

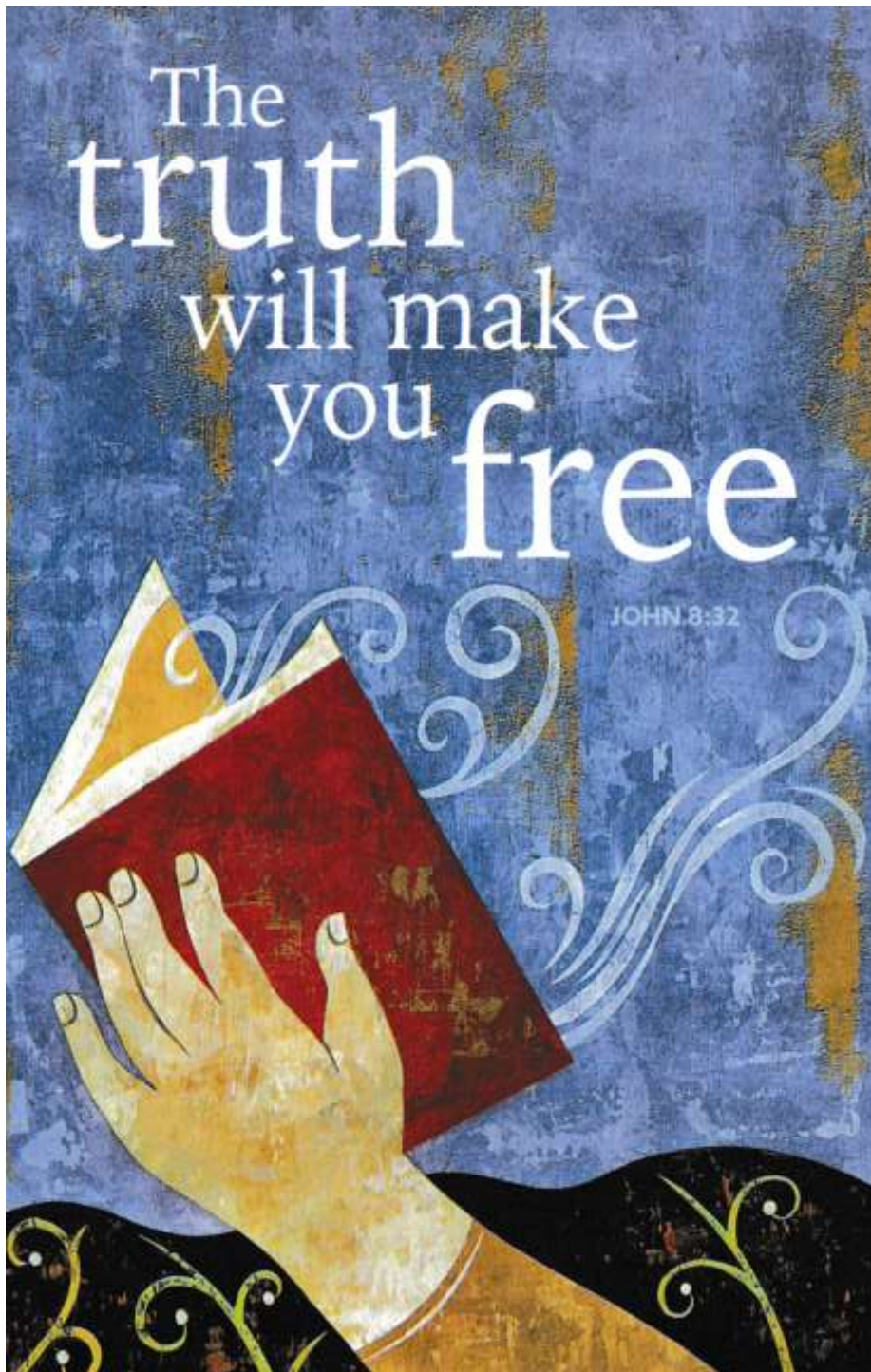
Home, Sweet Home

Whether you have lived in several places or very few, you probably have a method for transforming a space to live into a home. Maybe you put family photos on the walls, set out mementos, or spread a favorite quilt on the bed. These touches are important if we want to feel like we belong in a new space.

Jesus offered the gift of belonging to people who newly believed in him, but they had a hard time accepting it. He said if they would continue, or abide, in his word, they would be his disciples, know his truth, and be set free. They would receive the gift of belonging to his household forever.

