

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 Facebook Page.

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany, January 29, 2023, 10:15 a.m., Online Version
** = Please stand as you are able All congregational responses are in bold*

Welcome to Muddy Creek! Masks are currently optional for worship.

Announcements, Call to Order, Quorum Determination, Waving Hello

Prelude – *More Love to Thee, O Christ*.....arr. J. Evanovich

*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.**

*Opening Hymn: “O God of Mercy, God of Light”.....#714

- 1. O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite, teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you.
- 2. You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost world might heed your call; Oh, hear us lest we stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
- 3. Teach us the lesson, Jesus taught; to feel for those his love has bought, that ev’ry deed and word and thought may work a work for you.
- 4. For all are kindred, far and wide, since Jesus Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and grace provide, to love them all in you.
- 5. In sickness, sorrow, want or care, may we each other’s burdens share; may we, where help is needed, there give help as though to you.
- 6. And may your Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love, till you receive in heav’n above all those who live in you.

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.**

*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 **C: Amen**

Choir Anthem – *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*.....Temple/Hostein

First Bible Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 15 (Congregational responses in bold)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

Second Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 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.)

*Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

Children's Message
Sermon

*Hymn: "Blest Are They"#728

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled. (Refrain)

Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. (Refrain)

3. Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are they the pure in heart; they shall see God. (Refrain)

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. (Refrain)

5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.

Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see. (Refrain)

*The Apostles' Creed.....page 105

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 to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God 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 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 by 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: C: **Amen** (sung)

*Sending Hymn: “We Praise You, O God”#870

1. We praise you, O god, our redeemer, creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you
have been. When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our
struggles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great redeemer, forever be
praise!

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

Postlude – *The Solid Rock*.....W. Bradbury
Call to Order of Congregational Meeting

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 plate or give it to the pastor. Welcome!

Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon is today: Today, we will have the Annual Congregational Meeting, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. Everyone is also invited to the Congregational Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the meeting!

Soup-er Bowl of Caring, Sunday, Feb. 12: Mark your calendars for Feb. 12th, Super Bowl Sunday. You can celebrate in church by wearing your favorite sports jerseys (any team of any sport), and by collecting loose change from the congregation to give to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Even as we celebrate the Super Bowl with snacks and feasting, we remember all in this world who are hungry or who have to rely on soup kitchens for food! Come out for the fun!

Don’t Forget to Check Your Mailboxes Today when you arrive or before you leave. Your yearly giving statement is there.

The Next Choir Practices are Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. (the choir will sing on Sunday, Feb. 12), and Ash Wednesday Feb. 22 (the choir will sing on both Ash Wednesday and on Sunday, Feb. 26). All are invited to come sing in the choir!

In our Prayers: Gloria Aseli, Lesia Aungst, Dorothy Beam, Curtis and Faith Beck, Elsie Becker, Alex Harding, Pat Kagarise, Tina Lavrenchuk, Roberta Mann, the Martin family, Mary Miller, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, George Nagle, Betty Ramsey, Peyton Rideout, Tom Riggle, Walt Siegel, David Sloat, Lucy Snader, Emma Trego, Becky Thunberg, Kent Weinhold, Marian Weinhold, Michael Weinhold.

Attendance and Giving:

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| Attendance Jan. 22: 8:00 a.m. – 16, 10:15 a.m. – 48, YouTube and Facebook – 49 | |
| Received through end of Dec.: \$175,869.60 | Expenses thru Dec.: \$206,679.77 |
| Received on Jan. 22: \$2,353.00 | Received Jan. to date: \$11,717.65 |

Worship Helpers Today:

10:15 a.m. Acolyte: Jack Lammey

10:15 a.m. Lay Reader: Nancy Beck

10:15 a.m. Cantor: Greg Gehman

10:15 a.m. Money Counters: Michelle Dimitris, Jim Weber, Jane Wenger

Worship Helpers Next Sunday, Feb. 5:

8:00 a.m. Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland

10:15 am Acolyte –

10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant -

10:15 am Lay Reader – Hollie Kemper

10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper

10:15 am Money Counters - Julie and Dave Emrhein, Kim Eshleman

Bread Baker - Marliese Smith