

Millcreek Lutheran Church
Newmanstown, Pennsylvania



**CELEBRATE
PRAISE
GIVE**

Sunday, September 15, 2024
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Every September, Millcreek Lutheran Church continues the Pennsylvania Dutch tradition of "Harvest Home." Although the service is no longer in High German, our gifts are no longer homemade – nor given to the minister – the central focus "to celebrate and praise God's goodness" and give food "to poor families in the neighborhood" remains unchanged. Gifts of food and money collected today will be used to help our neighbors facing the challenges of food insecurity. Thank you for being generous!

About Harvest Home

"Since the Pennsylvania Germans were a religious people who placed their trust in God, they knew that without the help of the Heavenly Father there would not be any food. So, when the harvest was gathered sometime in late summer or early fall, they had a special service called Harvest Home or *Die Am Karrich* set aside to praise and celebrate God's goodness to them in harvest time. Pennsylvania Harvest Home was more important to the Pennsylvania Dutch farmers than November's Thanksgiving. In fact, before Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day, the Harvest Home celebration was the chief thanksgiving among our ancestors. It was the custom of the Pennsylvania Dutch to display the fruits of the field, garden and orchard around the altar to thank God for the harvest. Parishioners brought sheaves of wheat and corn stalks to decorate the display of pumpkins, squash, homemade preserves, ears of corn, clusters of grapes, homemade bread, and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. The entire service was conducted in High German – the singing of the hymns and the sermon were delivered in High German. After the service, the display was dismantled and often given to the minister, whose salary was meager, or to poor families in the neighborhood."

Source: Gladys M. Lutz in *Folk Art Memories: The Folklife Illustrations of Gladys M. Lutz*, The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University, 2014.

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come. Ho - ly Spir - it, come



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come. Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

We Gather to Celebrate the Harvest

Opening Dialog and Prayer (standing)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

For the sun giving heat and light making our crops grow and ripen. For the clouds supplying rain to water the fields and fill the rivers and streams.

Generous God, we thank you.

For the soil feeding and holding the crops we grow. For the seas giving fish to delight our eyes and palates.

Generous God, we thank you.

For the animals that provide milk to drink and food to eat. For the flowers with scents that delight us and beauty that gives us joy.

Generous God, we thank you.

For the trees giving fruit from their branches and wood to make so many different things. For the depths of the earth yielding metals and minerals.

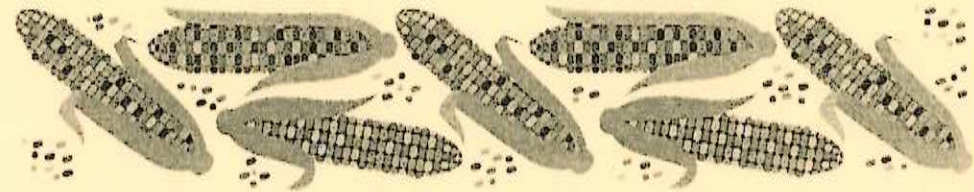
Generous God, we thank you.

For Jesus who broke bread to feed a hungry crowd; who died and rose again to help us offer a harvest of kindness.

Generous God, we thank you.

Let us pray. O Lord, **you have given us so much. We thank you for all your kindness. Help us to be fruitful in our lives. May there be a great harvest of good from the love that you have shown us. Amen.**

This Dialog and Prayer are the work of Simon Taylor.



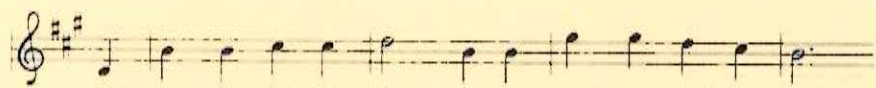
Gathering Song: "We Plow the Fields and Scatter" (standing)



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far,
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You plant the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star,
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed,
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love in - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain,
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread,
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts

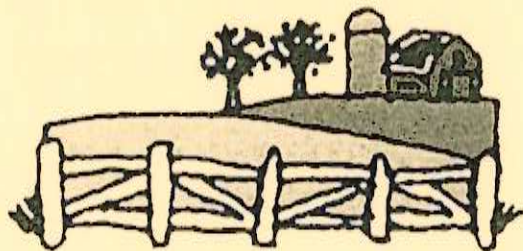
Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.



We Praise God in Word and Song

Children's Sermon (seated)

First Reading (seated)

A reading from Isaiah [50:7–9a].

^{50:7}The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody (seated)

^{116:1}I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
²for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.
³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of
the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name of the LORD:

"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous;

our God is full of compassion.

⁶The LORD watches over the innocent;

I was brought low, and God saved me.

