

*Millcreek Lutheran Church
January 18, 2026
Second Sunday after Epiphany*

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: Eternal God, who gave your only Son to suffer death on our behalf that we may be saved to new life: Draw us to you in humility and in penitence; that we may let Jesus take all our sins away and cleanse us from within. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

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

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness**

LBW p. 56

Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's anoint-ed, great Da - vid's great-er Son!
 2 He comes with res-cue speed - y to those who suf-fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show-ers up - on the fruit-ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be-fore him, and gold and in-cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap-point-ed, his reign on earth be-gun!
 to help the poor and need-y, and bid the weak be strong;
 and love, joy, hope, like flow-ers, spring in his path to birth.
 all na-tions shall a-dore him, his praise all peo-ple sing.



He comes to break op-pres-sion, to set the cap-tive free,
 to give them songs for sigh-ing, their dark-ness turn to light,
 Be-fore him on the moun-tains shall peace, the her-ald, go;
 To him shall prayer un-ccas-ing and dai-ly vows as-cend;



to take a-way trans-gres-sion and rule in eq-uity.
 whose souls, con-demned and dy-ing, were pre-cious in his sight.
 and righ-teous-ness in foun-tains from hill to val-ley flow.
 his king-dom still in-creas-ing, a king-dom with-out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

*Greetings:

LBW p. 57, line 5

*The Kyrie

LBW p. 57-58, line 6

Hymn of Praise, *Glory to God*

LBW p. 58

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God." ⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength- ⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." ⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40:1-11 (read responsively)

¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord,
 who stooped to me and heard my cry.

**2 The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
 and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
 many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

4 Happy are they who trust in the Lord!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

**6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
 you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you
 have not required.**

⁷ And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

8 I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me."

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
 I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

**10 I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have
 spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;
 I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the
 great assembly.**

¹¹ You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;
 may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-19

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***The Alleluia Verse**

LBW p. 62, line 14

***Gospel: John 1:29-42**

The Holy Gospel according to John the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.” ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The Holy Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 351

Source unknown

Unison

Folk melody from India

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The first staff is in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics in the first four lines. The second staff is in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics in the second four lines. The third staff is in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics in the third four lines. The fourth staff is in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics in the fourth four lines. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a bass line on the fourth staff.

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.

*The Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

Choir Anthem

*The Prayers

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

LBW p.71

***Blessing:**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

LBW (green) #518

Beautiful Savior

Moments of Meditation (seated)

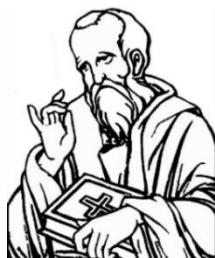
***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

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 church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair arc the mead - ows, fair arc the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 Son of God Spar - kling bloom - ing Man!
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God
 and in memory of our loved ones, by Stephanie Gahres & family.*





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, January 18, 2026

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 kick off this Sunday the 18th with a goal of 420 Cans of soup. We will conclude on Feb 8th with a soup and sandwich luncheon in the multi purpose room. If you are interested in making soup for the lunch sign up in the Narthex.

A display will be in the Narthex for you to drop off your soup. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, we can purchase soup for you. We look forward to helping tackle hunger in our community over the next 30 days! Go Team Millcreek!

Any questions, contact Jen Rosengrant: jrosengrant1200@comcast.net or 717-228-8857.



Happy New Year! Our Relay for Life team, the Cancer Crusaders, are participating in multiple fundraising opportunities currently. If you have any questions, see team members, Deb Buffington, Deb Tice or Mary Ream. Thank you for your support!

- Mr. Sticky's sticky buns- Orders will be taken until Sunday February 15th. Delivery date is February 27th. Individual buns are \$4 and a 6-pack is \$21. Look for the order form in the Narthex.
- Daffodil Days- Orders will be taken until Sunday February 15th. Flowers will arrive March 25th. Look for the order form in the Narthex.
- Cash and Gift Card Bingo- Saturday February 21, 2026 at the Neptune Fire Company in Richland. Doors open at noon, games start at 1pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, if not sold out. Limited seats available & each seat needs a ticket. Additional games/cards available at the door! Door prizes, raffle baskets, 50/50 drawing, Survivor game, food for purchase and Fun! Purchase your tickets from any team member

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS for 2026 are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10.

WEATHER ALERT: In case of bad weather, please tune into Channel 27 WHTM (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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 25TH:

Our congregational meeting will be on Sunday January 25th immediately following the service in the multi-purpose room. Light refreshments will be available. We will be presenting the following information:

2025 Financial Results

2026 Financial Budget

Cell Tower Vote

Solar Panel Vote

We encourage everyone to attend in person. Those in attendance will be given a confidential paper ballot. If you are unable to be in person we are offering two additional options:

1. Zoom (link/meeting code and passcode below) with call in numbers for casting votes.
2. Phone Patch will stay live after church with call in numbers for casting votes.

