

Millcreek Lutheran Church
June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

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: O Holy God, whose Son challenges us with discipleship which is not threatened by those who reject us or our witness: Increase our faith in your protection; that we may be faithful with our witness, even when fear would make us hesitate. 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, | Roy Hoglund |
| Ushers/Audio, | Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman |

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

Father's Day Litany:

For fathers everywhere, who have given us life and love, that we may show them respect and love.

Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers.

For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

Holy God, hear this prayer for fathers that mourn.

For men who may or may not have children of their own, but act like a father to someone in need of advice, support, nurturing, and love.

Holy God, hear this prayer for our father figures.

For stepfathers who have assumed that role with love and joy, who have loved the children of another as their own, and created a new family.

Holy God, hear this prayer for stepfathers.

For adoptive fathers, who have heard the call of God to lovingly step forward for those that need their care.

Holy God, hear this prayer for adoptive fathers.

For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to the needs of their children, and have not sustained their families.

Holy God, have mercy on absentee fathers.

For those who are mourning the loss of fathers today. Ease their pain on this day, loving God.

Holy God, give peace to those who mourn.

For new fathers, full of hope. For long-time fathers, full of wisdom. For the fathers yet to be, and fathers soon to be.

Holy God, heard our prayer for the fathers of your Church.

For those that have shaped our lives without claim of family or kinship. For those who have taught us, guided us, shaped us and molded us into servants of Christ our Lord.

Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of our faith. Amen

***Opening Hymn:**

Faith of Our Fathers

NCH (red) #189

Faith of Our Fathers

ST. CATHERINE

Frederick W. Faber

Henri F. Hemy

1. Faith of our fa-thers! liv-ing still In spite of dung-eon, fire and sword;
 2. Our fa-thers, chained in pri-sons dark, Were still in heart and con-science free,
 3. Faith of our fa-thers, we still strive To win all na-tions un-to thee!
 4. Faith of our fa-thers! we will love Both friend and foe in all our strife,

O how our hearts beat high with joy When-e'er we hear that glo-ri-ous word!
 How sweet would be their child-ren's fate, If they, like them, could die for thee!
 And thro' the truth that comes from God Man-kind shall then in-deed be free:
 And preach thee, too, as love knows how, By kind-ly words and vir-tu-ous life:

Faith of our fa-thers! Ho-ly faith! We will be true to thee till death!
 Faith of our fa-thers! Ho-ly faith! We will be true to thee till death!
 Faith of our fa-thers! Ho-ly faith! We will be true to thee till death!
 Faith of our fa-thers! Ho-ly faith! We will be true to thee till death!

*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)

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. ⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰ For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

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

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 (read responsively)

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

⁸ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰ **I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

[¹¹ I put on sackcloth also,
and became a by-word among them.

¹² **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O Lord:
"In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

¹⁴ **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

¹⁵ Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.]

¹⁶ **Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

¹⁷ Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸ **Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, ³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household. ³⁷ "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
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*The Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

*The Prayers

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

LBW p.71

***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**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

LBW #503

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

Postlude

The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God, and in memory of Tina Strickler & Alice Fisher.



O Jesus, I Have Promised



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My focs are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

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 we celebrate Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

Between Hiding and Exposing

The desire to make known that which is currently hidden can evoke various responses. When abusive power and fear suppress opposition, or when liberating truth is just under the surface, the desire for uncovering and justice is likely strong. However, when harm or injustice is not an obvious outcome and that which is hidden is perceived to benefit stability or peace, there may be resistance to making the hidden known.

Through a variety of images, the speech in Matthew's gospel calls for the unknown to be revealed and intentions made plain. Our liturgical practice of corporate confession provides an opportunity to acknowledge our relationship with what stays hidden and what we wish to reveal in our own lives. The confession may be discomfiting, but it reminds us of an important dynamic in the life of faith: Just as Jesus tells his disciples not to fear and reassures them of their value, the words of forgiveness in the liturgy orient us toward a God who restores relationships and calls us beloved.

If only the liturgical practice of confession and forgiveness would once and for all set us on the right path and give us permanent assurance! But that would also free us from curiosity about what taking up the cross means in our lives. Once the cross is exposed, we must face our response to it, and it challenges our allegiances and prods at our vulnerabilities. However, Jesus is clear that the cross also uncovers a path to life. Instead of this path being a lonely, exposing journey, Jesus knows it well and joins us on the way.

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. Matthew 10:31 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 10:24-39 (NIV)



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

STUDENT
SPARROWS
WORTH
NUMBERED

GROUND
FALL
LIFE
ABOVE

FOLLOW
TEACHER
HEAD
SERVANT

PENNY
WORTHY
MASTER
BODY

HAIRS
SOUL
CROSS
AFRAID



Our Mission:
Motivating Lives Through Christ and 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, June 21, 2026

You can listen to the worship service over the phone patch at 9:30 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.



Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Community

IT'S LEBANON AREA FAIR TIME!- The fair runs July 25th - August 1st. Great food, entertainment and much more! If you are in need of information or BBQ tickets, please contact Deb Tice, Morgan Hoffman, or Frank Hoffman. There are brochures and coloring sheets available in the narthex. Coloring entries are due by July 3rd.

MINISTERIUM TRAIN RIDE: Saturday Aug. 22 (rain date Saturday Aug. 29) Picnic & train ride on the Allentown & Auburn Railroad located in Kutztown PA. Max 150 people. \$12 per adult, \$8 kids 4-10, 3 and under free to sit on parents lap. Includes: hot dogs, burgers, grilled chicken, and drinks. You are welcome to bring a covered dish to share. Enjoy cornhole & other games. Any money raised over the cost of expenses will go to the Ministerium. Pay cash for tickets the day of, at the train station Call Tulpehocken Trinity (717) 866-5190 to add your name to the reservation list.

General Fund- May Offerings

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Current offerings: | 7,297 |
| Plate | 513 |
| Recycling | 17 |
| Bldg. Rental | 40 |
| Thrivent-Meyer | 117 |

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Flowers | 120 |
| Bulletins | 20 |
| World Hunger | 100 |
| Light Memorial | 186.99 |
| Pork Fundraiser | 5601 |

Total: \$14,011.99

Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Congregation

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday June 21- 9:30am regular service
- Sunday June 28- 9:30am regular service
- Sunday July 5- 9:30am communion service

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL POOL PARTY:

Barb Heckendorn is hosting our annual Sunday school pool party again this summer. The date she has chosen is Saturday, June 27th from 1-3pm. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex. We will be ordering pizza & having snack items as well.

COMING SOON- SUMMER MUSIC:

Sunday June 28 - duets by Jamie Keener and Deb Tice
July - most dates are open
August 2 - Barry Wenrich
August 9 - Jamie Keener dance
August 16- open
August 23 - Brian Klinger
August 30 - open
September 6- open


Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

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

A SPECIAL THANK YOU:

Gerry and I are so grateful for all the prayers & support during this difficult time. He loves shuffling through all the cards from the Easter bag and many other messages of support. He thoroughly enjoyed all the treats & special gifts. He also appreciates the visits from Pastor Terhune. Thanks to all and God Bless.

Gerry & Julie Strickler 

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:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Violet Hepler | Liz Leibig | Michael Yiengst, Jr | Dale Bentz |
| Portia Lindermuth | Brian Ream | Devon Yiengst | Norm Sharp |
| Gerry Strickler | Stewart Wolf | Aaron Yiengst | Greer Zellers |
| Julie Strickler | | | |

NON-MEMBERS:

Gary Beatty, brother in law of Debbie Hartman
JoAnn Deahl, Brandy Gahres' mother
Linda McMullan, sister in law of Greta McMullan
Jennifer Clinton, daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler
Alethea Grissinger, friend of Deb Buffington
Kevin Kochinsky, family friend of Stephanie Seldomridge
Ann Shallcross, sister of Stephanie Gahres
Kaylee Gordon, family member of Jamie Keener
Rev. Althea Seidel



High School Graduates:

Brady Allen Bergman, son of Peter & Marnie Bergman and grandson of Doris & Frank Bergman, graduated from Manheim Central High School. He plans to study Marine Sciences at Coastal Carolina University.

Elly Margaret Scheib, daughter of Brigitta & Scott Scheib and granddaughter of Doris & Frank Bergman, graduated from Central Dauphin High School. She will attend Penn State University.

Evan Glucksnis, son of Marcia & Jared Glucksnis and grandson of Brian & Linda Ream, graduated from Governor Mifflin High School. He will be attending Gettysburg College, majoring in finance.

Morgan Lynn Margaret Hoffman, daughter of Frank and Jodi Hoffman, graduated from Eastern Lebanon County High School. She will be attending Lebanon Valley College studying Music Education.

Ashton Kriss, grandson of Margie Kriss, graduated from Eastern Lebanon County High School. He plans to attend Bloomsburg University.

Michael Yiengst, Jr. graduated from ELCO/IU13 school to work program. Mother Devon Yiengst, father Mike, and grandparents Dan and Deb Hogeland.

Aaron Yiengst graduated from ELCO/IU13 school to work program. Mother Devon Yiengst, father Mike, and grandparents Dan and Deb Hogeland.

College Graduates:

Samantha Ehrhart, daughter of Andrea & Matt and granddaughter of Rachel & the late David Mock, graduated from Arcadia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She will be continuing on for a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Skylar Kriss, granddaughter of Margie Kriss, graduated from Bloomsburg University with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary English.

Cole Ashton Phillips, grandson of Nancy and the late Larry Deiter, received a bachelor's degree in education from Penn State Harrisburg campus on May 9, 2026, majoring in social science. His goal is to be a history teacher.

Carter Strickler graduated from Pennsylvania Institute of Science & Technology with an associate's degree in Specialized Technology. He has accepted a position with Home Depot. He is the son of Erica Davis & the late Daryl Strickler and grandson of Gerry & Julie Strickler.