

Millcreek Lutheran Church

February 1, 2026

Fourth 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 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: Merciful Father, whose fatherly goodness makes happy those who put their trust in you: Cause us to see who we are as your children; that we may experience the happiness you have said is ours. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Interim Pastor, | Pastor Frank Terhune |
| Lay Leader, | Jennifer Rosengrant |
| Organist/Pianist, | Debbie Tice |
| Lay Reader, | Dara Wolfe |
| Ushers/Audio, | Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman |

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness**

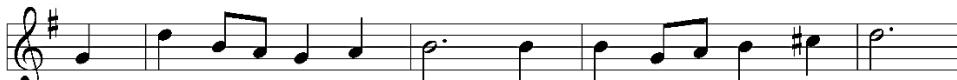
LBW p. 56

***Opening Hymn:**

LBW #553

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng!

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng!



1 Re - joice, O pil - grim throng! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
4 Yet, on and on - ward still, with hymn and chant and song,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
through gate and porch and col - umned aisle the hal-lowed path-ways throng.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

5 Still lift your standard high,
still march in firm array,
as pilgrims through the darkness wend
till dawns the golden day. *Refrain*

6 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

7 Praise him who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.
Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

***Greetings:**

LBW p. 57, line 5

***The Kyrie**

LBW p. 57-58, line 6

Hymn of Praise, *This is the Feast*

LBW p. 60

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you
Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from
Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of
rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for
the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require
of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with
your God?

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

Psalm 15 (read responsively)

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**² Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who
fear the Lord.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their
word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes
against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

***The Alleluia Verse**

LBW p. 62, line 14

***Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day

LBW #496

Around you, O Lord Jesus

Around You, O Lord Jesus



1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
we will be true and nev - er—in joy, in grief, in death—



You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my body - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
Music: O JESU, ÄN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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*The Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

Choir Anthem: *How Long Has It Been*

*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.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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.**

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| The Great Thanksgiving (spoken) | LBW p.68 |
| *The Preface | LBW p.68 |
| *The Sanctus: <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i> | LBW p.69 |
| *Words of Institution | LBW p.69 |
| *The Lord's Prayer | LBW p.71 |
| Communion of the Faithful | |
| *Communion Blessing | LBW p.72 |
| *Post-Communion Canticle, <i>Thank the Lord</i> | LBW p.72 |
| *Post-Communion Prayer | LBW p.74 |
| *Closing Hymn | LBW #425 |

O God of Mercy, God of Light

O God of Mercy, God of Light

1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to dic for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus

mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and

in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
each other's burdens help us share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
those who have lived to you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.
Music: JUST AS I AM. Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

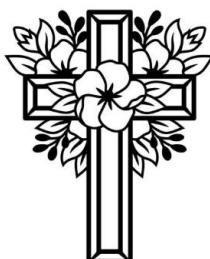
Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

Postlude

*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God
and in memory of Stan Templin, Sr. by his 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, February 1, 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 YouTube.



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.

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 kicked off on 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 also 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 1ST:

Our congregational meeting will be on Sunday February 1st 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:

717-304-5949

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 11:15 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

CHURCH BREAKFAST: The Church Breakfast is held on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the 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

PASTOR TERHUNE will be traveling to Israel Feb. 23 through March 5. Pastor Joel Risser will be covering services during this time.

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday February 1st- Communion Service & Annual Congregational Meeting with light refreshments following the service.
- 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!
- Wednesday February 18- 7pm Ash Wednesday service

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

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

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:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 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

TAX FORMS: Starting February 1st, donation forms for tax year 2025 will be available for pick up in the Narthex.

Something Bigger Than Us

The beatitudes could easily be read as a list of rewards and consequences, and the kind of behaviors that will merit one or the other. We are well accustomed to understanding the world in such terms. Children receive rewards for good behavior. Students earn awards or scholarships. Athletes win medals or trophies. Success is a ladder we climb and, if we've done our part, our job is rewarded in the end.

Jesus talks about a great reward, but it's not one we can earn. On a closer look, the nature of many of the so-called "blessings" in the beatitudes is as much about what is done to us as about anything we do for ourselves. Jesus begins his sermon by going up the mountain, but his words push us not to new heights but to greater depths. Poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hunger, thirst, and persecution—these are not behaviors to strive toward for a reward. Instead, they are circumstances in which we can find ourselves when the ladder we've been climbing falls to the ground. Alternatively, to be merciful or pure in heart or a peacemaker is to choose to get off the ladder altogether for the sake of something bigger than our small selves.

The beatitudes as a whole suggest that Jesus wants more for us than simply collecting a heavenly prize in the end. His blessings assure us that all along the way, no matter our circumstances, we have an inherent, God-given dignity that no one and nothing can strip from us. At the table of Christ, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness are filled. This meal isn't awarded to us for a job well done. Rather, it feeds us for the work still to be done, that of sharing God's mercy and peace with others.

The Beatitudes

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

Matthew 5:11 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)



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

KINGDOM

MERCY

EARTH

FILLED

MOURN

HUNGER

HEART

SPIRIT

BLESSED

INHERIT

THIRST

MEEK

PURE

POOR

HEAVEN