

## Jesus Does Care

There is humor to be found in the words “And his disciples believed in him” . . . because he could turn water into wine! Really? That’s it? This small miracle performed at a wedding was *all* that was required at the start of Jesus’ ministry to gain his disciples’ faith and trust?

That such a minor event could prove so significant might sound silly if we are tempted to think God cares only about big things, such as war, environmental justice, and world hunger. But if we pay attention, we notice that many people encounter God in the most mundane moments of life: sitting quietly in a deer stand, floating on a calm lake while fishing, breastfeeding an infant and rocking in a chair, or holding the hand of an aged neighbor.

Jesus cares about all manner of small things—the grief of one widow, dis-ease in the life of a teenager, the lack of wine at a wedding. While these things may seem small to an outsider, we know they are big to the one experiencing them. Thank God, no matter how large or small our concerns, Jesus does care!

At all times, and in all places, God is at work using ordinary things and people to produce extraordinary results. At the Cana wedding, Jesus turned ordinary water into wine to provide an extraordinary blessing: continued joy and celebration among family and friends. Today Jesus often uses coffee and cookies to create bonds among people—just ask the fellowship committee in your congregation! Jesus does care about our fellowship with one another. We are even commanded to gather around tables, to break bread and drink wine to remember him.

This season after Epiphany, may you catch sight of the ways Christ is present at your tables and in your gatherings, deepening relationships and spreading joy.



*Jesus did this, the first of  
his signs, in Cana of Galilee*

JOHN 2:11

Millcreek Lutheran Church  
Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 19, 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 are here.

Prayer: "Almighty God, whose Son changed water into wine, illustrating the excellence of the life he offers: Transform our inferior living into a vital relationship with you through the presence of your Son; that we may rejoice in the miracle of new life he provides. In his name we pray. Amen.

### The Service

- Prelude of Entrance
- Announcements
- Prelude of Preparation
- \*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56
- \*Opening Hymn: **No. 198 (NCH red),**  
*'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*
- \*Greetings: Page 57, line 5
- \*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 Alleluia Verse: Page 62, line 14
- \*The Gospel
- \*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16
- The Sermon
- Hymn of the Day: **No. 196 (NCH red),**

### Great is Thy Faithfulness

- \*The Apostles' Creed: Page 65
- Choir Anthem: *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*
- \*The Prayer: Page 76
- \*The Lord's Prayer
- \*The Benediction
- \*Departing Hymn: **No. 90 (LBW green),**  
*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*
- Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated.
- Postlude
- \*Please stand

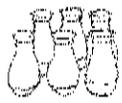
### Serving You This Morning:

<b>Pastor,</b>	The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
<b>Lay Leader,</b>	Susan Long
<b>Organist/Pianist,</b>	Debbie Tice
<b>Lay Reader,</b>	Linda Sheetz
<b>Ushers/Audio,</b>	Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

*The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Sterling Batdorf by the family.*

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156  
Henry, an Englishman, became bishop of Uppsala, Sweden, in 1152 and is regarded as the patron of Finland. He traveled to Finland with the king of Sweden on a mission trip and remained there to organize the church. He was murdered in Finland by a man he had rebuked and who was disciplined by the church. Henry's burial place became a center of pilgrimage. His popularity as a saint is strong in both Sweden and Finland.



# Today's Readings

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not  
rest,  
until her vindication shines out like  
the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning  
torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your  
vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will  
give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the  
hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of  
your God.

<sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed  
Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be  
termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is  
in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the LORD delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.

<sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a young  
woman,  
so shall your builder marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over  
the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.

## Psalms

Psalm 36:5-10; tone 5



Your love, O LORD,  
reaches <sup>1</sup> to the heavens,  
and your faithfulness  
<sup>1</sup> to the clouds.

<sup>6</sup>Your righteousness  
is like the strong mountains,  
your justice like <sup>1</sup> the great deep;  
you save humankind  
and ani- <sup>1</sup> mals, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup>How priceless is your <sup>1</sup> love, O God!  
All people take refuge  
under the shadow <sup>1</sup> of your wings.

<sup>8</sup>They feast upon the abundance  
<sup>1</sup> of your house;  
you give them drink  
from the river of <sup>1</sup> your delights.

<sup>9</sup>For with you is the <sup>1</sup> well of life,  
and in your light <sup>1</sup> we see light.

<sup>10</sup>Continue your lovingkindness  
to <sup>1</sup> those who know you,  
and your favor  
to those who are <sup>1</sup> true of heart.

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-17

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To

each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another the prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

## Gospel

John 2:1-17

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up

to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

TODAY'S READINGS January 19, 2025

Volume 56, Number

Next Sunday's Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0168, USPS 009528) 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 1653, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1653. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.75 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. 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 Apocryphal Writings © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in Psalter for Worship, Year C (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our website [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year C.

