



Millcreek Lutheran Church
February 22, 2026
First Sunday of Lent

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: You have sent your Son whose faithfulness to you gave him victory over the power of temptation. May our hearts be submissive to him, that his victory may become ours, and our will may become yours. We pray through 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 #104

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

***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)

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not

eat from any tree in the garden?”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die,⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Psalm 32 (read responsively)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time
of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**⁸ “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.”

**¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not

sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

***Return to the Lord**

LBW p. 63

***Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day

NCH (red) #434

Love Lifted Me

Love Lifted Me

434

James Rowe

Howard E. Smith

1. I was sink-ing deep in sin, Far from the peace-ful shore, Ver - y deep-ly
2. All my heart to Him I give, Ev - er to Him I'll cling, In His bless-ed
3. Souls in dan-ger, look a-bove, Je-sus com-plete-ly saves; He will lift you

stained with-in, Sink-ing to rise no more; But the Mas-ter of the sea
pres-ence live, Ev - er His prais-es sing. Love so might-y and so true
by His love Out of the an-gry waves. He's the Mas-ter of the sea,

Heard my de-spair-ing cry, From the wa-ters lift-ed me, Now safe am I.
Mer-its my soul's best songs; Faith-ful, lov-ing serv-ice, too, To Him be - longs.
Bil-lows His will o - bey; He your Sav-iour wants to be, Be saved to - day.

Refrain

Love lift - ed me! _____ Love lift - ed me! _____ When noth-ing
e - ven me! e - ven me!

1. else could help, Love lift - ed me. 2. Love lift - ed me.

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Installation of Congregational Council

Choir Anthem, *He Became a Lamb*

*The Prayers

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

***Blessing:**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

Jesus, Still Lead On

LBW #341

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

Postlude

Jesus, Still Lead On



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith-less
3 When we seek re-lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta-tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead-er,



way be cheer-less, we will fol-low, calm and fear-less;
fears o'er-take us, let not faith and hope for-sake us;
come al-lur-ing make us pa-tient and en-dur-ing;
still di-rect us, still sup-port, con-sole, pro-tect us,



guide us by your hand to our Fa-ther's land.
safe-ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe-ly stand in our Fa-ther's land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God.





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 22, 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



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- Delivery date is February 27th
- Daffodil Days- Flowers will arrive March 25th.
- 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.

GIRL SCOUTS: On March 8th, the girl scouts will hand out fliers and will have a table of cookies for sale, \$6/box.

MLC EGG HUNT will take place this year on Saturday April 4th at 11AM. We are collecting prize donations and egg fillers. Prizes should be for the ages of 0-12. All items donated can be placed in the back corner Sunday school room on the table. A list of suggested items will be on the table in the Narthex. If you have any other questions, please reach out to Nicole Johnson or Jen Rosengrant. Thank you!

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.

SECURITY NOTE: If you stop by the church or are the last one to leave the church, please make sure to pull on all the door handles once outside to ensure they are all locked. We have numerous instances over the past month where the doors have been found unlocked. If you are stopping in outside of the Pastor's office hours or for a meeting, we encourage you to use the side door rather than unlocking the electronic doors. We appreciate your attentiveness to this matter.

PASTOR TERHUNE will be traveling to Israel Feb. 23 through March 5. In the event of an emergency or pastoral need while Pastor is on vacation, please call Jen Rosengrant at 717-228-8857 and she will coordinate with covering pastor.

EASTER SHUT-IN BAGS: Starting Sunday March 1st, the Easter bags will be in the Narthex until March 29th. A sign-up sheet will be on the table for volunteers to help deliver the bags to the shut-ins before Easter. If you have questions, please reach out to Jen Rosengrant or Nicole Johnson. Thank you.

SWEET 2nd SUNDAY: March 15th, treat yourself to one of Charmayne's sweets!

