

Abundance of Blessing

Poverty is not a virtue. It is a curse of our fallen world that will finally be undone when God's reign comes in its fullness. When hunger or homelessness is relieved in this life, it is a foretaste of that great day. Similarly, being hated, especially for the sake of Jesus, is not a goal for which we should strive. Why, then, does Jesus call those who are poor and reviled "blessed"?

The ancient prophet Jeremiah helps us understand Jesus' words. "Cursed are those who . . . make mere flesh their strength. . . . Blessed are those who trust in the LORD" (Jeremiah 17:5, 7). "Flesh" refers here not to our bodies but, rather, to human strength and capability, apart from God. In themselves, wealth, sufficient food, pleasures that bring laughter, and a positive reputation can be good. The problem comes when we base our security, hope, or sense of purpose on them. These good things then become idols. They become "flesh," displacing God from our hearts. Flesh cannot bear that burden, though, and will inevitably fail us. Jesus' words of blessing and woe are not a moral program or an ethical checklist, but shocking pronouncements meant to startle us out of our fixation on human capacities.

Jesus' beatitudes open us to the reality that Jeremiah declared: true blessing comes when we "trust in the LORD." We can risk human rejection, knowing that in baptism, we have been claimed eternally by God. If we are poor, God's word promises that we are treasured by the One who gave up everything for us. When we feel content with earthly food, at the Lord's table we discover that true delight comes from never-ending love present in simple bread and wine. When the song and prayer of the church give voice to lamentation, we find consolation and hope even in our tears.

Woe to us indeed if we allow ourselves to settle for mere human strength, when God's mercy and goodness are so much greater! In the word of the cross and the sacraments of grace, power comes forth from Jesus with blessing, strength, and joy forevermore.

Blessed
are you

LUKE 6:22



Millcreek Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 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, who knows better than we do what the real values in life are: Teach us to re-order our lives after your pattern, that we may receive the true happiness we seek, and which you want to give. We pray in our Savior's name." Amen.

The Service

- Prelude of Entrance
- Announcements
- Prelude of Preparation
- *Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56
- *Opening Hymn: **No. 489 NCH (red)**,
We're Marching to Zion
- *Greetings: Page 57, line 5
- *The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6
- *Prayer of the Day: On the lesson insert (read in unison)
Children's Sermon
- The First Reading (printed on insert)
- 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. 33 NCH (red)**,
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

- *The Apostle's Creed: Page 65
- Choir Anthem
- *The Prayer: Page 76
- *The Lord's Prayer
- *The Benediction
- *Departing Hymn: **No. 256 NCH (red)**,
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated.
- Postlude
- *Please stand

Serving You This Morning:

Pastor,	The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Julie Strickler
Ushers/Audio,	Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in honor of my church family here at Millcreek and Bethany's birthday.

The bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in honor of the upcoming baptisms of Andrew, Isaiah and Abigail Keener by Stephanie Sheetz.





Today's Readings

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-21

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

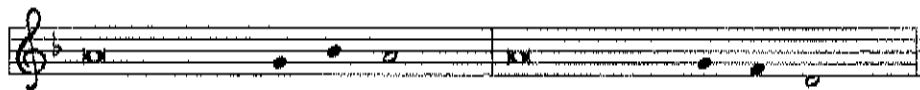
⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalms

Psalms 1; tone 9



Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel ¹ of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats ¹ of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law ¹ of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching ¹ day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither; everything they ¹ do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so ¹ with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind ¹ blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹ judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council ¹ of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way ¹ of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall ¹ be destroyed.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ— whom he did not raise if it is true that

the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Gospel

Luke 6:17-21

[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

TODAY'S READINGS February 16, 2025

Volume 56, Number

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 8:27-38.

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Isaac Watts

Robert Lowry

1. Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known, Join
 2. Let those re - fuse to sing Who nev - er knew our God; But
 3. The hill of Zi - on yields A thou - sand sa - cred sweets Be -
 4. Then let our songs a - bound, And ev - 'ry tear be dry. We're

In a song with sweet ac - cord, Join in a song with sweet ac - cord. And
 chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, May
 fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Or
 marching thro' Im - man - uel's ground, We're marching thro' Im - man - uel's ground, To

thus sur - round the throne, And thus sur - round the throne.
 speak their joys a - broad, May speak their joys a broad.
 walk the gold - en streets, Or walk the gold - en streets
 fair - er worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.

thus sur - round the throne, And thus sur - round the throne.
Refrain

We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on; We're
 We're march - ing on to Zi - on,

march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.
 Zi - on, Zi - on,

Attr. to Bernard of Clairvaux
Trans. by Edward Caswall

ST. AGNES

John B. Dykes

1. Je - sus, the ver - ry thought of Thee With sweetness fills my breast;
 2. No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mem - ory find
 3. O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite heart, O Joy of all the meek,
 4. But what to those who find? Ah! this Nor tongue nor pen can show,

But sweet - er far Thy face to see, And in Thy pres - ence rest.
 A sweet - er sound than Thy blest name O Sav - ior of man - kind!
 To those who ask, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!
 The love of Je - sus, what it is None but His loved ones know. A - men.

256 Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

Joachim Neander

LOBE DEN HERREN

Melody adapted from

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth

Stralsund Gesangbuch

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,
3. Praise to the Lord, who with mar-vel-ous wis-dom hath made thee!
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore Him!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal-va-tion!
Shel-ters thee un-der His wings, yea, so gent-ly sus-tain-eth!
Decked thee with health, and with Lov-ing hand guld-ed and stayed thee!
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore Him!

