

**Muddy Creek Lutheran Church**  
11 South Muddy Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517  
**Celebrating 290 Years!**

Church Office: 717-336-2770, office@mcchurch.org      Pastor Peter: 717-598-5095, peter@mcchurch.org  
Website: www.mcchurch.org, Follow us on Facebook and our Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube channel.  
The 8:00 a.m. service will be livestreamed and posted today on our YouTube channel and Facebook Page.

*The First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022, 8:00 a.m.*

\* = Please stand as you are able      All congregational responses are in **bold**

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

Announcements, Waving Hello

Confession and Forgiveness .....pages 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.**

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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (the pastor lights the first candle on the wreath)

L: O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

C: **We kindle it with hope.**

L: We long for you to come to our world to break through and reign with compassion, justice and peace.

C: **Come to us, O Christ the Light!**

Advent Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v. 1.....#257

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Prayer of the Day

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: **Amen**

First Bible Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

Psalm 122 (Congregational responses in bold)

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup>**Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

Second Bible Reading: Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

\*Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, <sup>36</sup>"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." L: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon

\*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.**

\*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**

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

### 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!

**A Special Welcome to our Supply Pastor Today, Bob Kramer!** Pastor Kramer will be leading worship and preaching today. Welcome, Pastor Kramer!

**Poinsettia Order Deadline is Today!** Order forms are attached at the end of this bulletin. Orders and payment can be placed in the silver box on the table under the mailboxes, or sent in to the church office,

**Pastor Peter is on Vacation** and will return to work this coming Tuesday. For pastoral emergencies today and tomorrow, please call Pastor Marissa Becklin at 717-203-6013.

**The 8:00 a.m. service** (not the 10:15 a.m. service) will be livestreamed and posted today.

**Volunteers are Needed to Load Wreaths and Tie Bows on Them for the Cemetery:** This year, the Muddy Creek Cemetery Board is once again placing Christmas wreaths on the graves of all the veterans in the church cemetery. If you can help unload wreaths and tie bows on them, please come to our Fellowship Hall **at 10:30 a.m. this Friday, Dec. 2**. And/or, if you can help load the wreaths onto trailers for a local Boy Scout Troop to place them on the veterans' graves, please come to the Fellowship Hall **at 10:00 a.m. this Saturday, Dec. 3**. Following this, the wreaths will be dedicated at a ceremony at the Cemetery Flag Pole. All are invited. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Nichol, 717-484-1447, [jnichol@windstream.net](mailto:jnichol@windstream.net).

Donations to help cover the costs of the wreaths can be made out to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church (please note: Cemetery Veterans Wreaths) and put in the offering boxes.

**Congregational Meeting will be next Sunday, Dec. 4:** The Congregational Meeting to approve the 2023 Budget and elect people to serve on Church Council and the Cemetery Board will be held on Sunday, December 4, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please come out so that we may have a quorum. There is no Budget Hearing beforehand this year. If you have any questions about the budget prior to the meeting, please contact Scott Strickland. Copies of the budget are available under the church mailboxes.

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion with Historic Communion Set from the 1700's.** As a final celebration in honor of Muddy Creek's 290<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, we will celebrate communion next Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> using Muddy Creek's historic pewter communion set from the 1700's. The set will be on display and an historical explanation of the manufacturers of the pewter pieces will be available.

**Joint Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.** Muddy Creek, Peace U.C.C., St. Paul's Lutheran in Adamstown, and St. John Center, East Earl are holding a joint Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. Hymn requests may be in advance on the clipboard under the mailboxes. **Deadline for hymn requests is next Sunday, Dec. 4.** (We may not be able to sing all requests). Come out and celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season with our church neighbors! Friends are welcome and invited!

**The Deadline to Order Photos of Muddy Creek is next Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.** If you would like to order professional photos of Muddy Creek Lutheran Church to keep or to give as Christmas presents, please sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes. The photos are reprints of the stunning photograph that professional photographer Don Reese took of the church last Christmas Eve while services were going on inside. This is not a fundraiser, and Don is graciously providing the prints at cost only (6X9 \$2.90, 8X12 \$5.55, 12X18 \$18.25, 16X24 \$32.05). Please give the money directly to Pastor Peter. Checks may be made out to Muddy Creek. Photos will be available for pick up on Sunday, Dec. 11.

