

Millcreek Lutheran Church
October 18, 2026
Twenty-First 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 holds all nations responsible to your divine authority: Give us the conviction to be true in our allegiance, both to our nation and to you; that we may be strong in our faith, and give strength to our nation through our faith. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen**.

Serving you this morning:

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Rachel Mock
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance:
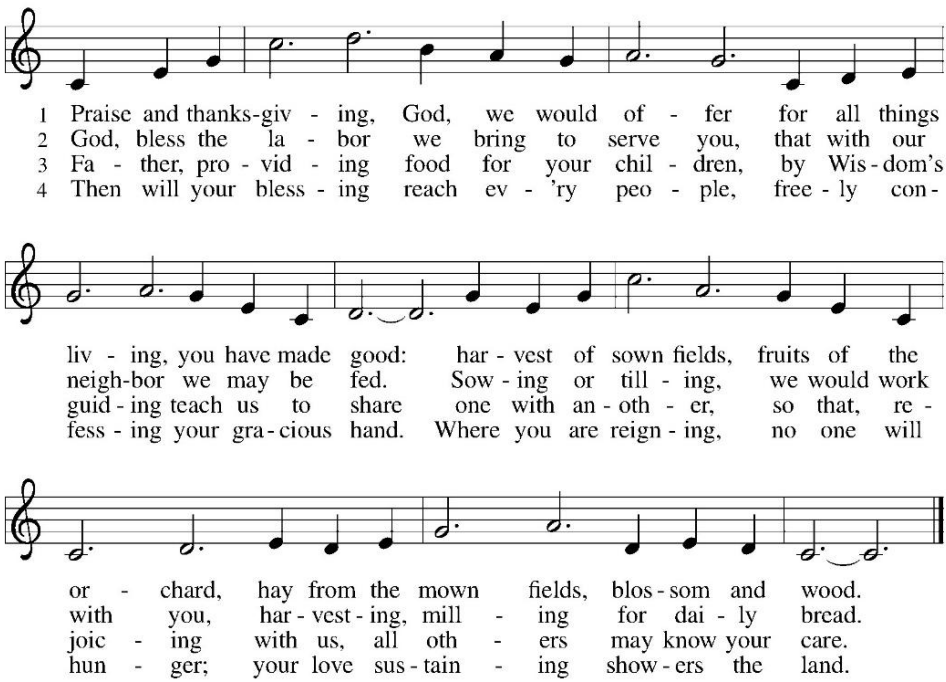
Announcements

Prelude of Preparation:

***Confession & Forgiveness** **LBW p. 56**

Opening Hymn:** ***Praise & Thanksgiving **LBW #409**

Praise and Thanksgiving



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
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***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)
Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7
[1] Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

2 I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
4 For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
7 I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

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

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13] (read responsively)

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;**
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
3 Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,**
more to be feared than all gods.
5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
6 **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.
9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
[10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!**
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**
13 You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

Gospel Acclamation, *Alleluia verse **LBW p. 62**

***Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

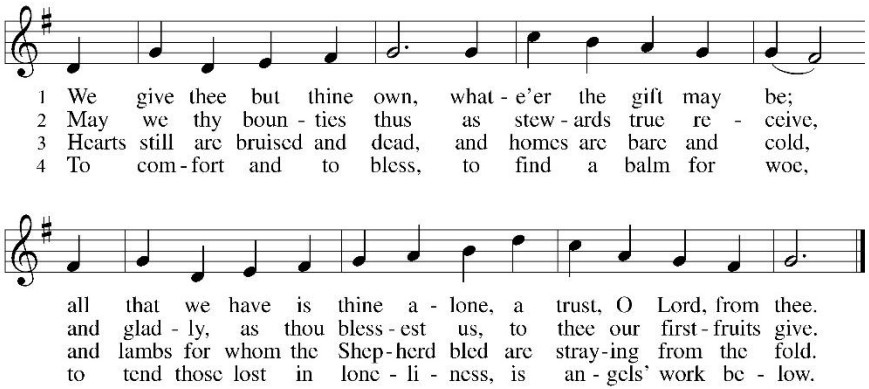
15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***We Give Thee but Thine Own*** **LBW #410**

We Give Thee but Thine Own



5 The captive to release,
the lost to God to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace—
it is a Christlike thing.

