

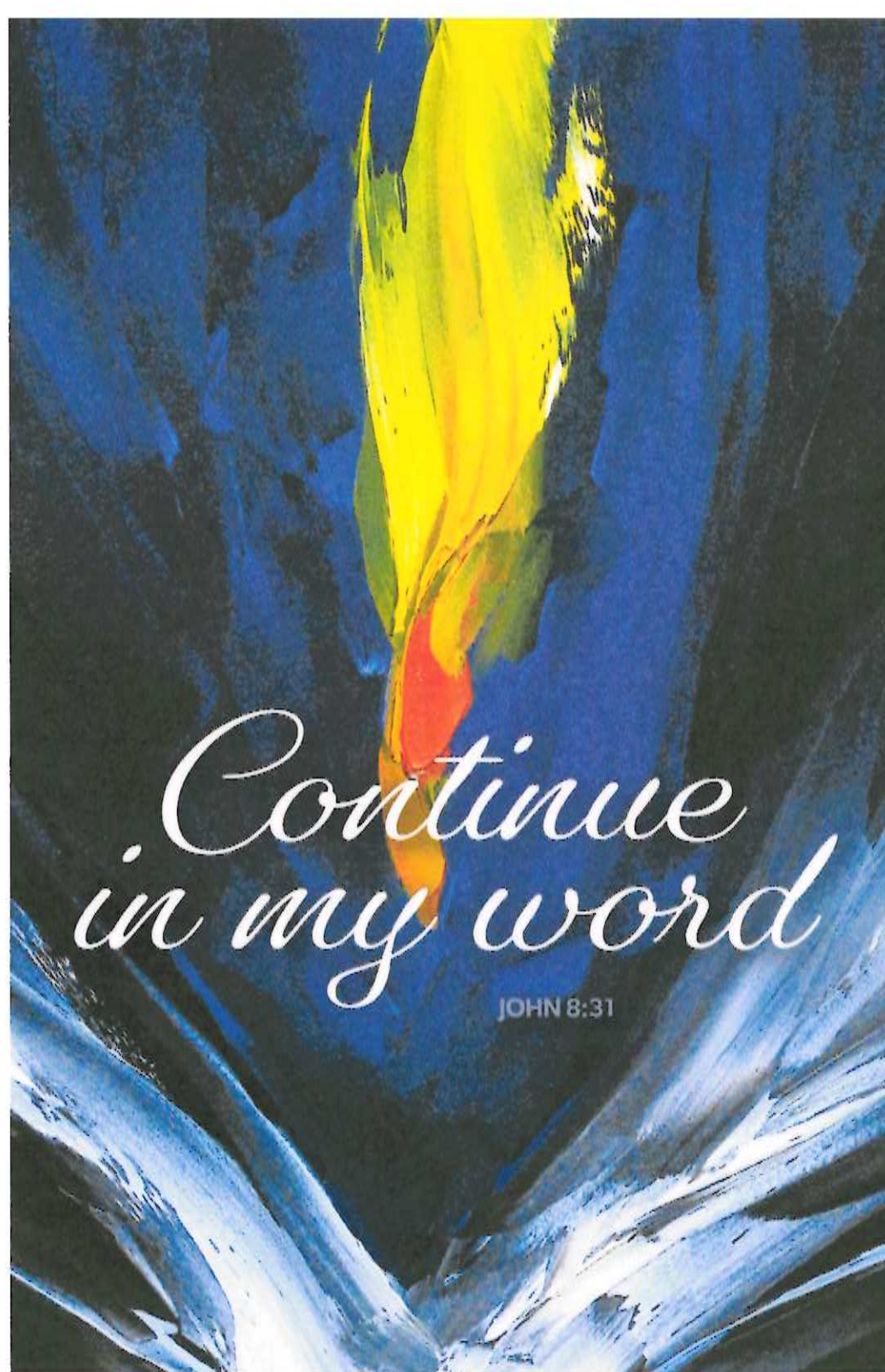
You Are Truly Free

But we have never been slaves to anyone,” the crowd tells Jesus after he proclaims his message of freedom. One wonders why it was so difficult for them to comprehend the offer he was talking about, given the Roman occupiers who controlled much of their lives. Then again, many of us also find it hard to relate to the need for freedom from captivity, so certain are we that we are fully free. If we were honest, we’d recognize the many things that hold our focus and stop us from experiencing life to its fullest: news headlines, health concerns, our jobs, economic and social structures that bind us all.