To us the listeners' response is surprising, as if the new believers had shut their ears as soon as they heard Jesus say, "The truth will make you free." They didn't want to accept that there was anything they needed to be set free from. On a deeper level, they didn't want to believe that someone else would need to set them free. Jesus' words invite us to reflect on where our freedom comes from, and where we belong, as his disciples.

On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate how the Holy Spirit is constantly reforming the church, the community of Jesus' disciples. We give thanks for the gospel message that Jesus saves us from sin and death through his cross and resurrection. We don't have to earn our salvation; we can simply trust that Jesus is the one who makes it possible. That's how we receive genuine freedom—as a gift of God's grace. Thanks to Jesus, we have a permanent home. No matter how many times we move, we abide with Jesus forever. This festival day encourages us to keep listening to Jesus' word, growing in faith as his disciples, and giving thanks that with him, we are always at home.



Cover: Lyrical Books by Rafael López. Copyright © 2022 Rafael López. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

20251026-REF

ITEM013396 ELCA-E

Millcreek Lutheran Church
Reformation Sunday
October 26, 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 and believe that Christ is your Savior and present in the Sacrament, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. All children who have received Communion instruction and have been approved to receive Holy Communion either here or at another church are also welcome to commune with us. Any child may come forward for a blessing. Visitors, please sign our guest book or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Eternal God our Father, who is the everlasting refuge and strength of those who put their trust in you: Bring us into a closer fellowship with you, that we may enjoy the perfect peace which assures us of your eternal blessings. In our Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

Serving you this morning:

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Rachel Mock
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56 (*please stand)**

Opening Hymn: LBW (green) #229, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

***Greetings: Pages 57, line 5**

***The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6**

***Hymn of Praise: *This is the Feast* Page 60**

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Sermon

First Reading

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

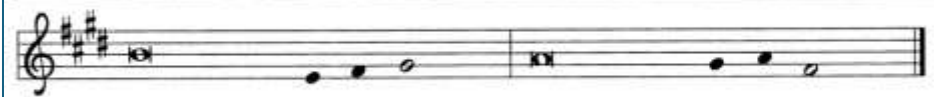
The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalmody: (read responsively)

Psalm

Psalm 46; tone 10



God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear,
though the ¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake
in the depths ¹ of the sea;

³though its waters ¹rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble
¹with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams
make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation
of ¹the Most High.

^aGod is in the midst of the city;
it shall ¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it
at the ¹ break of day.

⁶The nations rage,
and the ¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks,
and the earth ¹ melts away.
⁷The LORD of ¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold.
⁸Come now,
regard the works ¹ of the LORD,
what desolations
God has brought
up- ¹ on the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease
in ¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow,
and shatters the spear,
and burns the ¹ shields with fire.
¹⁰**Be still, then,**
and know that ¹ I am God;
I will be exalted
among the nations;
I will be exalted ¹ in the earth."
¹¹The LORD of ¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob ¹ is our
stronghold.

Second Reading

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a

gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

*The Alleluia Verse: Page 62, line 14

Gospel

John 8:31-36

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: NCH (red) #147, *Standing on the Promises*

