

What Would Jesus Do?

At the outset, rules seem simple. They divide the world into good and bad and help us restore a measure of order to a chaotic world. Unfortunately, the same rules that we use to bring order out of chaos are often insufficient to deal with the complexity of our lives, which is one of the reasons there truly is an exception to every rule. This is also the reason we appoint judges: to interpret the law when it fails to adequately address the circumstance to which it is applied.

In Jesus' day the Pharisees and scribes were known for their strict observance of the law. So when they notice the disciples of Jesus eating with defiled hands, the Pharisees and scribes bring this perceived breach of the law to Jesus' attention. The law itself, which requires that people wash their hands before eating, originated from ancient purity laws. Jesus understands this and simultaneously upholds and reframes the law by drawing his listeners' attention away from the washing of hands to what truly defiles. In doing so, Jesus acts as a judge and offers an interpretation of the law that both upholds its original intent of purity and absolves the disciples of wrongdoing. At the same time, he exposes the prioritization of human precepts over God's command and reminds us of God's sovereignty and compassion.

Rules are simple, but our world is not. Through the incarnation, the Word made flesh, God meets us at the intersection of law and life. In Jesus, God the judge enters our world in a new way and interprets the law. And through Jesus, we come to understand God's will in a messy world. Therefore, if we as Christians truly want to live out the will of God, we do well to start with that old and simple question "What would Jesus do?"

Be doers of the **Word**

JAMES 1:22



Millcreek Lutheran Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024

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, fill out a visitor's card and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Father in Heaven, whose gift of faith requires not only that we believe in you, but that we also put our belief into action: Motivate us in active discipleship, that we may demonstrate the sincerity of our faith. In our Savior's name we pray. Amen.

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation: *Day by Day, Keith Frantz on baritone*

Written by Oskar Ahnfelt (arr. by Dick Bolks and Joseph Lin)

*Confession & Forgiveness (on screen)

*Opening Hymn: *For the Beauty of the Earth* (on screen)

*Greetings: (on screen)

Opening Dialogue (on screen)

*Hymn of Praise: *Glory Be to God in Heaven* (on screen)

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

The First Reading: On lesson insert

The Psalmody: On lesson insert (read responsively)

The Second Reading: On lesson insert

*Alleluia Verse: *Alleluia! Lord and Savior*, (on screen)

*The Gospel: On lesson insert

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Take My Life, That I May Be* (on screen)

*The Prayers: (on screen)

*The Greeting of Peace: (on screen)

Musical Offering: *Wonderful Grace Medley*,

Keith Frantz on baritone

Medley includes-Wonderful Grace of Jesus, It Is a Glory Just to Walk with Him, and My Wonderful Lord (arr. by Joseph Linn)

*The Great Thanksgiving: (on screen)

*The Lord's Prayer: (on screen)

Holy Communion (continuous manner)

*Post Communion Prayer: (on screen)

*Benediction: (on screen)

Dismissal: (on screen)

*Departing Hymn: *Savior, Again in Your Dear Name* (on screen)

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude

***Please stand**

Serving You This Morning:

Pastor,

The Rev. Scott J. Paradise

Lay Leader,

Susan Long

Organist/Pianist,

Debra Tice

Lay Reader,

Dara Wolfe

Ushers, Audio,

Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in loving memory of Stacey Pennington by her family.

The bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in loving memory of Eddie Wolfe by Dara.

The congregation wishes to thank Keith Frantz for providing the Musical Offering and for sharing his talent with us this morning.



Today's Readings

Sunday, September 1, 2024

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

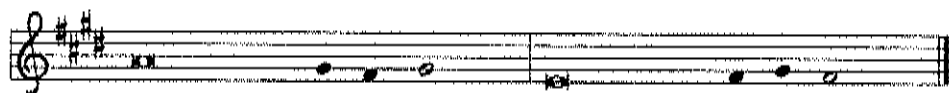
⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say,

"Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Psalm

Psalm 15; tone 5



LORD, who may dwell
in your ¹ tabernacle?
Who may abide upon
your ¹ holy hill?

²Those who lead a blameless life
and do ¹ what is right,
who speak the truth
¹ from their heart;

³they do not slander with the tongue,
they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit
up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those
who ¹ fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health
and do not take ¹ back their word.

⁵They do not give their money
in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes
a- ¹ gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things
shall never be ¹ overthrown.

Second Reading

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with
their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as
doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile . . .

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

TODAY'S READINGS September 1, 2024 (Lectionary 22)

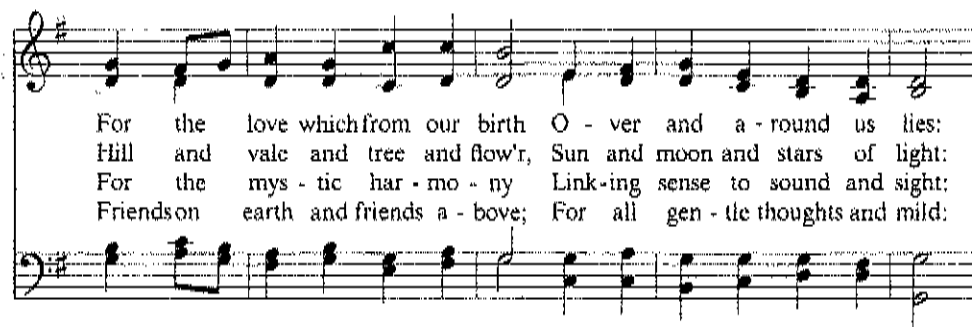
Volume 55, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 36:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-10 (11-13); 14-17; Mark 7:24-37.

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1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:
 Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon and stars of light:
 For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 Friendson earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:

Refrain



Christ, our Lord, to you we raise This our sac - ri - fice of praise.

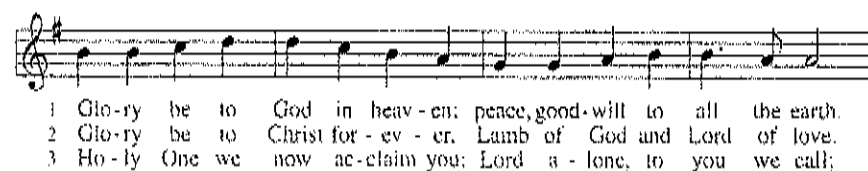
5 For yourself, best gift divine
 To the world so freely giv'n;

Agent of God's grand design,
 Peace on earth and joy in heav'n; *Refrain*

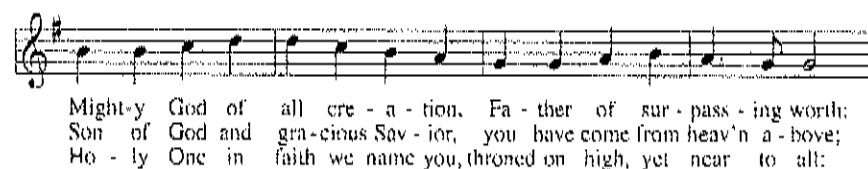
Text: Polihoff S. Pierpoint, 1855-1917, alt.
 Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

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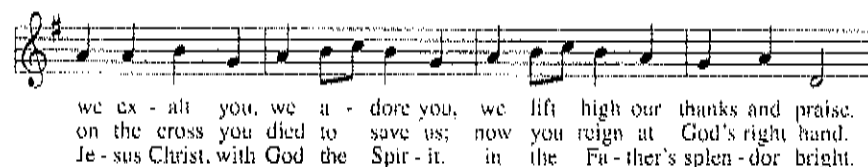
Glory Be to God in Heaven



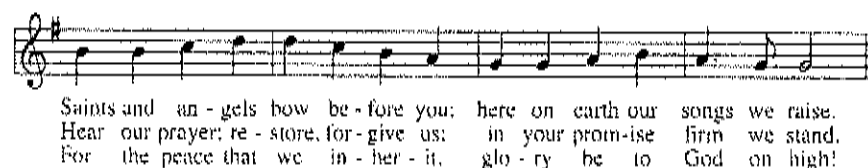
1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



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.

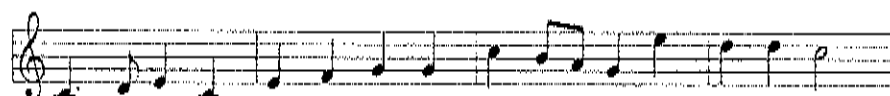


Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Text: Martin A. Selitz, b. 1951, based on "Gloria in excelsis Deo"
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

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.

Text: Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

Take My Life, that I May Be

406



- 1 Take my life, that I may be Con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



- Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

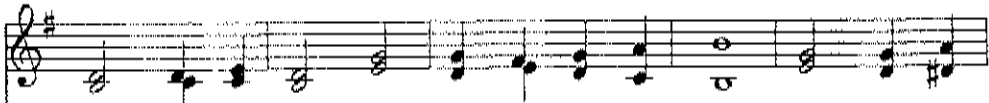


- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
 It shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 It shall be thy royal throne.



- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 At thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870



PATMOS
777




1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise With one ac -
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home-ward way; With you be -
 3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night; For us trans -
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life, Our balm in

cord our part - ing hymn of praise; Once more we bless you
 gan, with you shall end the day; Guard all the lips from
 form its dark - ness in - to light. Keep us from harm and
 sor - row, and our stay in strife; Then, when your voice shall

ere our wor - ship cease, Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.
 sin, the hearts from shame, That in this house have called up - on your name.
 dan - ger till the dawn; Your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.
 bid our con - flict cease, Call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.





"The Church on the Hill"

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Cell: (540) 335-1693
pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

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

Sunday September 1, 2024

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



BLOOD DRIVE INFORMATON for September 19th can be found on the yellow insert.

INGATHERING PROJECT: Completed health kits are due as well as any sticky note items you may need to bring to the church.
Thank you, Dara Wolfe

SHOE BOX PROJECT: 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 preprinted 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 the completed boxes is Sunday, November 3, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610-589-5505) or Pat Ontkos (610-589-4350). Thank you, Lisa & Pat



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

SUMMER WORSHIP at 9:30 a.m. will end Sunday September 1. We will meet in the air conditioned Multi-Purpose room one more time at 9:30 a.m. (People should bring sweaters if they tend to get chilly.)

***Sunday, September 8th** we will meet for worship at 10:15 outside, for Rally Day. Weather permitting. (People can bring their own comfy chairs.)*



Sunday School Rally Day will be on Sunday Sept 8th at 9:00 a.m. The Sunday school teachers have put together a Wild, Wild, West theme that will include games, crafts, a story and a snack. We want to welcome all Sunday school students to attend this fun morning with us. Please remember to bring book bags along to church as Pastor Scott will be blessing them during the service. Reminder for parents regular Sunday school classes will resume on Sept 15th at 9:00 a.m.

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.



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

TREASURER'S REPORT: August 25, 2024 - Current Offerings-\$2,411.00, Plate-42.00, Bulletins-10.00, Flowers-30.00, Recycle-13.00. **Total-\$2,506.00.** Attendance-54



MILLCREEK SUMMER MUSIC: One more opening is available, September 8th- Picnic Sunday. Any suggestions on musicians for that date can be directed to Debbie Tice

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

Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA has many activities taking place from October through Christmas. Includes Nawakwa, Kirchenwald and The Wittel Farm. You may find the information at LutheranCamping.org.

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:

Elaine Hemperly, Linden Village Stoy Cottage, 100 Tuck Street, Lebanon, PA 17042

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 Pottenger, 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)



A pair of sunglasses were found after the outside service last Sunday. They are on the table in the narthex for you to claim if they are yours.

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

1. Clean sanctuary windows inside & outside
2. Clean kneeling pads & linoleum under sanctuary pews
3. Clean wax off tall brass candelabras in Narthex
4. Apply sealer to 2 benches at S.S. entrance
5. Thorough sweeping of Sanctuary carpeting
6. Clean top of altar & "pledge" altar railings



The people offering to help clean on their own time has been amazing. Many of the originally posted jobs have been completed & removed from my list. The new listing that we will tackle on the 7th appear above. The building & grounds are looking great! Thank you everyone for working together to keep our church on the hill looking good.

Coffee & doughnuts will be available on the 7th in the kitchen for you to enjoy as a break.

Some cleaning supplies will be provided but it helps if you bring the supplies along you like to use. An extra ladder will be helpful.

Thank you...I hope to see you on September 7th,

Nancy Deiter

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, September 19th • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive a Papa John's buy one Large Pizza get one FREE certificate & a Bag of Seasonal Pancake Mix!



3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to 717GiveBlood.org & click on
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code

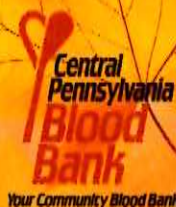
DONATE NOW



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

A form of ID is **REQUIRED** to donate

- We strongly 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.



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



WWW.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/PA0679

PARICH-Richland Cemetery

Richland Post 880 & Heritage Society

2024

**We are starting our Campaign
“Sponsor a Wreath” for are 165
Veterans 2024 we need your support!
Buy 2 get one free!**

Sponsorship Group ID PA0679

Coordinator's contact

26 N Race St. POBox 509 Richland Pa. 17087

Gary Althouse Sr. 717-866-7050

Charlotte Peffley 717-507-7152