Jesus’ proclamation to this crowd reminds us that there will always be things vying for control of our lives, but the gospel invites us to center ourselves instead in Jesus, the truth who sets us free. In Christ, we are complete—not because of anything we do or own, but because of who God is and what God has done for us. In the waters of baptism, we are proclaimed children of God, and nothing will ever change this. In Christ, we are freed from all that holds us captive, so we can lean into God’s abundance for us.

As we celebrate Reformation, we remember Martin Luther, a Catholic monk who was tormented by his own unworthiness before God. He was convinced he was not good enough. Then Luther discovered through the book of Romans that grace cannot be bought or earned; it is a pure gift to us, and this changed everything.

Since there is nothing we need to do to earn God’s love and acceptance, our lives are open to endless possibilities. How can we embrace the freedom God gives us? What can we do with this gift to bring peace and justice a little closer for our neighbors? What do you want to do—now that you don’t *have* to do anything?



Millcreek Lutheran Church
Reformation Sunday
October 27, 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 in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Gracious Father, whose righteousness has been demonstrated in the death of Jesus as atonement for our sins: Increase our faith in our Savior's love, that we may find your grace sufficient to cover our sins. In our Savior's name we pray. Amen.

The Service

- Prelude of Entrance
- Announcements
- Prelude of Preparation
- *Confession & Forgiveness, Page 56
- *Opening Hymn: **No. 229 LBW (green),**
A Mighty Fortress is Our God
- *Greetings: Page 57, line 5
- *The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6
- *Hymn of Praise: *Feast of Victory*, Page 60
- *Prayer of the Day: (On the lesson insert, read in unison)
- Children's Sermon-Includes "Blessing of Costumes"
- The First Reading
- The Psalmody: (On the lesson insert-read responsively)
- The Second Reading
- *The Gospel
- *Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16
- The Sermon

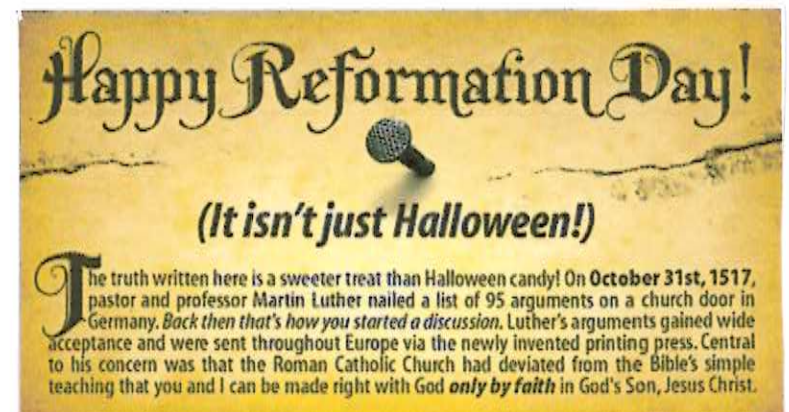
Hymn of the Day: **No. 147 NCH (red),**
Standing on the Promises

- *The Nicene Creed: Page 64
- Choir Anthem: *The Truth Shall Make You Free*
- *The Prayers: Page 65, line 22
- *The Greeting of Peace: Page 66, line 23
- *The Great Thanksgiving: Pages 68-71, lines 28, 29 & 31
- *The Lord's Prayer: Page 71
- Holy Communion (table)
- *Post Communion Prayer: Page 74, line 40
- *Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43
- *Departing Hymn: **No. 369 LBW (green),**
The Church's One Foundation
- Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated
- Postlude
- *Please stand

Serving You This Morning:

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

The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of my grandparents, George and Mary Merkel by Cheryl and William Batdorf.





Today's Readings

Reformation Sunday
October 27, 2024

Psalm, continued

¹⁰"Be still, then,
and know that ¹I am God;
I will be exalted
among the nations;
I will be exalted ¹in the earth."

