

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

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Website: www.mcchurch.org. Follow us on Facebook and our Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel.
The 10:15 a.m. service will be livestreamed and posted today on our YouTube channel and our website.

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany, January 28, 2024, 10:15 a.m. - Online Edition
** = Please stand as you are able All congregational responses are in bold*

Welcome to Muddy Creek!

Announcements, Waving Hello

Prelude: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*.....J. Behnke

*Confession and Forgivenesspages 94 – 96

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen.**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

L: Most merciful God, C: **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. C: **Amen**

*Gathering Hymn: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”#742

- 1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear -
all because we do not carry ev’rything to God in prayer!
- 2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged - take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness - take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he’ll take a shield you; you will find a solace there.

*Greeting L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: **And also with you**.....page 203

*Kyrie.....page 203

1. Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word, it saves us from despair.
2. Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
3. Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us in your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

*Canticle of Praisepage 204

1. Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
2. Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
3. Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high.

*Prayer of the Day L: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe in your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: **Amen.**

Choir Anthem: *Is Anybody Here?*.....L. Smith

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die." L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111 (Congregational responses in bold)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with ¹ my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the ¹ congregation.

²**Great are your ¹ works, O LORD,**
pondered by all who de- ¹ light in them.

³Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.

**⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

**⁶You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

**⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

*Gospel Acclamation:page 205
(**Alleluia. Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**)

(Projection begins) *Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be

silent, and come out of him!”²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

L: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message and Sermon (projection ends)

*Hymn of the Day: “Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word”#663

1. Spread, oh, spread almighty Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.

Send forth our Creator’s call, heaven’s gifts extend to all.

2. Tell of our Redeemer’s grace, who, to save our human race
and to pay rebellion’s price, gave himself as sacrifice.

3. Tell of God the Spirit giv’n now to guide us on to heav’n,
strong and holy, just and true, working both to will and do.

4. Lord of harvest, great and kind, rouse to action heart and mind;
let the gath’ring nations all see your light and heed your call.

*The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Thanksgiving for Offering C: **We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be;**

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

(Offering to Muddy Creek or Disaster Relief may be contributed online through the church website, mclchurch.org, “Give Online” button on the home page.)

*Hymn #752 (“**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.**”)

*Prayers of the Church P: Lord, in your mercy C: **Hear our prayer**

*Lord’s Prayer.....page 208

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Blessing L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen** (sung response)

*Sending Song: “God of Grace and God of Glory”#705

1. God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow’r;
crown you ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flow’r.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!

From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

3. Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;

shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;

let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

*Dismissal P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord! C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *We've a Story to Tell the Nations*.....H. E. Nichol

Announcements

Welcome to everyone, especially all visitors and guests! If you are visiting today, it would be really appreciated if you would fill out the yellow card in your pew and put it in the offering box or give it to the pastor. Welcome!

10:15 AM Fellowship Time/Coffee Ministry: You are invited to stay after the 10:15 am service today to enjoy refreshments and beverages in the sanctuary! **Thank you today** to Audrey and Roger Noll for providing the refreshments! If you would be willing to provide refreshments following an upcoming service, please sign up on the pad on the table. If you have questions, please contact Audrey Noll at 717-336-3592, aan7@ptd.net.

The Sermon Today Has Been Pre-recorded by Pastor Peter. Our scheduled supply pastor, Pastor David Klepper, is hospitalized with a stroke. Please keep him in your prayers. Thank you to Greg Gehman for leading the 10:15 a.m. worship, to Scott Strickland for projecting the 8:00 a.m. service and the 10:15 a.m. sermon, and to Will Wood for live-streaming at 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Peter is on vacation until Feb. 2. In case of a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Pastor Sandy Gideon at 717-484-1172.

Notes for Online Participants:

If you would like to pick up prefilled home communion kits of wafers and grape juice in order to participate online along with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month, please contact Pastor Peter or pick them up from the box on the table under the church mailboxes. Or, if you wish, you may use bread and grape juice/wine from your own home.

Offering to Muddy Creek or Disaster Relief may be contributed online through the church website, mcchurch.org, "Give Online" button on the home page.

The 2023 Giving Statements and 2024 Offering Envelopes are in the Church Mailboxes:

For those who use offering envelopes to contribute to Muddy Creek, don't forget to check your church mailboxes for your 2023 giving statement and 2024 envelopes. If you did not receive a 2023 giving statement but would like one, please contact Nedra Bearinger. Reminder: Your

mailbox is below your name.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4 immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please come out to help us achieve our needed quorum. A Congregational Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall will follow the meeting. Please sign up for the luncheon on the clipboard under the mailboxes. If you are able to bring a side dish or dessert, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet. Everyone is invited!

Sign Up to Help Pack Food at Blessings of Hope on Saturday morning, Feb. 24. The sign up sheet is on the clipboard on the table under the mailboxes. The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring this serving event.

Bring in Food Items for Peter's Porch Next Sunday (the first Sunday of the month). Items for our local food pantry may be placed in the marked bins in the entrances.

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11, you may wear your favorite sports jersey from any team to worship. Also, we will be collecting spare change to give to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Ash Wednesday Worship will be on Feb. 14 at 7:00 p.m. Come out for this very moving service which includes communion and the giving of ashes.

The Sign Up for Flower Sponsorships on Sundays is on the table outside Pastor Peter's office. If you wish, you may sponsor flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Cost is \$45.

In our Prayers: Linnny Ansel, Pat Artz, Gloria Aseli, Dorothy Beam, Tom Carretta, Joyce Keith, Anne Kinnamon, Pastor David Klepper, the Martin family, Helen Martin, Katie McCalicher, Mary Miller, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, Paul Moyer, Betty Ramsey, Tom and Audrey Riggle, Joanne Saylor, the Saylor family, Mary Ann Seidel, Becky Thunberg, Jim Weber, Sev Yerger

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Jan. 21, 8:00 a.m. – , 10:15 a.m. -

Received through end of Dec.: \$182,759.35

Received on Jan. 21:

Expenses thru Dec.: \$199,662.03

Received Jan. to date:

10:15 A.M. Worship Helpers Today:

Acolyte - Jack Lammey

Lay Reader - Will Wood

Cantor - Gail Bare

Money Counters - June and Neal Leid

10:15 A.M. Worship Helpers Next Sunday, Feb. 4:

Bread Baker - Marliese Smith

8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland

10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant and Acolyte - Sophia Dimitris?

10:15 am Lay Reader – Doris Rauch?

10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman

10:15 am Money Counters - David and June Sloat