

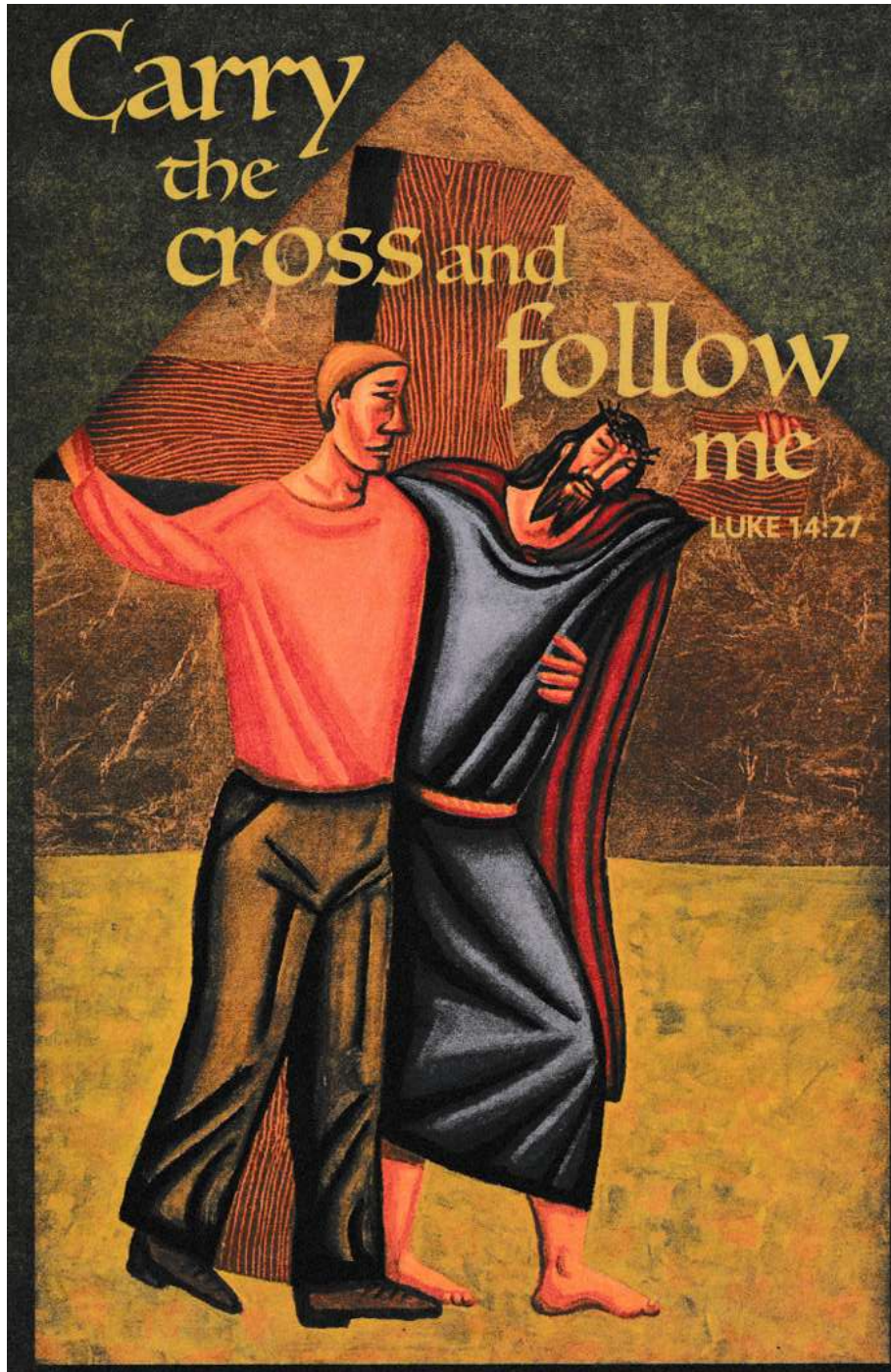
What Is Most Important

When someone comes to be baptized, they are often joined by family and friends who gather around the font and promise to love and support them as they grow in the faith. In the baptismal waters, God does something wonderful and profound: God connects us with Christ's saving grace. In this moment we are made part of a new community that flows from God's incredible love.

How dissonant it is to read Jesus' words from Luke's gospel today with this sort of an occasion in mind. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (14:26). How can hating family be a faithful response to God's divine grace and love? How can this be the way to live into the baptismal promises of love and care?