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.

for the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸For you have rescued my life from death,

my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;

⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD

in the land of the living.

Gospel Reading (seated)

The holy gospel according to Mark [8:27–38].

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{8:27}Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴[Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

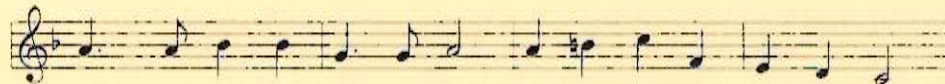
Sermon (seated)

Hymn of the Day: "Come, You Thankful People, Come" (seated)

During this song, those who have brought non-perishable food items may bring them forward and add them to the display. We will bless them following the song before sending them off to help our neighbors facing food insecurity.



1 Come, you thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield.
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home.
4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to your fi-nal har-vest home.



All is safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
Wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way.
Gath-er all your peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin.



God, our mak-er, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear.
give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast
there, for-ev-er pu-n-ished, in your gar-net to a-bide.



Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be
but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-net ev-er-more
Come, with all your an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home!



Prayer of Dedication (seated)

May we be the blessing:
may we be the justice in the harvest.

the sharing in the community,
the hope in the neighborhood.

May the gift of our selves
be a blessing to many.

May we be the change the world needs:

the light in the shadows,
the truth in the darkness,
the healing in the hurt.

May our gift of our selves
be a blessing to the world.

For we need to be no other than our selves.

It is enough.

This prayer is adapted from the work of Roddy Hamilton.

Musical Offering (seated)

Intercessory Prayers and Lord's Prayer (standing)

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. [A brief silence.]

We pray for the church throughout the world.
Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to

embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with insecurities in hunger and housing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve – especially those on our congregational prayer list – Hart, Marion, Debbie, Violet, Abbie, Shad, the Leibig family, Ron, Barbara, Norm, John, Deb, Stewart, Ginny, Aaron, Devon, Michael, and Greer. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the

education of young people – especially within our ELCO School District. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the leaders, clergy, and members of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania. May you grant them your wisdom, strength, and compassion as they strive to fulfill their mission. Grant them discernment to recognize the needs of their communities and the courage to address them with love and humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior, 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.

We Are Sent to Help Our Neighbors in Need

Benediction and Dismissal (standing)

In our sowing and our harvesting, in our cooking
 and our eating. Let us

Till the earth gently, fish the seas wisely, tend
 to the animals lovingly, share with the hungry
 generously, enjoy the food thankfully, praise
 the giver abundantly.

So may the Father who provides for all creation,
 the Son who encompasses God's most holy mercy,
 the Spirit who gives breath to all living things
 bless our lives with goodness and guide us in
 generous living.

Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
 Thanks be to God.

Sending Song: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" (standing)

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, Lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2. O how sweet to walk In this pil-grim-way, Lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,
 Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing on Je-sus,
 Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

lean-ing. Safe and se-cure from all a-larms, Lean-ing on
 lean-ing on Je-sus. Lean-ing on

ing, lean-ing. Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus.

Moments of Meditation (seated)

Postlude

In the Lower Susquehanna Synod, we equip leaders, encourage cooperation, and engage in new mission, all for the sake of sharing God's love in the world; our bishop serves as the spiritual and



administrative leader in this work. In June 2025, we will elect a new bishop as Bishop Dunlop wraps up his second term and steps into retirement. Electing a bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of a synod. As such, it involves discernment, from the perspective of individual potential nominees and the synod as a whole. Thus, engaging in prayerful reflection and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit are critical aspects of the process of nomination and election.

To support this journey, we are inviting the Lower Susquehanna Synod to participate in a year of prayer. Weekly prayer petitions, hymn selections, and other resources have been created to unite us within our local settings. We hope our year of prayer meaningfully guides us into the next chapter of our ministry together.



"God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."
(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

"Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like." (Martin Luther's Large Catechism)

We recite this line every week at church, "Give us this day our daily bread." But what is "daily bread?" As you can see in Luther's explanation, we are fed by more than just physical food.

When we pray for our "daily bread," we trust that God has provided everything we need and that God has given us enough for everyone. One way to think about this is as "God's abundance." Abundance means more than enough. Often, it's easy to think that there isn't enough for everyone and that if one person gains another person must lose. This is called scarcity. As Christians, we are called to respond to claims of scarcity by preaching God's abundance.

Scarcity often draws us into conflicts with our neighbors. Abundance, on the other hand, draws us toward more creative ways of sharing with each other. Abundance builds community; scarcity breaks it down.



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

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

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

Our Mission

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

Sunday September 15, 2024

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.