¹¹The LORD of ¹hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob
¹is our stronghold.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

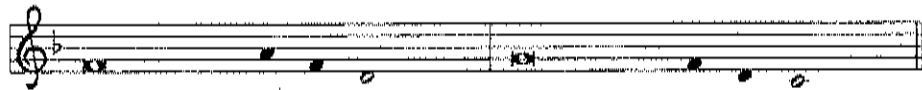
Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm

Psalm 46; tone 11



God is our ref- ¹uge and strength,
a very present ¹help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear,
though the ¹earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake
in the depths ¹of the sea;
³though its waters ¹rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble
¹with its tumult.
⁴There is a river whose streams
make glad the cit- ¹ly of God,
the holy habitation
of ¹the Most High.
⁵God is in the midst of the city;
it shall ¹not be shaken;
God shall help it
at the ¹break of day.

⁶The nations rage,
and the ¹kingdoms shake;
God speaks,
and the earth ¹melts away.
⁷The LORD of ¹hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob
¹is our stronghold.
⁸Come now,
regard the works ¹of the LORD,
what desolations God has
brought up- ¹on the earth;
⁹behold the one who makes war to
cease in ¹all the world;
who breaks the bow,
and shatters the spear,
and burns the ¹shields with fire.

continued

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift,

through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By the law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Gospel

John 8:31-36

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

TODAY'S READINGS October 27, 2024 (Reformation Sunday) Volume 55, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: All Saints Sunday Isaiah 25:6-9 or Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44, *OP*
24th Sunday after Pentecost Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1082-0185, USPS 009828) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rate. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989: Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2008, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship*, Year B (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year B.

229

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat-'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who

to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom
 vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They
 fear it; For God him - self fights by our side With

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

Has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 In bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 Goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way,

He arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 They can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

© Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version, 1978
 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

EIN FESTE BURG
 87 87 66 66 7

The Feast of Victory

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

☐ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion;

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

☐ For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Standing on the Promises 147

R. Kelso Carter

R. Kelso Carter

1. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ my King, Thro' e - ter-nal a - ges
 2. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es that can - not fail, when the howl-ing storms of
 3. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ the Lord, Bound to Him e - ter - nal
 4. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es I can-not fall, Lis-t'ning ev - ery mo-ment

let His prais-es ring; Glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 doubt and fear as-sail, By the liv-ing Word of God I shall pre-vail,
 ly by love's strong cord, O - ver - com-ing dai - ly with the Spir-it's sword,
 to the Spir-it's call, Rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

Refrain

Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God. Stand-ing, stand - ing,
 stand-ing on the prom-is - es,

Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior; Stand-ing,

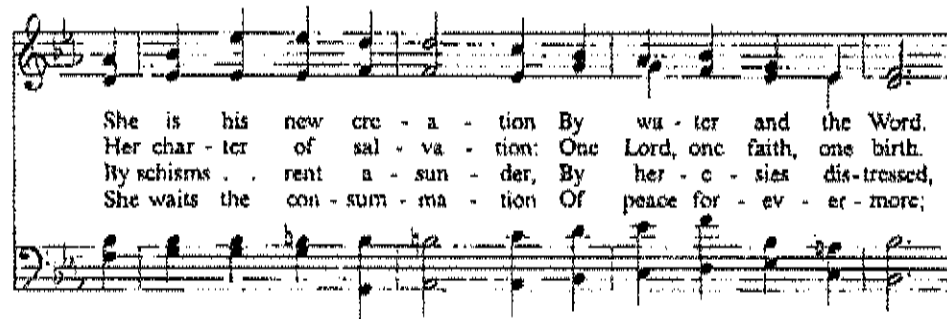
stand - ing, I'm stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

