

Filled with Expectation

At the beginning of the Epiphany season, we encounter John the baptizer, serving people who are filled with expectation. Curiosity is the birthplace of expectation. Many people were curious about whether John might be the expected messiah. They were hopeful that the dreams of their people were about to be fulfilled by this strange and solitary prophet.

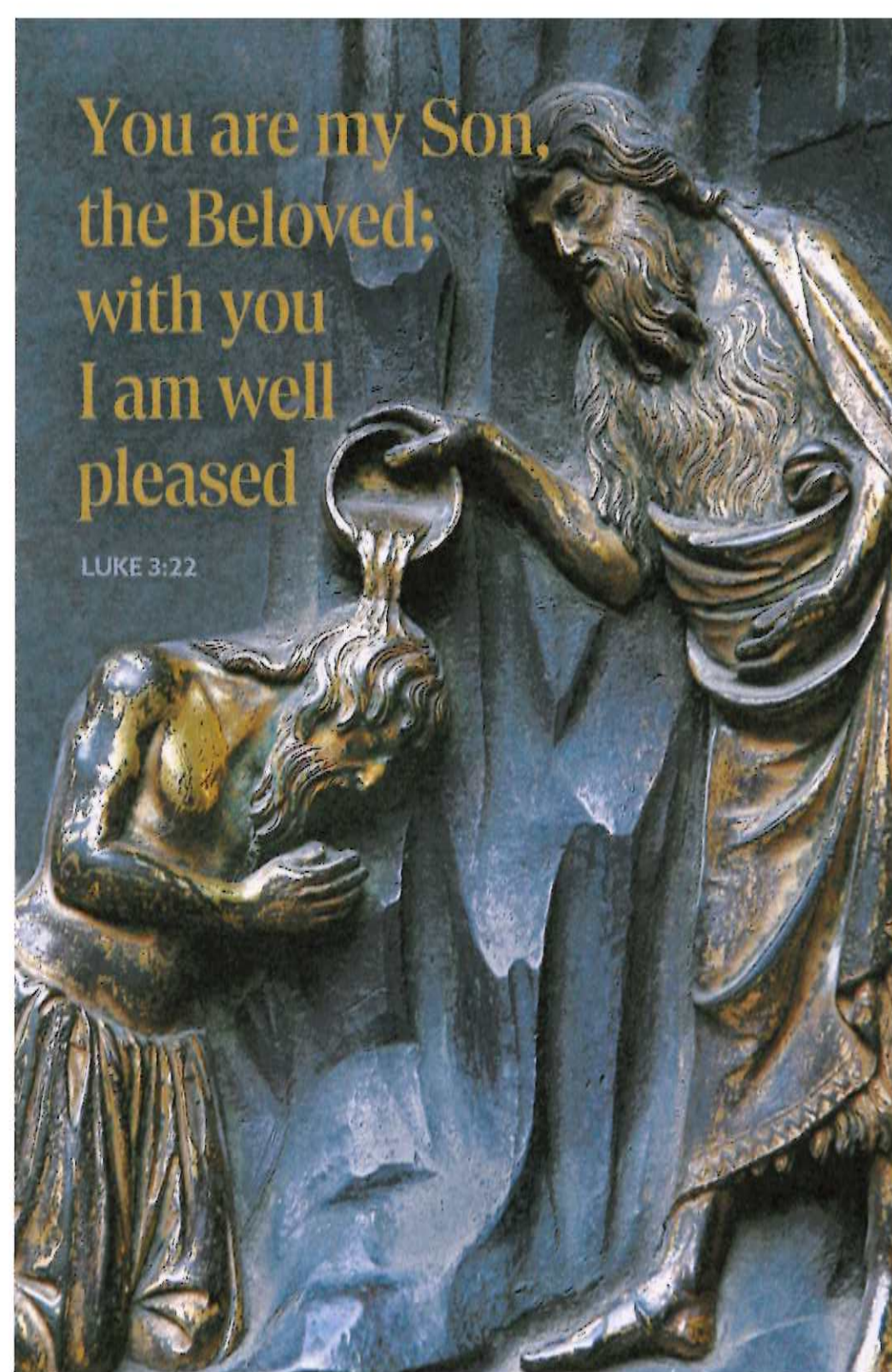
Sometimes we are exuberant when our expectations are fulfilled. We know this feeling when a new baby is born, a family member graduates from college or attains a new job, or a summer vacation is around the corner. Other times, we are devastated by unfulfilled expectations—when a loved one dies in hospice, a pink slip is given at work, or a house is foreclosed.

Expectation can lead to great happiness or to depression. John's followers' expectations were correct but misplaced. John redirected their hopes to Jesus, who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

In what ways can we joyfully expect God's good work in our own lives? Have we put our hope in people or things guaranteed to disappoint us? How might life be different if we put all our hope for the future in the good plan of God?

At Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened and a dove descended. Then God spoke these life-changing and transformative words: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

When we were baptized, God spoke words like these over us as well. As creations made in God's own image, we are innately beloved and pleasing to God. May this truth change how we navigate through the world and fill us with joyful expectation for God's good plan to come.



Millcreek Lutheran Church
Baptism of Our Lord
January 12, 2025

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: "O God our Father, who anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit at his baptism and announced you were well pleased with him: Receive our worship of praise and thanksgiving for the ministry of your Son, who remained faithful to the mission for which you sent him. Grant us the same Spirit, what we may be faithful to our calling as your children. We pray through Christ our Lord." Amen.

The Service

- Prelude of Entrance
- Announcements
- Prelude of Preparation:
- I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul (repeat)**
- *Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56
- *Opening Hymn: **No. 518 (LBW), Beautiful Savior**
- *Greetings: Page 57, line 5
- *The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6
- *Hymn of Praise: **Glory to God**, Pages 58 & 59, line 7
- *Prayer of the Day: On the lesson insert (read in unison)
- Children's Sermon
- The First Reading
- The Psalmody: On the lesson insert (read responsively)

- The Second Reading
- *The Gospel
- The Sermon
- Hymn of the Day: **No. 499 (NCH),
*Shall We Gather at the River***
- *The Nicene Creed: Page 64
- Choir Anthem
- *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: **On (lilac) insert, Go My Children**
- 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,	Rachel Mock
Ushers/Audio,	Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God in memory of our loved ones by the Gahres Family.

*"You are my Son,
the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased"*





Today's Readings

Baptism of Our Lord January 12, 2025

Psalm 29:1-9

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Isaiah 43:1-7

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are
mine.

²When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall
not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall
not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume
you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange
for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

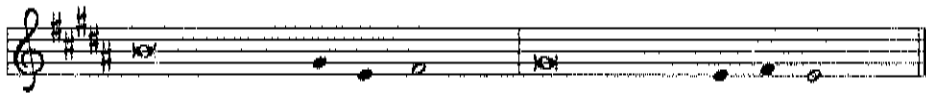
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from
the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I will say to the north, "Give them
up,"
and to the south, "Do not
withhold;

bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of
the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Psalm 29

Psalm 29; tone 7



Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD
glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD
the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD
in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD
is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon
the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD
is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD
is a voice of splendor.

continued

Psalm, continued

⁵The voice of the LORD
breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD
breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon
skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon
like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD
shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness
of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD
makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD
all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned
above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned
as king forevermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength
to your people;
give them, O LORD,
the blessings of peace.

Acts 8:14-17

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem
heard that Samaria had accepted the
word of God, they sent Peter and John
to them. ¹⁵The two went down and
prayed for them that they might receive
the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the

Spirit had not come upon any of them;
they had only been baptized in the
name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter
and John laid their hands on them,
and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in
their hearts concerning John, whether
he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John
answered all of them by saying, "I
baptize you with water; but one who
is more powerful than I is coming; I
am not worthy to untie the thong of
his sandals. He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His win-
nowing fork is in his hand, to clear

his threshing floor and to gather the
wheat into his granary; but the chaff
he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were
baptized, and when Jesus also had
been baptized and was praying, the
heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy
Spirit descended upon him in bodily
form like a dove. And a voice came
from heaven, "You are my Son, the
Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

TODAY'S READINGS January 12, 2025

Volume 56, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

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Beautiful Savior

518

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

499 Shall We Gather at the River?

R. L.

Robert Lowry

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod;
 2. On the bos - om of the riv - er, Where the Sav - ior King we own,
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

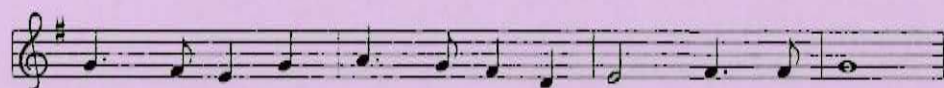
With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
 We shall meet, and sor - row nev - er 'Neath the glo - ry of the throne.
 Grace our splr - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
 Soon our hap - py hearts will qui - ver With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Many Americans know this tune as accompanying the lullaby "All Through the Night," which is from Wales, where it is called "Ar hyd y nos" and means "the livelong night." It would have originally been played on the harp, which is the national instrument of Wales, associated with poetry and poets. The text is by Jaroslav Vada (1919-2008), who was a pastor of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod specifically requested to compose a hymn to this tune. He says, "the soft and contemplative melody suggested a setting of the benediction [found at Numbers 6:22-27] as a hymn of dismissal."

Source: Westermeyer, Paul. *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2010.



"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
pastorscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

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

Sunday January 12, 2025

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.



Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

Please see the blue insert concerning the next blood drive at MLC.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: Millcreek Lutheran Church is excited to once again participate in the Lebanon County Christian Ministries Souper Bowl of Caring.

We are kicking off this Sunday with a goal of 350 cans of soup by Sunday February 9, 2025.