We know that Jesus loves the whole world: every person, creature, and molecule reverberates with God's own heart. Scripture and sermons and songs of the faith proclaim time and again: we all are recipients of God's love! And when we are baptized, we are unapologetically claimed as God's beloved. Such belovedness is the very foundation of our identity in faith.

Perhaps we can take Jesus' words here seriously without taking them literally: Christ's love for us is more important than even our closest ties to friends, family, or chosen family. Christ's love is more important than any paycheck we receive or how much cash we keep in our pockets. Jesus prioritizes life-changing love over all other loyalties we might have. When we are baptized, our lives are grounded in this countercultural compassion, justice, and care. Our relationship with God may indeed strain some of our other relationships, but perhaps it is exactly the sort of love that renews our hearts and truly transforms our world.



Millcreek Lutheran Church
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025

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, 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 or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Father in Heaven, whose Son requires his followers to first count the cost before becoming his disciples: Reveal to us our commitments which conflict with our decision to be his disciples, that we may re-order our lives, and make the necessary sacrifices demanded of all true disciples. In our Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Serving You This Morning:

Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	David Staaby
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The flowers & bulletins are given to the honor & glory of God, & in memory of Helen Hallman Snyder for her birthday, given by her family.



The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Opening Hymn: **NCH (red) #145, *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms***

*Prayer of the Day: (On the lesson insert, read in unison)

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

*Departing Hymn: **NCH (red) #351, *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus***

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude

***Please stand**



Today's Readings

Sunday, September 7, 2025

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading

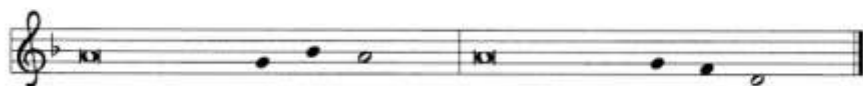
Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare

to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Psalm

Psalm 1; tone 9



Happy are they who have not walked in
the counsel¹ of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats¹ of the scornful!

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

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

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

^bTherefore 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 way¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked
shall¹ be destroyed.

Second Reading

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother.

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus]; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it

will begin to ridicule him,³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

TODAY'S READINGS September 7, 2025 (Lectionary 23)

Volume 56, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: Holy Cross Day Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 95:1-4 or Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 3:13-17 OR 14th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

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ITEM013790 Tracks 1 and 2

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 145

Elisha A. Hoffman

Anthony J. Showalter

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,

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 351

Source unknown

Folk melody from India

Unison

1. I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-
 2. The world be-hind me, the cross be-fore me; The world be-
 3. Tho' none go with me, I still will fol-low, Tho' none go
 4. Will you de-cide now to fol-low Je-sus? Will you de-

cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-cid-ed to fol-low
 hind me, the cross be-fore me; The world be-hind me, the cross be-
 with me, I still will fol-low, Tho' none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol-low Je-sus? Will you de-cide now to fol-low

Je-sus, No turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 fore me, No turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 fol-low, No turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 Je-sus? No turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.



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

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

For pastoral emergencies, please contact
Jennifer Rosengrant, 717-228-8857

Our Mission

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

Sunday, September 7, 2025

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at **9:30 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

JUKEBOX JAMBOREE: The Lebanon Singing Cedars will present "Jukebox Jamboree - A Barbershop Show" on Saturday, September 13 at 3:00 P.M. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1500 Quentin Road, Lebanon. The show will feature music from the 50s and 60s, with special guest Laura Lebeau and guest quartet, Legacy. Tickets are \$15 and are available from any chorus member or by calling 717-821-5298. (see flyer on bulletin board)

BLOOD DRIVE: will be Thursday, September 18, 2025. Please see the enclosed yellow & white inserts for information.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: 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 also pre-printed 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 the 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 completing boxes is Sunday, November 9, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610-589-5505) or Pat Ontkos (610-589-4350).

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sunday, August 31, 2025: Current Offerings- \$945, Plate- \$140, Flowers- \$30, Bulletins- \$10, Restore & Renew- \$75 **Total- \$1,200** Attendance- 41

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025 are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. There are several openings for September & October available. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10

PASTORAL EMERGENCY CONTACT: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Council President Jen Rosengrant (717-228-8857) and she will work with the pastor on call.

