



Millcreek Lutheran Church
March 1, 2026
Second 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 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: O God of love, who offers an ever-flowing fountain of forgiveness: Fill our emptiness with your love; that in drinking freely your water of life, we may know the joy of true worship and righteous living. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

Guest Pastor,	Pastor Joel Risser
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Mary Ream
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness**

LBW p. 56

***Opening Hymn: Lord, with Glowing Heart**

LBW #243

Lord, with Glowing Heart



1 Lord, with glow-ing heart I'd praise thee for the bliss thy love be-stows,
2 Praise, my soul, the God that sought thee, wretch-ed wan - d'rer, far a - stray;
3 Lord, my spir-it's ar - dent feel - ings vain - ly would my lips ex - press.



for the pard-'ning grace that saves me, and the peace that from it flows.
found thee lost, and kind - ly brought thee from the paths of death a - way.
Low be - fore thy foot-stool kneel - ing, deign thy sup - pliant's prayer to bless;



Help, O God, my weak en - deav-or; this dull soul to rap - ture raise;
Praise, with love's de - vout - est feel-ing, him who saw thy guilt-born fear
let thy grace, my soul's chief trea - sure, love's pure flame with-in me raise;



thou must light the flame, or nev - er can my love be warmed to praise.
and, the light of hope re-veal-ing, bade the blood-stained cross ap - pear.
and, since words can nev - er mea - sure, let my life show forth thy praise!

Text: Francis S. Key, 1779–1843

Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, J. Seavitt, *Christian Lyre*, 1831

*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)

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

¹ The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 121 (read responsively)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The Lord will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the Lord watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say?

“Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

***Return to the Lord**

LBW p. 63

***Gospel: John 3:1-17**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day

What Wondrous Love Is This

LBW #385

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down,
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be-neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

*The Nicene Creed

LBW p. 64

Choir Anthem: *God So Loved the World*

*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.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly (*especially*) and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken) LBW p.68

*The Preface LBW p.68

*The Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy* 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, *Thank the Lord* LBW p.72

*Post-Communion Prayer LBW p.74

*Closing Hymn Blessed Assurance NCH (red) #144

Moments of Meditation (seated)

*Dismissal LBW p.74

Postlude

The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God and in celebration of all February birthdays.



Fanny J. Crosby

Phoebe P. Knapp

1. Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O, what a fore-taste of
 2. Per-fect sub - mis-sion, per-fect de - light, Vi-sions of rap-ture now
 3. Per-fect sub - mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
 burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a - bove
 hap - py and blest; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,

Refrain

Born of His Spir-it, washed in His blood. This is my sto-ry, this is my
 Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. good-ness, lost in His love.

song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; This is my sto - ry,
 this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

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.



George Herbert (3 April 1593 – 1 March 1633)^[1] was an English poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England. His poetry is associated with the writings of the metaphysical poets, and he is recognized as "one of the foremost British devotional lyricists."^[2] He was born in Wales into an artistic and wealthy family and largely raised in England. He gave up secular ambitions in his mid-thirties and took holy orders in the Church of England, spending the rest of his life as the rector of the rural parish outside Salisbury. He was noted for unflinching care for his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need.



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, March 01, 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.



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!

- Daffodil Days- Flowers will arrive March 25th.

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

BLOOD DRIVE: Central PA Blood Bank will host a Blood Drive at MLC on Thursday, March 12 from 11am – 7pm.

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

FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT: Current offerings: \$9,145, Plate: \$387, Initial: \$46, Flowers: \$155, Bulletins: \$45, Capital Campaign: \$100, Memorial Fund: \$95, Bldg. Rental: \$590, Soup sale: \$31, World Hunger: \$200, Ash Wednesday: \$210. Total: 11,004

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

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 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
- Sunday, March 18- Regular service

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

Franklin Bergman
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:

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.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, Matthew: The Cross and Beyond, with Pastor Terhune will be at 1pm and 7pm on the following Tuesdays in March:

March 17: Early in the Week, Matthew 21 – 23

March 24: Last Days, Matthew 24 – 26

March 31: Death and Resurrection, Matthew 27 – 28

Newmanstown-Richland Ministerium LENTEN SERVICES

- 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



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

A New Thing Is Underway

How can anyone be born after having grown old?” asks Nicodemus (John 3:4), articulating a question that we as the church continue to ask today. Change is hard. Transformation seems impossible. And yet, Jesus responds that in baptism we are made as new as if we had been born again, with a new heart able to perceive the reign of God. All things are possible with God!

Nicodemus is justifiably perplexed by this proclamation. We may resonate with his confusion as we look at the world around us and in the mirror before us, wondering if anything can ever truly change. Can the violence and suffering of war ever truly end? Can this broken relationship be mended? Can this illness be healed? Can hatred, oppression, and abuse be thwarted, transformed by the power of love? When we look around us, change may seem in short supply.

And yet, when we get curious, we may also become aware of signs of change, transformation, and rebirth emerging all around us. In northern regions, we can see the melting snow and first shoots of green from rousing plants, signaling the change from winter to spring. We can see mutual aid networks, community care efforts, and collective action emerge in response to social and political chaos. We can sense the tug of the Holy Spirit on our hearts, calling us toward deeper humility, compassion, and solidarity as we live in the hope of Christ.

The Lenten call—to set down what we can to attend more fully to God—draws us into a posture of curiosity that may deepen our awareness of the small but potent ways God’s kingdom is already breaking in all around us. “Do not be astonished,” says Jesus (v. 7); a new thing is underway.

God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 3:16-17

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

LOVED
THROUGH
PERISH

GOD
SEND
ETERNAL

SON
WHOEVER
GAVE

CONDEMN
LIFE
HIM

BELIEVES
SAVE
WORLD