger-100.00, Total-\$18,65.00. Attendance-55



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will meet for worship at 9:30 AM throughout the summer.

The regular place for summer worship will be the air-conditioned Multi-Purpose Room. (People should bring sweaters if they tend to get chilly.) Worship for the last Sunday of each month will be outdoors on the north side of the building outside the Multi-Purpose Room instead of a parking lot service.

The next service outside is 8-25-24. Weather permitting.

(People can bring their own comfy chairs.)

MILLCREEK SUMMER MUSIC

August 25 – Megan Field, flute

September 1 – Keith Frantz,

September 8 – Picnic Sunday



Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

We are scheduling volunteers for Summer Music. One more opening is available-September 8th.

Any suggestions on musicians for that date can be directed to Debbie Tice.

RALLY DAY ANNUAL PICNIC SUNDAY will take place Sunday September 8th, following the worship service. The kitchen crew and youth will grill and provide the hotdogs and drinks. The congregation is asked to bring sides and desserts. Please plan on staying for the picnic for lots of your goodies and fellowship.



CHILDREN'S TABLE: There is a table in the multi-purpose room for our children. It has children's coloring sheets and crayons and other items for them to work on if they choose to do so during the worship service.

FLOWER & BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Sponsorship of flowers is \$30 and bulletins are \$10. There are still dates available for 2024.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

LEBANON SINGING CEDARS BARBERSHOP CHORUS will present its annual show on Saturday, September 14 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1500 Quentin Rd., Lebanon. Show time is 7:00 PM. This year's show is a Mardi Gras theme. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased from Roy Hoglund (717-228-8175) or any other chorus member, or at the door.

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

Lorraine Eberly, 118 Memorial Blvd. Newmanstown, PA 17073

IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or 610-589-2570

NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Tina Kale, Stacy Negron (Friends of Linda Hable), Mike Nelson, Doug Lowry (Friends of Kristin Bender), Bonnie Rittle (Friend of Greta McMullan), John Tschudy (Relative of Mary Ream)

Top of the Hill Clean-Up
Saturday, September 7, 2024
10:00-12:00 noon

1. Sweep furnace room
2. Trim bushes
3. Clean bell/wheel & winterize flower bed in planter
4. Clean doors & light fixtures at Sunday School entrance
5. Clean doors/glass above doors & light fixtures at main entrance
6. Clean sanctuary windows inside & outside
7. Clean kneeling pads & linoleum under sanctuary pews
8. Clean & organize shelves & floor in Narthex utility room



These are some of the jobs we'll be working on. There are a few people within the church who have their own personal space. This is a great time for those people to focus on their own personal area. It is hard for us to clean & tidy another person's space without disrupting their organization.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the kitchen for you to enjoy as a break.

Some cleaning supplies will be provided but it helps if you bring the cleaning supplies along that you like to use.

I hope you're able to join us on the hill as we get our church ready to begin a new church year.

Nancy Deiter