# 198 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Louisa M. R. Stead

Wm. J. Kirkpatrick

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je-sus, Just to take Him at His Word;  
 2. O how sweet to trust in Je-sus, Just to trust His cleans-ing blood;  
 3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je-sus, Just from sin and self to cease;  
 4. I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, Pre-cious Je-sus, Sav-ior, Friend;

Just to rest up-on His prom-ise; Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."  
 Just in sim-ple faith to plunge me 'Neath the heal-ing, cleans-ing flood!  
 Just from Je-sus sim-ply tak-ing Life and rest, and joy and peace.  
 And I know that Thou art with me, Wilt be with me to the end.

*Refrain*

Je-sus, Je-sus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Je-sus, Je-sus, pre-cious Je-sus! O for grace to trust Him more!

T. O. Chisholm

William M. Runyan

1. "Great is Thy faith-ful-ness," O God my Fa-ther, There is no shad-ow of  
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, Sun, moon and stars in their  
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thy own dear presence to

turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-pas-sions, they fail not;  
 cours-es a-bove, join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wlt-ness,  
 cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,

*Refrain*

As Thou hast been Thou for-ev-er will be.  
 To Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love. "Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!  
 Blessings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is Thy faithfulness!" Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have

need-ed Thy hand hath pro-vid-ed, "Great is Thy faith-fulness," Lord, un-to me!

# Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1 Songs of thank-ful-ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;  
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, Pres - ent in thy ho - ly Word;

Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,  
 And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In thy God - head man - i - fest;  
 Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
 Grace to im - i - tate thee now And be pure, as pure art thou;

Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
 Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
 That we might be - come like thee At thy great e - piph - a - ny,

An - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
 An - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
 An - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
 And may praise thee, ev - er blest,



"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 19, 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.

**Millcreek Lutheran's Winter Beach Party** is right around the corner. Please share with your neighbor's, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and co-workers!

Our event will be on Friday January 31st at 6 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. We have a signup sheet in the Narthex for items needed for the event and volunteers.

We look forward to another FUN event on the Hill!

If you have any questions, please see Jen Rosengrant or Nikki Johnson.

**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.

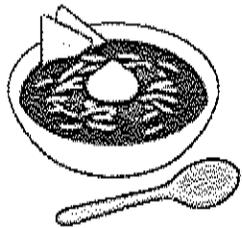
We look forward to helping tackle hunger in our community over the next 30 days!

Go Team Millcreek! Contact information-Jen Rosengrant, [jrosengrant1200@comcast.net](mailto:jrosengrant1200@comcast.net) or 717-228-8857

---

### Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

---



**SOUP AND CHILI LUNCHEON:** In conjunction with the soup collection for Souper Bowl Sunday, we will be having a luncheon featuring homemade soups and chili. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex for this. Along with the soups, we look for the congregation to bring sandwiches, sides or desserts to have with your soup. This has become a popular luncheon here and we hope to see many of you here. We don't know who will be playing yet, but feel free to wear your favorite team jersey that day!

### 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. 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](mailto: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 12, 2025,** Current Offerings- \$805.00, Plate-190.00, Initial- 38.00, Flowers-60.00, Bulletins-20.00, Total 1,113.00 Attendance-55, Sunday School-18

**2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** are available for you to pick up from the table in the narthex.

**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.** Updated information may be put in my mail slot in the office, or emailed to [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto: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.

*Dear Church Family, Thank you for the cards, "goodie" bag and plant for Christmas. A special thank you to Lisa and Lenny for delivery. Lenny was one of Frank's childhood friends. We think Frank had a memorable visit. Thanks to Pastor Scott for his visits! As the saying goes-it takes a village. You are all part of that village. Sincerely, Frank and Doris Bergman*

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

Sandy Bashore, 604 West Franklin Street, Womelsdorf, PA 19567

**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 Pottciger, 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](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.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)



## EASTERN LEBANON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

---

180 Elco Drive, Myerstown, PA 17067  
717-866-7447  
<http://www.elcsd.org>

Kelly Smith, M.Ed., HSV  
*Home and School Visitor*

December 18, 2024

Greetings!

I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest appreciation for your contribution to the 2024 ELCO Holiday Program and the ELCO School District Family Fund. Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to assist 73 families over the holiday season. Each participating family received a gift card for food, and more than 210 children received gift cards, stockings, and warm winter items such as coats and socks.

Additionally, we replenished funds in the ELCO School District Family Fund and continued stocking the ELCO Caring Closet. The Family Fund is used throughout the school year to provide necessities for ELCO families facing various difficulties.

Your donation has made a tremendous impact on our community, and we are incredibly grateful. Thank you for supporting ELCO families!

Kelly Smith  
ELCO School District  
Home and School Visitor

Thank you so much for  
the generous donation! It  
goes a long way to help  
our families in need!

Kelly

# BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> • 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](http://717GiveBlood.org) & click on **DONATE NOW**
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code

**DONATE NOW**

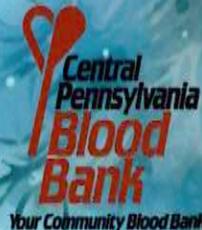


A form of ID is **REQUIRED** to donate



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.



## 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