Standing on the Promises

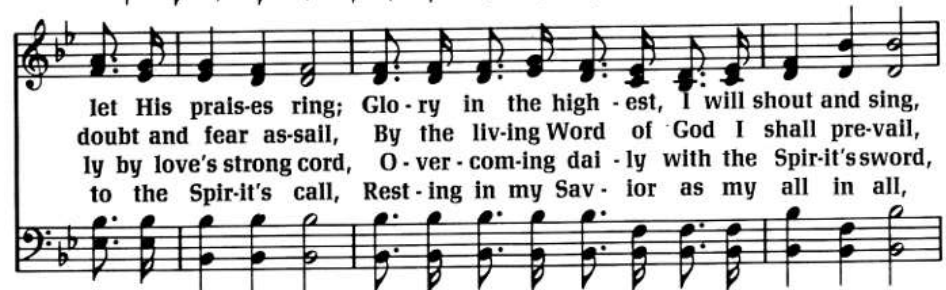
147

R. Kelso Carter

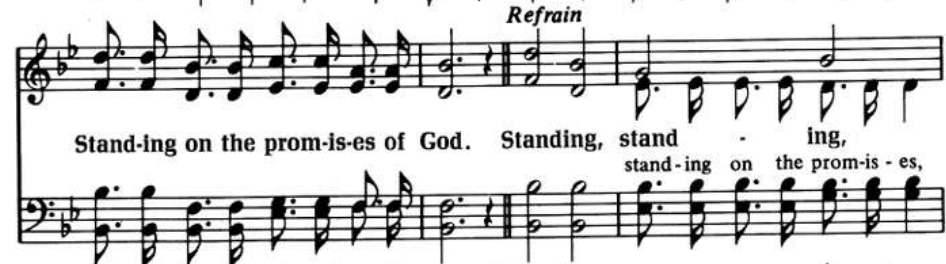
R. Kelso Carter



1. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ my King, Thro' e - ter-nal a - ges
2. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es that can - not fall, when the howl-ing storms of
3. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ the Lord, Bound to Him e - ter-nal
4. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es I can-not fall, Lis-t'ning ev - ery mo-ment



let His prais-es ring; Glo-ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
doubt and fear as-sail, By the liv-ing Word of God I shall pre-vail,
ly by love's strong cord, O - ver - com-ing dai - ly with the Spir-it's sword,
to the Spir-it's call, Rest-ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,



Refrain
Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God. Stand-ing, stand - ing,
stand-ing on the prom-is - es,



Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior; Stand-ing,



stand - ing, I'm stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.
stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

***The Apostles' Creed, Page 65**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

* Or, He descended to the dead.

***The Prayers, Page 65, line 22**

***The Greeting of Peace, Page 66, line 23**

Choir Anthem: *The Truth Shall Make You Free*

The Great Thanksgiving, Pages 68-71, lines 28, 29, &31

***The Lord's Prayer, Page 71 (spoken)**

**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**

Holy Communion (continuous)

***Post-Communion Prayer, Page 74, line 40**

***Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43**

Departing Hymn: LBW (green) #369, *The Church's One Foundation*

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

369 The Church's One Foundation

1 The Church's . . one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der This world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war,
She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms . . rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;
From heav'n he came and sought her To be his ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up: "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued,
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.

O blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
That we, like saints before us,
May see you face to face.

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude



Commemoration

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 & women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

Today, the Lutheran church remembers three notable hymn-writers from 1600s Germany- Philipp Nicolai, Johann Herrmann, and Paul Gerhardt.



Philipp Nicolai was born in 1556 in Germany, son of a Lutheran pastor. He studied theology at the universities of Erfurt and Wittenberg, 1575-1579, and became a pastor himself. He was a theological writer, defending Lutheran theology chiefly against Calvinistic opponents. He is remembered today for writing two hymns: First, "Wake, awake, for night is flying" uses the image of the watchman on a city wall (Isaiah 52:8), and of the Parable of the Bridesmaids welcoming the Bridegroom to the Marriage Feast (Matthew 25:1-13), and of the Song of Triumph in Heaven (Revelation 19:6-9). It is a favorite Advent hymn. The second hymn, "How bright appears the morning star" hails Christ as our deliverer & celebrates his triumph. It has become a favorite wedding hymn, but is also sung for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, & as a general hymn of praise.

Johann Heermann was born in Silesia in Germany in 1585, the fifth and only surviving child of his parents. As a child he suffered a severe illness, and his mother vowed that if he lived he would be trained for the ministry. In 1611 he became deacon and then pastor of the Lutheran church in the small town of Koeben. The Thirty Years' War was then in progress, and Koeben was burned in 1616, plundered and ravaged by pestilence in 1631. Heermann's best-known hymn (in English circles) is "Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, a chorale used by Bach in the St Matthew Passion.

Paul Gerhardt was born in 1607 near Wittenberg, Germany, and studied theology at the Univ. of Wittenberg from 1628-1642. In his sermons, he maintained the Lutheran position against the Calvinists. Despite personal suffering & the horrors of the Thirty Years War, Gerhardt wrote over 130 hymns, expressing both orthodox doctrines & emotional warmth in response to them. His hymns include "O sacred head, sore wounded." Known as the Passion Chorale, it is used with great effectiveness by Bach in the St Matthew Passion & is one of the best-known Good Friday hymns.



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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Frank Terhune
Cell: 610-751-5472

Email: frankterhune@gmail.com

In Office: Tues. & Fri. 9am-12pm

www.millcreeklutheran.com

Secretary: Jennifer Miller Email: secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

Lay Leader: Jennifer Rosengrant

Sunday, October 26, 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. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Rosengrant or Nikki Johnson.



The Cancer Crusaders would like to thank everyone that supported our team in any way this past season. At a recent awards banquet we obtained a plaque for being 8th in fundraising, our team raised \$3,592!