CHURCH BREAKFAST: The Church Breakfast will be held on Sept. 13th and on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at 8:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome with no reservations needed. Inform the hostess of the group you are looking for and she will direct you to our table. You can choose to come every month or only on an occasion. Either way, we'd love for you to be part of our group. ~Nancy Deiter

SENIOR CHOIR: The first meeting of the MLC choir will be Wednesday, Sept. 17th at 630pm in the choir room. No contracts or gimmicks... come once or often, all are welcome!

INTERIM PASTOR: Pastor Frank Terhune will now be joining us on October 1, 2025 as our interim pastor. He will serve as our emergency pastor on call beginning September 1, 2025 and will join us on September 14th as we Slip n Slide into our new Sunday School year.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

- Sunday September 14th Slip n Slide into Sunday School! We will have an outdoor service with congregation picnic to follow.
- Sunday October 26th 1-3 Trunk or Treat for community in church parking lot
- Sunday November 16th 1-3 Sunday Fun Day and Service Project for community youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: We are looking for one more member of our congregation to share the role of Sunday School teacher for our pre-K/kindergarten class for the upcoming year. If you are interested, please see Nikki Johnson for details.

MLC YEARBOOK PHOTOS: If you have photos from any church events and would like to submit them for the yearbook, please email them to Jen M. This is a standing request & photos can be submitted any time during the year. Including names of people, places, etc will also be helpful. Yearbook ideas are always welcome!

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

Ann Welling,
Country Meadows, Rm. # 238
1800 Tulpehocken Rd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610

LIFT PROGRAM: If you are 40+ and interested in an 8week fitness program, the LIFT Program will be held at Stone Ridge Yoga Studio Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1-2pm. This program is run by Penn State Extension. See flyers in the Narthex or talk to Deb T. for more information.

THANK YOU: *I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and cards during my recovery from right hip replacement surgery after my fall. God is good, and so is our church family. Thanks so much!! ~ Deb Hogeland*

PRAYER LIST: If you asked for someone to be put on the prayer list, please tell the church secretary when our prayers have been answered so this list can be kept current. For non-member requests, please contact Jen M. with your requests by noon Wednesday each week. secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call: 610-589-2570.

MILLCREEK MEMBERS: Peg Auman, Bryan Breidigam, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Ream, Norm Sharp, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBERS: Mike Nelson (friend of Kristin Bender), Gary Beatty, (friend of Debbie Hartman), JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' mother), Linda McMullan (sister in law of Greta McMullan), Kathy Reigle (friend of Deb Buffington), Candy Hibshman (friend of Rachel Mock), Jennifer Clinton (daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler), Louise Hainley (cousin of Deb Tice)

The Cost of Discipleship

And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 14:25-33 (NIV).



K W M V S T W E S T I M A T E
S P U S E O T T O W E R C S D
Z J O K L E W P E C P L O P I
Z R C L L I A Z N A X U S H U
C U O P K T R X P R W C T K Y
M F M C V H O J R R O B E A Q
J O Y M C O U P G Y B L W N G
C L N Q P U O P R S P U Z N M
E V Y K E S A Z T I Q R I E B
C N O K A A F L C N Y L G L H
J R O I C N I S S E E R G S D
N E O U E D I P N V A N I G E
Z X S W G D V O A L S N N K X
I A I U D H M R S F I I W O Y
B V M C S S T C O F K D X O N

PEACE	ENOUGH	TRAVELING	TOWER	LARGE
FINISH	CROWDS	COMPLETE	CROSS	MONEY
JESUS	WAR	DISCIPLE	BUILD	KING
CARRY	COST	FOLLOW	ESTIMATE	THOUSAND



Slip n Slide Your Way to Sunday School at Millcreek on Sunday Sept. 14th @ 9:00

9:00 Greeting

Kids stations including a craft
Bible Story The Lost Sheep and more

10:15 Outdoor Service on the hill with
Pastor Terhune

10:25 Blessing of the Backpacks
(kids bring your backpacks)

11:15 Family Picnic & Giant Slip n Slide
(bring your towel & swim suit)

RSVP to mickidsclub@gmail.com
or 717-228-8857
by September 10th



Future Events at Millcreek

Weekly Sunday School @ 9:00

Confirmation and Communion Classes

Trunk or Treat Sunday Oct. 26th 1-3

Sunday Fun Day/Community Service Project
Sunday Nov. 16th 1-3

Christmas Event Sunday December 7th 1-3

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, September 18th • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive a \$5 Rutter's gift card & a Papa John's buy one Large Pizza get one FREE certificate!

Rutter's PAPAJOHNS

3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

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



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



A form of ID is
REQUIRED to donate

- 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