6 And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: HEATH, Mason and Webb, *Cantica Lauda,* 1850

***The Apostles' Creed** **LBW p. 65**

Choir Anthem

***The Prayers**

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer** **LBW p.71**

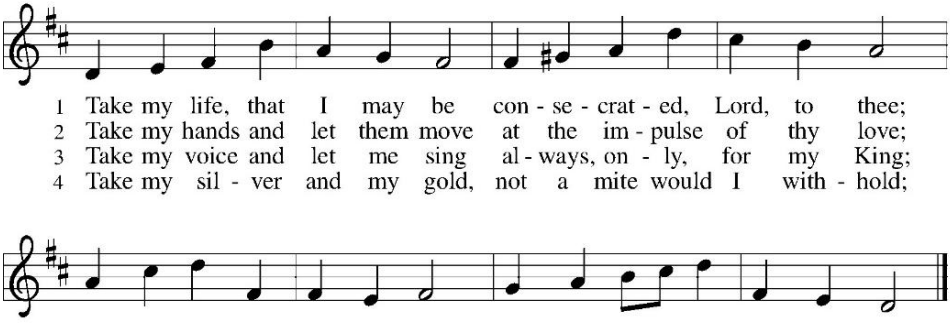
***Blessing:**
The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn** ***Take My Life, That I May Be **LBW #406**

Take My Life, That I May Be



5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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.



Today, we celebrate Luke, Evangelist. Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God and in honor of Abigail Keener's birthday, by her family.



Millcreek
LUTHERAN CHURCH
"The Church on the Hill"

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, October 18, 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

TRUNK OR TREAT: This year's trunk or treat event will take place on Sunday, October 25th from 1-3pm (rain or shine). To make this event a success we need volunteers to decorate their vehicles to hand candy or treats out to the children. We are looking forward to another successful trunk or treat event, but we wouldn't be able to do it without all your help! Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex starting September 27th.

ALL SAINTS DAY: Sunday November 1st is All Saints Day, when we honor all those who have passed in the last year. You are welcome to bring photos or other remembrances to the service on this day.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE- OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:
We will be participating in Samaritan's Purse- Operation Christmas Child this year by filling shoe boxes for children who would otherwise not receive any gifts at Christmas. There are brochures and labels in the narthex with instructions. (Please read them carefully as there are restrictions as to what can be included in the shoe boxes.) There are also pre-printed shoe boxes that can be assembled, or you can wrap a shoe box of your own, just make sure the lid can be opened. Finished shoe boxes should be placed on the table in the multi-purpose room. If you are including the shipping charges, it is $10 per box, payable to Samaritan's Purse (put your check in an envelope inside your box) or you can refer to the instructions in the brochure to donate online. The deadline for completed boxes is Sunday, November 8, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610) 589-5501.

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 October 18- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am regular service
- Sunday October 25- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am communion service. Trunk or Treat 1-3pm

- Sunday November 1- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am All Saints communion service
- Sunday November 8- 9am Sunday School, 10:15am Veterans' Day service

CALLING FELLOW MUSICIANS:
We will be playing on Sunday, November 8 at 10:00 for Veterans' Sunday.
Rehearsals will be
Saturday, October 31 at 10:00 AM
Saturday, November 7 at 10:00 AM

Please let me know if you are able to play and have any questions or for music . My email is juliestrickler@gmail.com or text me at 6102079650. Thanks to all for joining us in this music ministry!

Julie Strickler

PS- Save the date: Sunday, December 20 Lessons & Carols service

"THANKS for all the prayers and concerns, to everyone who remembered me when I had knee surgery. I am doing somewhat better. A special thanks to Pastor Terhune for his visit." ~Pat Ontkos

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

Gerald Strickler
Lebanon Skilled Nursing & Rehab
Room #175
900 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:

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
Kevin Kochinsky, family friend of Stephanie Seldomridge
Kaylee Gordon, family member of Jamie Keener
Candy Hibshman, friend of Rachel Mock
Pat Ontkos, friend of MLC
Gary, friend of Kristin Bender

Undivided Loyalty

When Jesus holds up a coin in the marketplace and asks the Pharisees and Herodians, "Whose head is this and whose title?" (Matthew 22:20), he is asking a question not about money, taxes, or the Roman Empire—at least not directly. It is likely that the emperor's title, printed on that coin, proclaimed the emperor's divinity: an implicit question of loyalty. And when Jesus asks his hearers to give "to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (v. 21), he invites his hearers to decide where they will place their loyalty. What will they give to God? What belongs to the emperor?

We might ask ourselves the same question: Where do we place our loyalty? Where do we place our trust? In Jesus, we see an example: Jesus is loyal to us. Jesus is loyal to us when he teaches. Jesus is loyal to us when he bends down to wash his disciples' feet. Jesus is loyal to us when he goes to the cross, dies, and rises again for us and for our salvation. Jesus is always loyal to us. Jesus is generous with us in pouring out grace upon grace for us. And we respond to Jesus' loyalty and generosity with loyalty and generosity of our own.

Throughout our lives, we are empowered by the loyalty and generosity of Jesus to give to God the things that are God's. We offer our resources for the good of our neighbors. We offer our time, investing in the work of the gospel in our communities and beyond. And we offer our very selves, pledging our undivided loyalty to Jesus, who is loyal to us first.

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Paying Taxes to Caesar

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

Based on Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)



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

GOD	WORDS	DISCIPLES	OPINION
CAESAR	TAXES	AMAZED	REPLIED
WAY	PLANS	GIVE	TRAP
PHARISEES	TEACHER	INTEGRITY	TRUTH

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