That being said, a new season of Relay has begun and our goal this year is for our team to raise \$5,000 towards the fight for a cure for cancer. We are always looking for team members, but if you would just be interested in helping to fundraise or even volunteer at an activity, that is always appreciated! Every little bit helps!

RELAY PIE SALE: Our 1st group fundraiser is selling pies made by Sycamore Springs Orchard. Orders will be taken until Sunday Oct. 26. The order form will be on the table in the Narthex or you can contact Deb Buffington, Mary Ream, or Deb Tice if interested. The delivery

date is Wednesday Nov. 5 after 6pm, so expect to receive your pie on Thursday Nov. 6 after 4pm unless other arrangements are made. Thank you in advance for your support!

~ The Cancer Crusaders

Deb Buffington, Mary Ream, and Deb Tice

Pies available for order:

Apple Crumb	Pecan
Apple Double Crust Pie (also available sweetened w/ Splenda)	Shoofly
Cherry Crumb	Coconut Cream
Bumbleberry Crumb	Pumpkin

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).

THANKSGIVING BOXES: We will be having our next kids' event on Sunday, Nov. 16th from 1-3pm. This event is a community service project. We will be assembling Thanksgiving boxes & we are in need of the following items:

boxed mashed potatoes	boxed stuffing
gravy	canned yams
canned green beans	canned corn
canned cranberry sauce.	

A box will be in the Narthex for donations. Your generosity is appreciated!

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025:

Current Offerings- \$1,865, Plate- \$113, Memorial Fund- \$200, Flowers- \$20 **Total- \$2,208** Attendance- 56 Sunday School- 14

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

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.

PHOTOS & PRAYERS: On Sunday Nov. 2, we will be remembering those we lost since the last All Saints. Feel free to bring a picture to remember your loved one. On Sunday Nov. 9 we will be remembering veterans. If you have pictures you would like to share, they may be placed on the table (up front) or on a windowsill in the church during services.

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

Rehearsals will be at 11AM on Saturdays Oct. 25, Nov. 1, and Nov. 8.

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

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Jack and Lourdes Kahl for the donation of the 2 beautiful benches located at the entrance to the church!

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday Oct. 26-Communion service with Pastor Terhune. Trunk or Treat 1-3pm for community in church parking lot
- Sunday Nov. 2- All Saints communion service with Pastor Terhune
- Sunday Nov. 9- Veteran's Celebration. Abbreviated service with cell tower presentation and Questions & Answers from the congregation 11am-12pm.
- Sunday Nov. 16- Sunday Fun Day 1-3pm and Service Project for community youth.
- Sunday November 23 is Christ the King Sunday, signifying the end of the church year, followed by November 30, the 1st Sunday in Advent! Stay tuned for the rest of the Advent & Christmas schedule!! Children have begun working on their Christmas program. *It is very important to have them at Sunday School as often as possible since we do most learning of songs there.*

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

Elaine Hemperly
Linden Village
100 Tuck St.
Lebanon, PA 17042

PRAYER LIST: Please make requests to Jen M. by noon Wed. each week: secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call: 610-589-2570. *Please provide updates when our prayers have been answered, so this list can be kept current.*

MILLCREEK MEMBERS:

Peg Auman	Bryan Breidigam
Joe Buffington	Debbie Hartman
Violet Hepler	Frank Hoffman
Abbie Keath	The Leibig Family
Barbara Potteiger	Brian Ream
Norm Sharp	Gerry Strickler
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
Candy Hibshman, friend of Rachel Mock
Jennifer Clinton, daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler
Mitch Keath, relative of Mary Ream & Deb Buffington
Renee Troutman, friend of Debbie Tice
Isabel Rivera, daughter of Jen Miller

THANK YOU to our Millcreek family for the cards and caring outreach shown following the passing of Chub Auman. It is hard to put into words how grateful we are to everyone for their kindness and support during this most difficult time.

God Bless you all,

Peg Auman and Linda Ream and their family



Proceeds benefit graduation celebrations organized by the ELCO Senior Parent Organization

Space is limited

ELCO Class of 2026

BINGO FUNDRAISER

Join us for an afternoon of bingo, plus special games, raffle prizes, and food!

\$25 pre-sale, \$30 at door unless sold out

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Neptune Fire Co.
Main Street, Richland
Doors open at Noon
Bingo Begins 2 p.m.

SCAN FOR TIX

