

Blessing of Pets and Animals



Millcreek Lutheran Church
Newmanstown, PA

October 5, 2025

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

The church gives thanks for the life of Francis of Assisi, who died on October 4, 1226. Francis was known as a light-hearted itinerant preacher who joyously considered the animals his “brothers & sisters”, so October 4th (or the Sunday closest) has long been a traditional day for blessing pets & animals. Legends say that Francis sometimes had his companions wait for him along the roadside, while he went into a grove of trees & preached to the birds. Francis is also credited with popularizing the “Christmas crib” or creche, starting in 1223, so it continues to be a well-loved tradition in many countries.

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

Greeting, Call to Worship, and Opening Prayer

(P): The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God the Father, and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(C): And also, with you.

(P): How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

(C): My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

(P): Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

(C): Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.

(P): Let us pray. Source and sustainer of life, we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us, befriend, enrich, entertain and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transfiguring love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn: NCH (red) #151, His Eye is on the Sparrow**

151 His Eye Is on the Sparrow

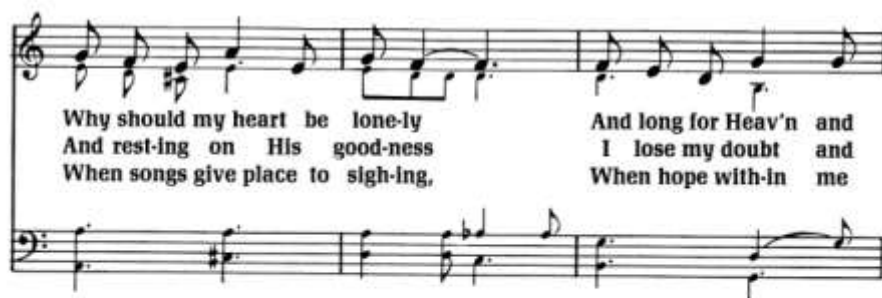
Mrs. L.D. Martin

Charles H. Gabriel


Unison or Solo




1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, Why should the sha-dows come,
 2. "Let not your heart be troub-led," His ten-der word I hear,
 3. When-ev-er I am temp-ted, When-ev-er clouds a-rise,



Why should my heart be lone-ly And long for Heav'n and
 And rest-ing on His good-ness I lose my doubt and
 When songs give place to sigh-ing, When hope with-in me



home When Je-sus is my por-tion? My con-stant Friend is
 fears; Tho' by the path He lead-eth But one step I may
 dies, I draw the clo-ser to Him, From care He sets me



He: His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es
 see: His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es
 free; His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He cares for

First Reading: Genesis 2: 18-25

(R): Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the Lord, God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

(P): Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

(C): **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 8

(P): O Lord our Lord,

(C): how majestic is your name in all the earth!

(P): You whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;

(C): you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

(P): When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

(C): the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

(P): What are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,

(C): human beings that you should care for them?

(P): Yet you have made them little less than divine;

(C): with glory and honor you crown them.

(P): You have made them rule over the works of your hands;

(C): you have put all things under their feet:

(P): All flocks and cattle,

(C): even the wild beasts of the field,

(P): the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,

(C): and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

(P): O Lord our Lord,

(C): How majestic is your name in all the earth!

***The Gospel: Mark 10:13-16**

(R): A reading from Mark's gospel.

(C): Glory to you, O Lord.

(R): People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

(R): The Gospel of the Lord.

(C): Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

O God, your creatures fill the earth
with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth
and beauty in your sight.

So playful dolphins dance and swim;
Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn
to offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in-
they're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings, and fins,
they offer praise to you.

O Lord, you call us to embrace
these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love, and grace
to all pets everywhere.

You made the creatures on each farm;
you know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm,
and safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep,
you know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep;
may all farms be humane.

Your creatures live in every land;
they fill the sky and sea.

O Lord, you give us your command
to love them tenderly.

We're called to have dominion here-
to care for them always.

By loving creatures you hold dear,
we offer you our praise.

(This hymn text is the work of Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and is used by permission).

Prayers of Intercession:

(P): Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all
the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the
beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and
sky and sea;

(C): We thank you Lord.

(P): For the richness of the mountains, plains, and
rivers;

(C): We thank you Lord.

(P): For all that is gracious in the lives of men and
women;

(C): We thank you Lord.

(P): For all creatures that breathe, and move, and
have life;

(C): We thank you Lord.

(P): For the songs of birds and the loveliness of
flowers and trees;

(C): We thank you Lord.

(P): For the trust you have shown in giving into our
care these, our pets;

(C): We thank you Lord.

(P): That each pet here may be treasured with care;

(C): We thank you Lord.

(P): That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

(C): We thank you Lord.

(P): That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

(C): To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. Amen.

Blessing of Pets and Animals

(P): People of God, let us live gently alongside other living creatures and with the whole creation.

