

*Millcreek Lutheran Church*

*June 28, 2026*

*Fifth 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:** Almighty God, whose Son has given us a very serious call to follow him with complete loyalty: Strengthen our faith in him as Lord and Savior; that we may be willing to bear the cross assigned to us as his disciples. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Serving you this morning:**

<b>Interim Pastor,</b>	Pastor Frank Terhune
<b>Lay Leader,</b>	Jennifer Rosengrant
<b>Organist/Pianist,</b>	Debbie Tice
<b>Lay Reader,</b>	Deb Buffington
<b>Ushers/Audio,</b>	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

### **The Service**

**Prelude of Entrance**

**Announcements**

**Prelude of Preparation, *Morning has Broken***

**\*Confession & Forgiveness**

**LBW p. 56**

**\*Opening Hymn:**

***For the Beauty of the Earth***

**LBW #561**

## For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follioitt S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

**\*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, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Children's Sermon**

**Special Music: *Jamie Keener and Debbie Tice***

**First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, <sup>6</sup> and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup> But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup> The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

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

**Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18 (read responsively)**

- <sup>1</sup>Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- <sup>2</sup>**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**
- <sup>3</sup>"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- <sup>4</sup>**'I will establish your line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'**"
- <sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the festal shout!  
They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.
- <sup>16</sup>**They rejoice daily in your name;  
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**
- <sup>17</sup>For you are the glory of their strength,  
and by your favor our might is exalted.
- <sup>18</sup>**Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord;  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

**Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23**

<sup>12</sup>Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**\*Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

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

**The Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day**      *Just As I Am, without One Plea*      **LBW #296**

**Just As I Am, without One Plea**



- 1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
- 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict, man - y\_a doubt,
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,



and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
fight-ings and fears with - in, with - out,      O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
yea, all I need in thee to find,

- 5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871  
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

**\*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.*

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world.

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

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places 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:**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

***The Church of Christ, in Every Age*** **LBW #433**

**Moments of Meditation (seated)**

**\*Dismissal**

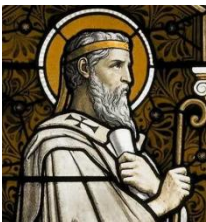
**LBW p.74**

**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.



**Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202**

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as Gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic or linked together.

# The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

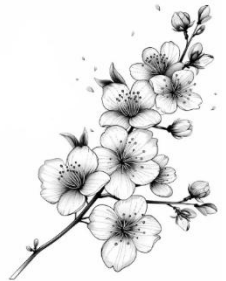
Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor &  
glory of God, and in memory of Richard Engle, by  
Debbie & Tom Tice, David, Ann Marie, Matthew,  
Judy, & Randy.*



## From Welcome to Belonging

In just a few verses, the word *welcomes* sets the tone in this week's gospel passage. There are transactional aspects when we welcome guests into our personal spaces, or when we are welcomed by others. We are aware of the power dynamics between host and guest, and the welcome that is given and received reflects our understanding of these roles. There are also different degrees of welcome. For example, it is one thing to experience a welcome of our physical presence, and quite a different matter when our perspectives and opinions are welcomed. The former relies on host-guest roles; the latter relies on a relationship being formed beyond culturally established roles.

It is no surprise that congregations pay attention to their welcome practices. Some even adopt and publicize welcome statements. Congregations usually consider how visitors or guests come into their space for a worship service they host. When deeper welcome practices are employed, we can grow in our understanding of how we give and receive. This provides an interesting opportunity to consider that welcoming is more than just hospitality. We can also consider how the worship event happens because we are gathered by the Holy Spirit, so God is our host and we are all guests in that space.

Moving worship beyond a typical guest-host transaction, the reward is experiencing our belonging together as people of God. Belonging means welcoming one another into shared space. Seeking a wide expression of belonging challenges power dynamics that might otherwise remain in place in more traditional guest-and-host situations. Belonging is a culture we in congregations can cultivate and a gift we can share.

# The Rewards of Service

"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." Matthew 10:40-42 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 10:40-42

*Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.*

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

GIVES  
PROPHET  
REWARD

LITTLE  
CUP  
TRUTH

LOSE  
WATER  
TRUTH

PROPHET  
DISCIPLE  
RIGHTEOUS

RECEIVES  
REWARD  
COLD



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**Our Mission:**  
Motivating Lives Through Christ and our  
community, our congregation, & ourselves.

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Interim Pastor: Rev. Frank Terhune  
Cell: 610-751-5472

Email: [frankterhune@gmail.com](mailto:frankterhune@gmail.com)

In Office: Tues. & Fri. 9am-12pm

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[www.millcreeklutheran.com](http://www.millcreeklutheran.com)

Secretary: Jennifer Miller Email: [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com)

Lay Leader: Jennifer Rosengrant

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**Sunday, June 28, 2026**

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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 YouTube.



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### Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Community

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**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. Train leaves the station at 10:30am. 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.

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### Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Congregation

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#### UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday June 28- 9:30am regular service  
\*\*July & August services will be held in the multi-purpose room\*\*
- Sunday July 5- 9:30am communion service
- Sunday July 12- 9:30am regular service

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

**SUMMER MUSIC:** Thanks to our special musicians Jamie Keener and Debbie Tice for providing us with some special duets today. We look forward to the rest of the summer's special music.

July 5- open

July 12- open

July 19- Keith Frantz

July 26- John Moyer

August 2 - Barry Wenrich

August 9 - Jamie Keener dance

August 16- open

August 23 - Brian Klinger

August 30 – Brothers in Grace

September 6- open

## SUNDAY SCHOOL POOL PARTY POSTPONED UNTIL 6/28

Barb Heckendorn is hosting our annual Sunday school pool party again this summer. Due to rain expected Saturday, it will now be held Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2-5pm. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex. We will be ordering pizza & having snack items as well.

**YEARBOOKS:** The MLC 2025-2026 Yearbook is available for pick up in the Narthex!

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### Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

Liz Leibig  
34 W. Park St.  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

**PRAYER LIST:** Please make requests to Jen M. by noon Wed. each week:

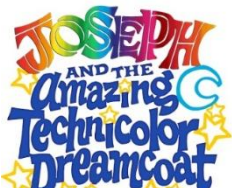
[secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com) or call: 610-589-2570. *Please provide updates when our prayers have been answered, so this list can be kept current.*

#### 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  
Althea 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



Sunday, June 28, 2026  
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM  
Tulpehocken Trinity Church

963 Tulpehocken Rd.  
Richland, PA 17087

Experience the dazzling spectacle of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!** This beloved Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical bursts to life with vibrant songs, energetic dancing, and a kaleidoscope of color as it retells the biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors. From joyous country hoedowns to rock-and-roll showstoppers, this family-friendly favorite is packed with humor, heart, and unforgettable music. Join us for a fun-filled celebration of faith, forgiveness, and the power of dreams in this high-energy production that will leave audiences singing all the way home!

All shows are Pay-What-You-Will in keeping with Servant Stage's mission to make exceptional performances accessible to everyone. You are welcome to donate by cash, check, or credit card at the performance, or online or by mail at any time. Thank you for your support that makes the mission of Servant Stage possible!

*No tickets required!*