Individuals that participate via phone patch or Zoom will call one of the numbers listed below during the voting time. When you call in, you will be asked Cell Tower Vote then Solar Vote. You simply respond Yes or No. You do not need to provide your name.

Phone Numbers to Call in for Voting:

717-383-0899

717-304-5949

717-376-5776

717-903-2076

717-228-8175

717-228-8857

Link and meeting and passcodes for Zoom below.

Jennifer Rosengrant is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Millcreek Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting

Time: Jan 25, 2026 04:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89044671482?pwd=Uov7JlgCW57dsOaaC60FjdigTlKng7.1>

Meeting ID: 890 4467 1482

Passcode: 679767

One tap mobile

+16465588656, 89044671482# *679767# US (New York)

+16469313860, 89044671482# *679767# US

Join by SIP

• 89044671482@zoomcrc.com

Join instructions

https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/89044671482/invitations?signature=-zM3AiMB_gbeOydhBZn8b64BE5vLnfWjZArosQuIx0

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION will also be on January 25th. If you are interested in becoming a member of Millcreek Lutheran Church, please reach out Pastor Terhune or Jen Rosengrant.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: We are looking to add 2-3 additional individuals to Council for the coming year. If you have an interest in being part of a team guiding our congregation into the future, please reach out to a current council member for more information.

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday January 25- Annual Congregational Meeting with light refreshments following the service.
- **BIBLE STUDY:** Pastor Terhune will continue Bible Study on Tuesdays in January (weather permitting) at 1:00 and 7:00pm. The theme is From the Beginning: A look at the opening chapters of Genesis:
Jan 27 Confusion and Hope 11 – 12
- Sunday February 8- Souper Sunday soup collection for the food bank and Souper Bowl lunch following the service. Watch for the sign-up in the narthex if you would like to bring soup to share!

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

Violet Hepler
Stone Ridge Poplar Run
450 E. Lincoln Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

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	Liz Leibig
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
Louise Hainley, cousin of Debbie Tice
Rich Leinweber, friend of Rachel Mock
Renee Troutman, friend of Debbie Tice

Obituary: Paul I. Zimmerman (1931-2026)

Paul I. Zimmerman, 94, of [Newmanstown, PA](#), died Saturday, January 10, 2026 at his residence. He was the widower of Lois J. Zimmerman, who died March 30, 2023.

Born in [Lebanon, PA](#) on November 25, 1931, He was a son of the late George G. and Pauline R. (Sheetz) Zimmerman.

Paul retired from maintenance, at NARCO after 22 years. He also worked at the Sheridan Furnace for 16 years. After retirement, he enjoyed driving bus for Fisher Bus Service. Paul was a member of Millcreek Lutheran Church, Richland Legion, and Millcreek Rod & Gun Club. He was an avid Eagles & Phillies fan who enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Paul is survived by a daughter, Karen M. wife of James Carl, of Myerstown; son, Kevin P. Zimmerman husband of Linda, of Newmanstown; 7 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren; brother, Roy Zimmerman, of Lewes, DE.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Victoria A. Griffe.

Visitation with family and friends will be held from 1-2 p.m., with services beginning at 2p.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at Grose Funeral Home, Inc., 358 W. Washington Ave., [Myerstown, PA](#). Interment is private, at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory of Paul to the Humane Society of Lebanon County 150 N. Ramona Road [Myerstown, PA](#) 17067.

Then Knowing Begins

There is a whole lot written about *knowing* in this gospel's pithy account of Jesus' debut. There is, for that matter, a lot written about knowing throughout John's gospel; it's part of this book of the Bible's particularity. But take note: Before any claims of knowing are dashed into this memoir, John the Baptizer bothers to reveal that there was, for him, a time before knowing—a time when he did not know Jesus. This little and perhaps overlooked detail, "I myself did not know him" (John 1:31), is like sugar water in a hummingbird feeder: a sweet invitation or coaxing to come, taste and see what is good.

That admission from John lures readers and hearers to pay attention not simply to events: the arrival of Jesus on the scene, his walking toward John, the act of baptizing with water, or even the flamboyant descent of a dove. These are descriptive details, but they are not the essence of what soon will overtake John and others—an invitation to know Jesus.

The difference between knowing *about* Jesus and knowing Jesus is tucked in and all around this gospel text that leads initially to the Baptizer and then moves onto a pathway beyond him. Yes, Jesus is introduced as "Lamb of God." Yes, like a dove, the Spirit was seen descending. Vivid, symbolic details, for sure, about one coming to take away sin. But it is afterward, in Andrew and Simon's curiosity and willingness to follow, when Jesus asks "What are you looking for?" and urges them to "come and see," when they begin to stay together—they with Jesus and he with them—that knowing Jesus overtakes them and they fall into the grace of what he comes to take away and what he comes to give.