369

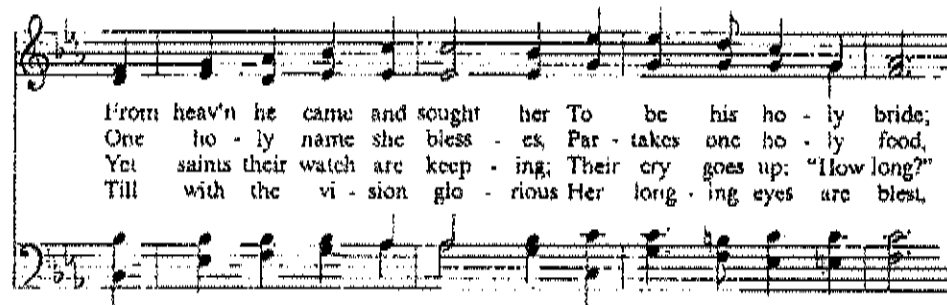
The Church's One Foundation



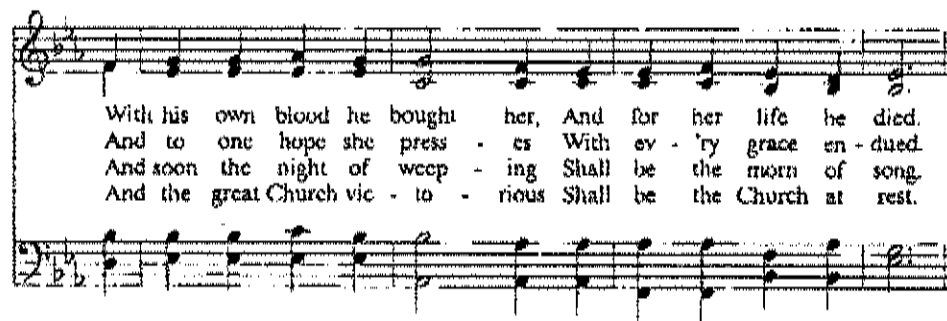
1 The Church's . . . one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der This world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war,



She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 By schisms . . . rent a - sun - der, By her - c - sies dis - tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;



From heav'n he came and sought her To be his ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up: "How long?"
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
 With God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won.

O blessed heav'nly chorus!
 Lord, save us by your grace,
 That we, like saints before us,
 May see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1814-1909
 Tune: Samuel S. May, 1810-1878

ALMELLA
 76 76 D



"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 October 20, 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.



**Don't forget to turn you clocks back
November 2nd
before going to bed!!!**

Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

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



TRUNK OR TREAT: Trunk or treat is today, October 27th 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. Contact Nikki Johnson for last minute information at blouch1968@hotmail.com
Thank you.

We are so grateful to everyone who gave toys for **Toys for Tots** in memory of Stacey Pennington, our daughter, Mother and Sister. The generosity from family, friends and especially our Millcreek family is overwhelming. We have received 173 toys to take to Maryland. Thank you everyone from All of Us. Stephanie, Conner, Cole and Lindsay



RICHLAND T N R (trap, neuter, release) needs help to humanely reduce the feral cat population in Richland. Dana Moyer, Mary Moyer's granddaughter volunteers/runs this all-volunteer fundraiser to cover the \$30 cost of spaying/neutering a cat. You can help by donating gently worn, used or new shoes. The shoes are collected, weighed and for each pound, 40 cents is raised & will be put towards the cost of fixing the cats in the TNR program. The shoes collected are then donated to Haiti, Cambodia, Ghana, & Guatemala, sparking economic growth in developing countries. The collection runs through the end of October. Bins and information are located in the narthex. Monetary donations are also accepted. You may contact Dana Moyer at 717-675-0335 or moyerdana824@yahoo.com.

Please see the blue insert concerning a collection for hurricane victims in North Carolina.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

TREASURER'S REPORT: October 20, 2024, Current Offerings-\$1,300.00, Plate-107.00, World Hunger-100.00, Memorials for Ginny Wolfe & Hart Beaver-170.00, Coffee donation-\$3.00. **Total-\$1,580.00.** Attendance-58, Sunday School-18



NOVEMBER CHURCH BREAKFAST: The November 9th church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at 8:00 a.m. For **THIS** month only, we will be meeting in the little cottage next door to the restaurant. Park around the back and walk directly into the cottage where you will see your Millcreek friends waiting for you. I hope to see you there...Nancy Deiter

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS to play for Veteran's Sunday on November 10th.

Rehearsals will be: Saturday, October 26, Saturday, November 2 and Saturday, November 9, all at 9:30 AM at the church. Please contact Julie Strickler at juliestrickler66@gmail.com for music or any questions.

Thank you for your consideration. Julie



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be prepared for distribution in mid-November. **PLEASE** let me know if you **DO NOT** wish to remain on the envelope list to receive them. If you would like to be **added to the list, I will need your name and your present address.** If you are currently on the list, notify me of any address changes that need to be made to the financial statements. **The information is needed no later than October 31.** Contact information is by leaving a note in my mail slot in the office, seeing me personally, calling 610-589-2570 or emailing secretary@millcreeklutheran.com Thank you – Linda 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

Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA has many activities taking place October through January. Includes Nawakwa, Kirchenwald and The Wittel Farm. You may find all the information at LutheranCamping.org. There is a Kirchenwald Winter Youth Retreat January 3-5, 2025. Information on all the upcoming events may be found in the wall rack in the narthex.