All ye who hear, Now to His tem-ple draw near;
Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been,
How oft in grief Hath not He brought thee ro-lief,
Let the A-men Sound from His peo-ple a-gain:

Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
Grant-ed in what He or-dain-eth?
Spread-ing His wings for to shade thee!
Glad-ly for aye we a-dore Him. A-men.



"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

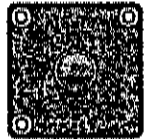
Pastor Scott Paradise
Home: (717) 628-1241
Cell: (540) 335-1693
pastorscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

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

Sunday February 16, 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

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 starting with a goal of 350 cans of soup by Sunday February 9, 2025. **We have extended the date to February 16, due to the inclement weather on the 9th.** 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

UPDATE: We are almost through our Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign to benefit LCCM. We are excited to share we have collected 256 cans of soup. Our goal is 350. Thank you to all those that have contributed. We couldn't do this without our generous Millcreek family!

If you are unable to purchase soup and would prefer to make a donation, there is a jar located in the Narthex.

OUR SPRING FLING EVENT will be Sunday March 9th at 1 PM. It will include a scavenger hunt, make your own ice cream sundaes and a craft. Look for the sign-up/volunteer sheet in the Narthex.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation



Thanks to all who helped to make the Souper Bowl luncheon a big success. Special thanks to our soup makers-Julie Strickler (ham & bean), Jen Rosengrant (chili), Nancy Vega (creamy chicken vegetable), & Deb Tice (white chicken chili). Also, thanks to those and others who helped in the kitchen-it takes a village and all you make it possible!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL will meet **February 23, 2025** after the worship service.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL 2025: Our members on council are Jennifer Rosengrant-President/Lay Leader, Dara Wolfe-Vice President, Debra Buffington- Secretary, Stephanie Seldomridge-Treasurer, Rachel Mock, Rhonda Singer, Jack Kahl and Nancy Deiter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: February 2, 2025, Current Offerings- \$1,140.00, Plate-130.00, Initial- 10.00, Building Rental-40.00. **Total \$1,320.00.** Attendance-65, Sunday School-NA

February 9, 2025, Current Offerings-\$670.00, Plate 30.00, Initial-7.00, Sweet Second Sunday-42.00. **Total-\$749.00**
Attendance-32 No Sunday School due to inclement weather.

Electronic deposits for January: Current Offerings-\$2,385.00, Restore & Renew-50.00, Fuel Oil Reimbursement-300.00.
Total-\$2,735.00

USHER/SOUND HELP WANTED: Since Frank Hoffman will be out of commission for a bit, we could really use more people to help Scott Johnson with whatever needs done on Sunday mornings. Most people don't realize how much they do, but there are many things. Communion Sundays have the most prep work, but it would be good for someone else to know the ins and outs of the sound system as well. This is open to young or old, male or female. Please speak to Scott if you have any questions.

BAKERS FOR FUNERAL LUNCHEONS: We don't have as many funeral lunches here at the church as we had in the past. It is nice, however, to be able to offer homemade desserts made by members of our congregation when planning the menu with church members who have lost a loved one. Many families choose to provide their own desserts. For those unable to do that, it's nice to be able to offer that option.

I have an outdated listing of bakers from past years. I have placed a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex for anyone who is willing to bake when called.

Thank you for your consideration...Nancy Deiter

2024-2025 YEARBOOKS/DIRECTORIES are available for you to pick up from the narthex table and wall rack.

2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS may be picked up in the church office. They will not be mailed.

CHURCH CHOIR SEATS AVAILABLE: It's a new year and a great time to join the choir!! If you are interested, we have seats available. We are currently meeting on Thursday nights at 6 pm but are always willing to change our time/date to accommodate our members. Thanks!-Debbie Tice

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

Helping God Restore and Renew Ourselves

*Renee and Layne Strickler wish to thank the members of MLC and Pastor Scott for all the prayers, cards and well wishes during Renee's recent double-knee replacement surgery and physical therapy process. It was greatly appreciated.
God Bless, Renee and Layne Strickler*

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 tune into Channel 27 WHIM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen or WLBR 1270 radio station. When church is cancelled due to the weather, there is no one at the church for a service on the Phone Patch.

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

Lorraine Eberly, 118 Memorial Blvd., Newmanstown, PA 17073

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: Chub & Peg Auman, Lorraine Eberly, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Ream, Norm Sharp, Debra Webber, Sarah 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 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).

RELAY FOR LIFE

Mardi Gras for a Cause Purse Bingo

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Doors Open at 11am and Games Start at 1pm

\$25 for 20 Games

Additional Games/Cards Available at door

Raffle Baskets, 50/50 Drawing, Survivor Game, Vendors,
Food, and More!



Eagles Banquet Hall
116 N. 8th Street
Lebanon, PA 17046

DAFFODIL DAYS

Deb Tice will be taking Daffodil order thru February 18. Daffodils will come March 20. See order form on the table in the narthex.

LUMINARIA ORDERS CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME - check with either Deb for details. There are times when they are on sale for \$5 each instead of the normal \$10. Lanterns are also available for \$30.

See Debbie Buffington or Debbie Tice for more details.



ELCO COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

We want your recipes!

The ELCO Education Foundation is asking for your help in creating a one-of-a-kind community cookbook as a fundraiser project to benefit the students of ELCO.

Whether it's your grandmother's pot pie, a quick weeknight dinner, or a show-stopping dessert, your recipe can bring flavor and heart to this special collection. By contributing, you'll help showcase the tastes and traditions that make our community so unique.

Don't miss this chance to share your story through food and support our ELCO students!

Use this QR code to submit your type-written recipe.



Use this QR code to submit photos of a handwritten recipe.



See Susan Long for more information.