

Millcreek Lutheran Church
September 13, 2026
Sixteenth 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, who requires that we forgive those who wrong us, just as you forgive our sins: Give us the grace to forgive one another; that we may restore broken fellowships, and consummate our forgiveness in Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
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

Opening Dialogue: (read responsively)

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God & the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

Congregation: Teach us your ways, O God.

(P): Take knowledge rather than gold, for all that you may desire cannot compare with wisdom.

(C): Teach us your ways, O God.

(P): Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

(C): Teach us your ways, O God.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge, Help us to study diligently and to grow in all that is good. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day: (please stand, read in unison)

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Children's Sermon & Blessing of the Backpacks

Hymn:

This is My Father's World

NCH (red) #2

2

This Is My Father's World

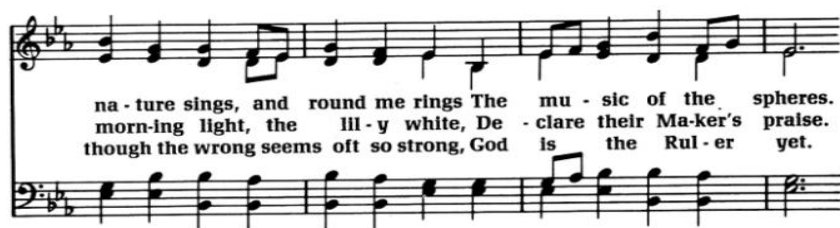
TERRA BEATA

Maltbie D. Babcock

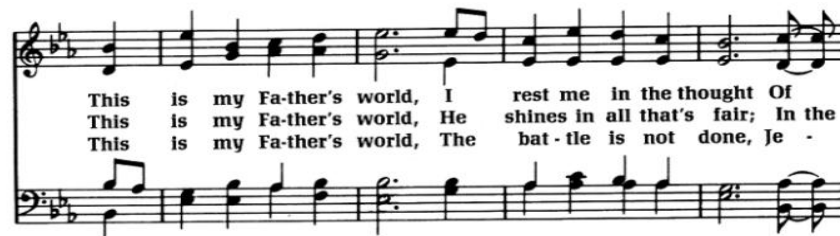
Tràditional English Melody



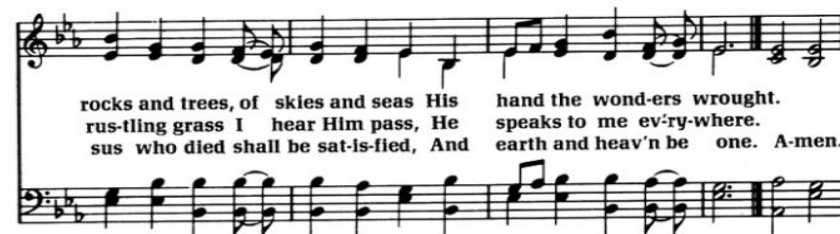
1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-t'ning ears, All
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, The birds their car-ols raise, The
3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get That



na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the ill - y white, De - clare their Ma-ker's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world, I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world, He shines in all that's fair; In the
This is my Fa-ther's world, The bat-tle is not done, Je -



rocks and trees, of skies and seas His hand the wond-ers wrought.
rus-tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ry-where.
sus who died shall be sat-is-fied, And earth and heav'n be one. A-men.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (read responsively)

- [¹Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
²**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**
³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
⁴**who redeems your life from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶**O Lord, you provide vindication**
and justice for all who are oppressed.
⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
] ⁸**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is

before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

***Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Where Charity and Love Prevail LBW #126
Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*Blessing:

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

*O God, Our Hearts Were Shattered*¹

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6 D ("Lead On, O King Eternal"; "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers")

O God, our hearts were shattered On that horrendous day;
We heard the news and gathered To grieve and then to pray.
We cried to you and wondered, "Where did the violence start?"
The world as we had known it Had just been torn apart.
We heard of those who perished — Of heroes' sacrifice.
We paused again to cherish The gifts of love and life.
We worried for the future; We hugged our loved ones then.
We cried, "Can peace be found here?" "We can't let terror win!"
Some sought to answer terror The only way they knew —
With anger toward the stranger And calls for vengeance, too.
Yet this is not your answer, Nor what you would create.
May we live toward a future Where love will conquer hate.
God, give us faith and wisdom To be your healing hands;
Give open minds that listen To truth from all your lands.
Give strength to work for justice; Grant love that casts out fear.
Then peace and not destruction Will be the victor here.

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

Postlude

Lunch immediately following in the multi-purpose room

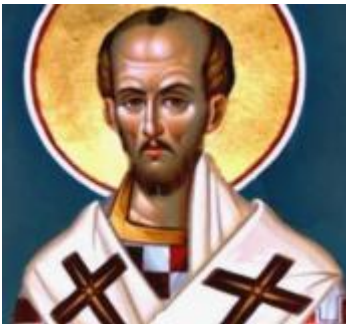
*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory
of God, and in memory of Lilian Engle,
by the family.*



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.

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407



John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

¹Tune: Traditional Welsh melody, from Daniel Evans' Hymnau a Thonau (Hymns and Tunes), 1865 ("Lead On, O King Eternal"; "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers")

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Permission is given for use of this hymn for local church use. Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/



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, September 13, 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.



Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Community

THE LEBANON SINGING CEDARS CHORUS will present their annual barbershop style show, "The Magic of Broadway" on Saturday, September 19 at 3:00 PM at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1500 Quentin Road, Lebanon. The show will be hosted by local radio personality Laura Lebeau and will feature guest quartet 2026 International Champions "GQ". Admission is \$15. Contact 717-821-5298 or Roy Hoglund 717-228-8175 for tickets.

HARVEST HOME: September 20 will be Harvest Home. Bring canned goods or fresh vegetables to the service. It will be boxed and taken to the local food pantry.

RELAY FOR LIFE: The new year has begun for Relay for Life of Lebanon County. Check out the website to join as a member or follow us at Cancer Crusaders to get fundraising information. The first fundraiser of the year is mums. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex or contact Deb Buffington. Orders due: 9/16. Order pick up: 9/24

Options: 6.5" mum \$7 each (no color choice)
9" mum \$12 each: white, yellow, red, purple, or bronze
10" hanging basket \$17 tri or single color

Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Congregation

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

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday, Sept. 13- Rally Day- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am service & potluck
- Sunday, Sept. 20- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am regular service & Harvest Home
- Sunday, Sept. 27- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am regular service

RALLY DAY: Mark your calendars for our annual Rally Day, Sunday September 13th - Connecting and Reconnecting with God's Family. All children are invited for 9am story, games & snack. 10:15am Communion Service will be outdoors, weather permitting. Please bring a lawn chair and a covered dish for lunch after service (MLC will provide the hot dogs & drinks). Lots of fun to be had: The Giant Slip N Slide. Trivia. Giant Connect Four. Giant

Jenga. And a Foam Blaster on the slip n slide! We hope you and your family can join us! You are encouraged to bring along a board game as well!

CHOIR: As the summer draws to a close, it's time to think about fresh starts. The choir will begin on Thursday nights at 630 beginning September 17. Even if you just want to check it out, this is a great time to join us. We have room and welcome all who would like to sing. We sing most Sundays, but again no commitment is needed. We are here to enhance the service with appropriate music. Come and join us!

ACOLYTES: It is time to recruit acolytes! We are looking for young folks, 5th grade and up (or younger by approval). Acolytes not only light the candles, but they assist with communion, baptism, and other things as assigned by the pastor. We will have a short training session, most likely after church, and then assign an experienced one with a new one. We especially need some older kids when it comes to Christmas Eve and Easter. We are hoping to have enough that no one has to serve more than once a month. Look for the sign up sheet in the narthex or contact Deb Tice at debtrice53@gmail.com or 717-926-4273.

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

Stewart Wolf, RM. #141
Celebration Villa of Lebanon
860 Norman Dr.
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:

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

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
Kaylee Gordon, family member of Jamie Keener
Rev. Althea Seidel
Candy Hibshman, friend of Rachel Mock
Laura Weist, friend of Debbie Tice

Forgiven and Freed

Today's gospel reading is all about forgiveness. In the complex web of human relationships, forgiveness often feels messy. We may not understand it, and it may at times feel entirely out of reach. Yet, as Christians, we are called to wrestle with the promise that even when forgiveness feels impossible, there is room for us and for others in the wideness of God's mercy. How do we make sense of this?

We might begin by experiencing God's forgiveness ourselves. Many worshiping communities begin the service with a time of confession and forgiveness. Together we name out loud the ways we have failed to love God and neighbor, the ways we have failed to recognize ourselves or one another as beloved children of God. We name how we have been complacent in systems of injustice, how we have harmed one another directly, and the hurtful things we don't even know we've done.

This practice may seem deeply unsettling; after all, where else do we greet each other with a list of all the things we've done wrong? But confession is also freeing. It gives us permission to stop pretending we have it all together. It allows us to shed the weight of our mistakes and lay down our burdens so our hands and hearts are ready to receive God's mercy.

And then, week after week, we hear God's words of forgiveness for us and for our neighbors. We are reminded that there is always and forever enough of God's grace and forgiveness to go around. The public declaration of our forgiveness frees us to enter into the rest of our worship service with open and grateful hearts. And then God's forgiveness sends us out in the world to practice the hard work of forgiving others and receiving their forgiveness in turn, knowing that God will meet us again and again with mercy and grace.

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Based on Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)



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

MANY
SEVEN
ASKED

SINS
TIMES
BROTHER

PETER
JESUS
LORD

FORGIVE
TIMES
HOW

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, September 17th • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive:

- Papa John's buy one Large Pizza get one FREE certificate
- Certificate for a \$10 Coupon at any Good's Store
- Blood Donor Travel Mug
- Blood Donor T-Shirt



PAPAJOHNS



3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to 717GiveBlood.org & click on **DONATE NOW**
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



A form of ID is
REQUIRED to donate

- We kindly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help us improve your donation experience.
- Walk-Ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.



Grace UCC is Sponsoring

TASTE & SEE

Community Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, September 19, '26

@ 12-Noon

Find out who is Richland's 2026

CHILI COOKING CHAMPION!

NO CHARGE to participate!

Register by September 15th by calling 717-866-5946.
Then prepare a large pot of your best chili for the event.

A Top Prize of \$50 will be Awarded!

Come Taste & Vote & See Who Wins!

Don't have a champion chili recipe?

Join us on **Sept. 19th** at 22 Church St. to

Taste & Vote for your favorite Chili,
then ***See*** who takes home the prize.

Mark Your Calendar Now!