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

Hazel Bashore, Stone Ridge Towne Center, 7 West Park Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067

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: Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, 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: Mike Nelson, (friend of Kristin Bender)

Pastor Scott's Thoughts on... Christians Celebrating Halloween

Some Christian churches discourage—or even forbid—the celebration of Halloween. On the surface, they raise concern about Christians participating in a celebration that emphasizes “non-churchy” things like ghosts, witches, zombies, and so on. Going deeper, they raise concern about the day’s pagan, pre-Christian origins. I certainly respect their right to their beliefs and am happy to let them defend their beliefs. However, my conclusion is that Christians can celebrate Halloween. I hold this belief for two reasons: one historical and one theological.

The historical reason is because the Church has a long practice of re-interpreting pre-Christian celebrations into its belief system. (For example, the decision to celebrate Christmas on December 25 used an existing pre-Christian Roman celebration [of the “Invincible Sun”] to represent Jesus as the true “Invincible Son.”) Similarly, the Church re-interpreted the existing pre-Christian Celtic celebration of *Sambain* into part of what we now call Halloween. In addition to celebrating the harvest (which assured the community’s survival through the winter) *Sambain* emphasized the connection between the living and the dead. The Church used this to explain how God connects both the living and the dead. (What we call “the Communion of Saints.”)

The theological reason is because our Christian faith makes a clear statement that—because we belong to Christ—we have nothing to fear both in this world and beyond (Romans 8:38–39). In fact, not only do we not have to fear “ghosties and ghoulies and things that go bump in the night,” we can deal with them directly and, as in the case of some Halloween costumes, we can even take “ghosties and ghoulies and things that go bump in the night” lightly. Secure in our relationship with God we are able to celebrate the world around us—even the scary parts. Christians can celebrate Halloween because we know God keeps and safe. Halloween can help us remember and celebrate that.





Pastor Scott loves to offer the church's blessing to the activities of our daily lives. This Sunday, October 27, gives us the chance to do that. Not only is this Sunday, October 27, Reformation Sunday, it is also the Sunday before Halloween and the day of our church's "Trunk-or-Treat" event.



Pastor Scott invites the children to wear their Halloween costumes to church at 10:15 AM so that he can offer a special blessing for their fun and safety during Trick-or-Treating and for our whole church family as we welcome the community to "Trunk-or-Treat."

My work (Sherwin-Williams) is collecting supplies to help with the relief effort down in North Carolina. We have a plant down in Statesville, NC that will be shipping collected supplies to distribute in effected areas from Hurricane Helene. People may bring in supplies for next week Sunday 10/27. I can then collect the supplies and bring them into my work to ship down to NC on 10/29.

Thanks, Scott Johnson, Supply Chain Analyst, Sherwin-Williams Co. 3050 Hanford Drive, Lebanon PA. 17046
Phone # (717)306-5845, Cell# (717)753-0385



NC SUPPLY DRIVE - The Lebanon Plant is partnering with the Statesville, NC site to help those in need in Western NC recover from the hurricane destruction- Let's "Cover" them with supplies!

Recommended Supplies:

Cases of water
Sport drinks (Powered packets)/ Hydration Packs (Powder form)
Baby & Sanitizer Wipes
Diapers (Children & Adults)
Baby Formula (Ready to use)/Baby Bottles/ Baby Food/ Fruit Pouches
New or lightly used baby clothes
Bug Spray/Sunscreen
Disposable Paper Goods (Cups/Plates/Paper Towels/Toilet Paper)
Trash Bags (13 Gal./Contractor Bags)
Non-Perishable Food-Pop Top Cans Preferred
Cleaning Supplies
Yard Supplies/Tools
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps
Toiletries /Sanitation Items/ Feminine Hygiene Products
Pet Food (Dog & Cat)
First Aid Kits, Hand Sanitizer
Nitrile Gloves/ Heavy Duty Work Gloves
Socks- All Sizes (Unopened)/ New Towels/ New Blankets)
Matches