A display will be in the Narthex for you to drop your soup. We will provide a weekly update toward our goal.

If you prefer to give a monetary donation, we can purchase the soup for you.

We look forward to helping tackle hunger in our community over the next 30 days!

Go Team Millcreek! Contact information-Jen Rosengrant, Jrosengrant1200@comcast.net or 717-228-8857



Thank you for your donations of stuffed animals for the annual Teddy Bear Toss at the Hershey Bears game on Sunday afternoon. Donations from MLC total was 163 and helped reach a goal of 102,343 stuffed animals thrown on the ice after the first Bear's goal was scored by Mike Sgarbossa. The stuffed toys are donated to various pediatric care facilities. Thank you for putting a smile on the faces of these children!

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Millcreek Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting will be held following the worship (i.e., about 11:30 am) on Sunday January 26, 2025. The agenda consists of several important items:

1. Election of 4 adult council members
2. Adoption of the proposed budget for 2025
3. Possible amendment to the gift acceptance policy

Please direct questions regarding these items to Lay Leader Susan Long or Pastor Scott Paradise.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOTE: There are open positions on the council that need to be filled. Serving on the council is a wonderful opportunity to bring new ideas to life and have your voice heard. I strongly encourage everyone to consider taking on a position, especially if you feel you can contribute to the future of our amazing little church! Thank you, Susan Long, Lay Leader

Important Notice for Keyholders

The Congregation Council has contracted with Reed's Locks to have the exterior locks changed to a system that will allow us to keep better control of keys to the church building. This change will take place on Thursday, January 2.

- If you have a key to the church, you will need a replacement key for the exterior locks, which you can get from the church office. Please make sure the office is staffed (secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or 610.589.2570) before coming to get your key.
- If you have a key to the church, please keep it. You will still need it for the interior locks. (After January 2, this key will not work for the exterior locks.)

TREASURER'S REPORT: January 5, 2025, Current Offerings- \$1,005.00, Plate-144.00, Initial- 236.00, Christmas/Advent-5,000.00, Flowers-180.00, Bulletins-30.00, Memorial: Ginny Wolfe-100.00, Restore & Renew-25.00, Special Pledge-1,000.00, Misc.-Coffee-14.00. **Total 7,734.00** Attendance-49, Sunday School-18
December 2024 electronic deposits-Current offerings-\$1,890.00, Restore and Renew-100.00.
Total-\$1,990.00

PARISH ECHO: Deadline for items you want in the church newsletter for **February 2025 is Wednesday, January 15.** Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to mlc.pariah.echo@gmail.com. Items may also be submitted by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone.

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025 are available in the narthex. Flowers-\$30.00, Bulletins-\$10.00

YEARBOOK 2024-25: I am requesting information for the 2024-2025 yearbook and would prefer **all reports and information to me ASAP.** If you have changes in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, births, or deaths in your family, please let me know so we may include the information in the new yearbook. Updated information may be put in my mail slot in the office, or emailed to secretary@millcreeklutheran.com. Thank you, Linda Sheetz

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

WEATHER ALERT: In case of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen. When church is cancelled due to the weather, there is no one at the church for a service on the Phone Patch.

SWEET SECOND SUNDAY will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship today **January 12, 2025.** All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

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

Hazel Bashore, Stone Ridge Towne Center 7 W. Park St. 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: Lorraine Eberly, 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@millcreekdutheran.com or call 610-589-2570

NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Mike Nelson, (friend of Kristin Bender), Jane Yocum, (friend of Debbie Hartman), JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' Mother)

LEBANON COUNTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Greetings friend, supporter, partner! In our 2024-2026 strategic plan, we approved a transition to expand the space of our Market on 7th, charitable food pantry. This move has transformed the way we do other work within the organization, while meeting best practices for choice food pantry work. We are excited that our renovations are complete, and it is time to show you the space! This renovation was made possible by many individual donors, and a grant from our partners at the Central PA Food Bank. Come celebrate with us before we open back up for our neighbors.

We would love for you to visit us on January 17th -- beginning at 10am. We have very brief remarks at 10:20 and following remarks, we welcome you to take a walk around the facility to see the updates. We will be opening back up on the 20th of January to our neighbors for service.

Vision: Investing in people. Improving lives.

Bryan D. Smith, B.S., Executive Director
250 S. 7th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042

Office: 717.272.4400, Direct Dial: 717.769.1040 Mission: Lebanon County Christian Ministries shares the love of Jesus through food, shelter, and connections to promote wellbeing and a healthy community.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, January 23rd • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive 2 FREE admission vouchers to the Pennsylvania Auto Show & a Blood Donor T-Shirt!

PENNSYLVANIA
AUTO SHOW



3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

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

DONATE NOW



A form of ID is
REQUIRED to donate



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- We kindly 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.

**Central
Pennsylvania
Blood
Bank**
Your Community Blood Bank

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