Those who have animals with them, or have brought photos or cremated remains of beloved animals as well as stuffed animals may bring them forward for a blessing. When all the blessings have concluded, the presiding minister offers the following prayer:

(P): Let us pray. Maker and master of all that lives, your animals provide us with sources of food and clothing, guidance and rescue, income, companionship, research and medicine, recreation, and so much more. We ask your blessing on these entrusted to us, and we again pledge ourselves to their comfort and care. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing of the Assembly and Dismissal

(P): Let us pray. Compassion, creativity, and joy are ours through Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit move us to preserve and enhance life on Earth, giving clear witness to our loving Creator. **Amen.**

Go out into God's world. Live in peace with one another and with all God's creatures.

(C): Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn: LBW (green) #557, Let All Things Now Living

557

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks-giv - ing To
 2 His law he en - forc - es, The stars in their cours - es And

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, Who fash - ioned and
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; The hills and the

made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us, Who still guides us
 moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains, The deeps of the

on to the end of our days, God's ban - ners are o'er us, His
 o - cean pro - claim him di - vine, We too should be voic - ing Our

light goes be - fore us, A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the
 love and re - joic - ing; With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us

night, Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is
 raise Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks -

ban - ished, As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 giv - ing: "To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

The flowers & bulletins are given to the honor & glory
 of God, & in honor of Debbie Tice's birthday and
 Scott & Nikki Johnson's anniversary.





Our Mission:
**Helping God restore & renew
our community, our
congregation, & ourselves.**

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secretary@millcreeklutheran.com
www.millcreeklutheran.com

Sunday, October 5, 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

TRUNK OR TREAT Our annual trunk or treat event will take place on Sunday October 26th from 1-3pm. Please join us by decorating your vehicles and handing candy out to the children. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone who would like to participate, donate candy, or provide hot dog buns. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Rosengrant or Nikki Johnson.

TOYS FOR TOTS: This year marks the 10th anniversary of our annual toy drive, held in honor of my sister, Stacey, who was tragically killed in an act of domestic violence. Toys for Tots was her favorite charity, and we continue this tradition to keep her legacy alive! My hope is to make this year our biggest toy drive yet! After 10 years, I hope to pass along this tradition to Jordan and my nephews, and I hope you'll consider donating to this charity in your own way. All collected toys will be given directly to the children of Queen Anne's County. Please feel free to ship toys directly to our home throughout the months of September and October to add to our drive. All toys can be mailed to:

321 Narnia Drive S, Grasonville, MD 21638. Toys can also be brought to the church & will be transported by Stephanie Seldomridge. **The last day for church pickup will be Oct. 19th.** Thank you for helping to keep Stacey's legacy alive!
~ Mike, Lindsay & Jordan

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, Sept. 28, 2025: Current Offerings- \$955, Plate- \$270, Flowers- \$30, Bulletins- \$10, Restore & Renew- \$50, Bldg. Rental- \$30 **Total- \$1,345** Attendance- 56

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025 are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins-\$10

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

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday Oct. 5- service with Pastor Frank Terhune
- Sunday Oct. 12- Harvest Home service with Pastor Frank Terhune- Gifts of food & money will be collected for donation. Also, Second Sunday Sweets.
- Sunday Oct. 19- service with Pastor Joel Risser
- Sunday Oct. 26- service with Pastor Frank Terhune. Trunk or Treat 1-3pm for community in church parking lot
- Sunday Nov. 2- communion service with Pastor Frank Terhune
- Sunday Nov. 16- Sunday Fun Day 1-3pm and Service Project for community youth.

CHURCH BREAKFAST will be Oct. 11th at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at 8AM. 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

CALL FOR ACOLYTES: All those currently serving & all interested in learning to be acolytes, we will have a brief meeting after church on Sunday, Oct. 12. If you are interested & cannot attend, please contact Debbie Tice (debttice53@gmail.com or 717-926-4273). We are looking for 4th grade through high school (or beyond!).

SWEET SECOND SUNDAY: October 12th will be Sweet Second Sunday - look for treats from Charmayne after the service

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Offering envelopes for 2026 are being prepared with a tentative date for distribution on Sunday November 30. There is a list of names on the secretary's office door- please indicate if you would like to receive envelopes. If you would like to be added to the list, please leave a note and include your current address. If you are currently on the list, please notify me of any address changes that need to be made for the financial statements. This information is needed no later than October 31.

Thank you! ~ Jen M.

THE MLC ENSEMBLE will be playing on November 9 for Veterans' Sunday.

Rehearsals will be

Saturday, October 25 at 11:00 AM

Saturday, November 1 at 11:00 AM

Saturday, November 8 at 11:00 AM

Please let me know if you are able to play and have any questions or for music. My email is juliestrickler@gmail.com or text me at 610-207-9650. Thanks to all for joining us in this music ministry!

~Julie Strickler

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

Sandy & Dale Bashore

604 W. Franklin St.

Womelsdorf, PA 19567

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, Joe Buffington, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Ream, Marv Ritter, 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)