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday February 22- Regular service
- Wednesday February 25- Lent service at Elias UCC, Newmanstown, 7pm
- Sunday March 1- Communion service with Pastor Joel Risser.
- Wednesday March 4- Lent service at New Life Fellowship, Newmanstown, 7pm
- Sunday March 9- Regular service
- Wednesday March 11- Lent service at Grace UCC, 7pm

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

Alfred & Barb Beck
153 Deck Rd.
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

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	Debbie Hartman	Violet Hepler
Liz Leibig	Portia Lindermuth	Brian Ream
Norm Sharp	Gerry Strickler	Stewart Wolf
Aaron Yiengst	Devon Yiengst	Michael Yiengst, Jr.
Greer Zellers		

NON-MEMBERS:

Gary Beatty, friend of Debbie Hartman
JoAnn Deahl, Brandy Gahres' mother
Linda McMullan, sister in law of Greta McMullan
Jennifer Clinton, daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler
Mitch Keath, relative of Mary Ream & Deb Buffington
Louise Hainley, cousin of Debbie Tice
Jeff Okamoto & family, friends of Kristin Bender
Alethea Grissinger, friend of Deb Buffington
Ken Dudley, son of Barb Heckendorn

TAX FORMS: Donation forms for tax year 2025 are available for pick up in the Narthex.

Newmanstown-Richland Ministerium LENTEN SERVICES

- Wednesday February 25
Elias UCC, Newmanstown, 7pm
Topic: Those Who Mourn, with Pastor Jim Artz

- Wednesday March 4
New Life Fellowship, Newmanstown, 7pm
Topic: Blessed Are the Meek, with Pastor Jay Heberling

- Wednesday March 11
Grace UCC, Richland, 7pm
Topic: Hunger & Thirst, with Pastor Bill Wink

- Wednesday March 18
Church of Christian Outreach, Newmanstown, 7pm
Topic: Blessed Are the Merciful, with Pastor Jay Heberling

- Wednesday March 25
Tulpehocken Trinity Church, Richland, 7pm
Topic: Pure in Heart, with Pastor Wendy Buffington

- Wednesday April 1
St. Paul's UCC, Newmanstown, 7pm
Topic: Peacemakers, with Pastor Mario Madden

- Friday April 3
Richland Community Bible Church, Richland, 7pm
Topic: Persecuted, with Pastor Frank Terhune

Forty Days of Humility

The devil gives Jesus three opportunities to assert himself as powerful and exceptional: to turn rocks into bread, to be saved by the angels, and to rule over all the earth. Three times Jesus rebuffs the devil, turning his attention to God and refusing to take the bait.

Anthony the Great, a desert father whose life mirrored the experience of Jesus in this text, once said, “I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, ‘What can get through from such snares?’ Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Humility’” (Benedicta Ward, trans., *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, Cistercian, 1975). This is exactly how Jesus responds to the temptations offered by the devil: turning his attention back to God in humility, refusing the temptation to prove himself through miracles and acts of power.

During Lent, we are invited to engage in practices like fasting, almsgiving, and prayer to discipline our minds and bodies so we can return our full attention to the abiding love of God in Jesus. There will be a temptation to engage these practices as ways of puffing ourselves up, performing, or proving our worth. But Jesus calls us back to a Lent rooted in humility, engaging practices not for the sake of proving ourselves, but for deepening our trust in God.

Where might we be experiencing that temptation to puff ourselves up, perform, or prove our greatness? What practices might support a posture of humility, reminding us that God is the author of all good things, and that we are loved and sustained by a God who humbly took on flesh for the sake of the world?

May these forty days teach us to embrace humility and to trust that God walks with us, making all things new.



Anyone interested in purchasing Easter Flowers this year, please contact Carol Sova at 717-507-4721. This is my cell number, you may text me or call. I will confirm all orders if you don't sign-up directly at church. If you don't hear back from me to confirm, please call me.

The flowers will be available on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

The choices of potted flowers are as follows: tulips (request color), daffodils (regular), hyacinths (one color or pink, blue, white trio), Easter lilies (white), L.A. Hybrid lilies) or mums. The cost is \$8.00 each except for the lilies which are \$10.00.

Someone will be available after church most Sundays or you can call me. I will place the order mid-March. If you want to specify color, please have your order in as soon as possible for the best selection. (Those I will be ordering as soon as possible as there were some supply issues in the past).

Thank you,

Carol Sova

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NLT).



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

WORD

TEMPTED

WORLD

DEVIL

WORSHIP

ANGELS

KINGDOMS

FASTING

LORD

HUNGRY

BREAD

SATAN

MOUNTAIN

STONES

DESERT

TEMPLE

BOW

SERVE

SPLENDOR

JESUS