Serving You this Morning:

**Pastor,
Lay Leader,
Organist, Pianist,
Lay Reader,
Ushers/Audio,**

**The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
Susan Long
Debra Tice
David Staaby
Frank Hoffman & Scott Johnson**



The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Lillian Engle by the family.

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



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

STACEY'S TOY DRIVE:

Since 2016, the Seldomridge/Pennington/O'Connor family has held an annual toy drive in honor of Stacey, who was tragically killed in an act of domestic violence. Toys for Tots was her favorite charity and we have dedicated ourselves to carry on this tradition and continue her legacy through an annual toy drive in her remembrance. This year is our 9th annual toy drive and all collected toys will be given directly to the children of Queen Anne's County, MD (home of Lindsay, Stacey's sister). We hope you will consider donating a new, unwrapped toy for donation (ages 0-12) that can be brought to the church. Stephanie Seldomridge will transport the toys to Lindsay in mid-October.



If you prefer to order on Amazon or elsewhere, you can ship directly to Lindsay O'Connor at 321 Narnia Drive, S Grasonville, MD 21638.

Thank you for helping to keep Stacey's legacy alive and for helping the kids of Queen Anne's County. Thanks, Debbie Tice



Trunk or treat will be held on Sunday 10/27 from 1-3 pm. Please come and decorate your vehicle and hand candy out to the trick or treaters. Also, you can help by making donations. The sign-up sheets are in the Narthex on the table. We are in need of hot dogs, hot dog buns and candy. See Nikki Johnson for more information. Thank you.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

HARVEST HOME is Sunday, September 15. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items for our annual collection during worship.

TREASURER'S REPORT: September 8, 2024- Current Offerings-\$870.00, Plate-48.00, Flowers-30.00, Bulletins-10.00, MP Rental-50.00. Total-\$1,008.00. Attendance-58 Sunday School-21

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER: Deadline for items you want in the church newsletter for October 2024 is Sunday, September 15. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com. Items may also be submitted by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone.

LOOKING FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN MAKING MUSIC & FRIENDS!

Yes, it's time for the choir to get started. Rehearsal will be Thursday evenings @ 7 pm in the choir room. All are welcome - from middle school and up! Two new members found us last year and we would love to have more! If the night is not good for you, let me know and we can work on another time. After 50+ years of Wednesday nights, we have reworked our schedule to fit whatever works for our members. We sing most Sundays, special occasions and other times as needed. Questions - talk to Debbie Tice or any choir member!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE will meet Wednesday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m.

LAYREADERS REQUESTED: We have a nice group of readers on the lay reader list, but I would like a few more lectors in addition to the present list. Please contact me if you would be interested by putting a note in the secretary slot in the office, call 610-589-2570, or email me Secretary@millcreeklutheran.com. Thank you, Linda Sheetz



The Nursery at Millcreek is open during the church service. Ages accepted are 0-8 years old (once your child moves to third grade, they are encouraged to sit in the church with their parent(s)). If you would like to reach out to me personally, either to help volunteer in the Nursery, to ask questions, or speak with me regarding specifics for your child/children, contact me by phone at 717-639-4767, or by email stephselah0125@gmail.com. I am looking forward to caring for your child in the nursery.

Nursery Note: September 22nd I will not be available to care for children in the nursery. You are welcome to use the nursery during the worship service, however in my absence, it will under your supervision. Stephanie Sheetz

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

CROSS STITCH ITEMS: Please see Mary Ream if you do cross stitch. She has an abundance of supplies she would like to share with you.



THYME WITH DEBBIE: September 17, 2024. Classes are held at Millcreek Lutheran Church from 10 AM to 12 PM with a cost of \$23.00. The next class is listed below. To register for a class or for any questions, please contact Debbie at 484-577-6695 or at thymewithdebbie@gmail.com.

Topic this month: Sweet Talking Sweet Herbs

Description: Herbs can walk the path of sweetness as well as savory. This class will focus on how to use herbs, either fresh, frozen or dried, in ways that add their special nuance to whatever you are creating. From baking to fruits, herbs have a place to add their special touch. Come and join us for a walk down the path of sweetness.

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

Earl (Shad) Kreitz, 205 Memorial Drive, PO Box 233, Richland, PA 17087

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, Ginny Wolfe, 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 (friend of Kristin Bender), Bonnie Rittle (friend of Greta McMullan), John Tshudy (relative of Mary Ream), Lisa Light, Katelyn Smith (friends of Debbie Tice).

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

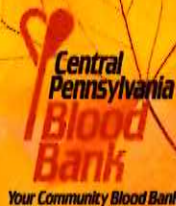
DONATE NOW



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