**This year for the Christmas Caring Tree** (located in the sanctuary near the mailboxes) we are collecting items for women and their children who are at the Good Samaritan Women's Shelter in Ephrata. We are collecting laundry detergent, Swiffer Wetjet all purpose multi-surface floor cleaner pads, Swiffer Sweeper wet mopping pads refills, Swiffer Wetjet multi-purpose floor cleaner solution, disinfectant wipes, multi-purpose surface cleaner, Scrubbing Bubbles bathroom cleaner, diapers (size 5 and 6), baby wipes, paper towels, facial tissue, 13 gallon drawstring trash bags, cotton swab sticks, twin bedsheet sets, new pillows for beds, comforters for twin beds, and new bath towels. We are also collecting gift cards from Ephrata businesses such as Roma Pizza and Scratch Bakes, as well as gift cards for Walmart and Weis Grocery stores. Unwrapped Christmas gifts for children are also welcome, such as plush toys, liquid motion bubbler sensory toys, expandable magic balls, plush knot pillows, kid's floor cushions, reading pillows, and activity busy boards. An online Amazon order list of these is available from Pastor Peter, if that is helpful. Please bring in your items by Sunday, Dec. 18th. Make Christmas "merry" for some local women and children!

**Christmas Eve Services Yard Signs Are Available Starting next Sunday, Dec. 4.** Pick up a yard sign from the sanctuary near the mailboxes and put it in your yard to help invite your neighbors to the 4:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services at Muddy Creek. Spread the word!

**Food Collection for Peter's Porch is Next Sunday, Dec. 4.** Next Sunday, which is the first Sunday of the month, we will collect food for our local food pantry, Peter's Porch. Donations can be placed in the bins in the sanctuary entrances.

**Dave Sensenig Will Be Presenting Some New Poetry He Wrote** at the Adult Forum on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9 a.m. in the side of the sanctuary (note location change). Some of the poetry will have Christmas themes. Everyone is invited to come!

**Next Choir Practice:** Everyone is invited to Choir practice Thursday, Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary (the choir will sing next on Sunday, Dec. 11).

**The Next Prayer Shawl Knitting Group Gathering** at Yvonne's house will be on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

**The Altar Flowers This Morning** are given by George and Jeanne Lorah and family in memory of Mark Lorah.

**In our Prayers:** Gloria Aseli, Lesia Aungst, Dorothy Beam, Lisa Carter, Fred Hainley, Alex Harding, Pat Kagarise, Tina Lavrenchuk, the Martin family, Mary Miller, David Moodhart, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, George Nagle, Betty Ramsey, the Riggle family, Walt Siegel, Lucy Snader, Becky Thunberg, Harold Weinhold, Michael Weinhold.

**Worship Helpers Today:**

10:15 a.m. Acolyte:

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

10:15 a.m. Cantor: Greg Gehman

10:15 a.m. Money Counters: Jeanette and Mike Leid

**Worship Helpers Next Sunday (Dec. 4):**

Money Counters – Connie Hoover and Diane Leed

Communion Assistant: 8:00 a.m. - Scott Strickland    Bread Baker – Marliese Smith

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

10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Hollie Kemper    10:15 a.m. Cantor – Hollie Kemper

(The poinsettia order form is below).



**Order Your  
Poinsettias**

Please complete a form for each poinsettia purchased. Do not list, in Honor of, and, in Memory of, on the same form.

Place completed form, with money attached, in the marked box on the table under the mailboxes (if using a check, note: poinsettias.)

**Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 27**

Cost is \$7.00 (Red or White plant, 5 buds each)

I desire # of plants: Red \_\_\_\_ and/or White \_\_\_\_.

*Everyone is responsible to pick-up the plants they order.*

*Plants will be placed in the church by December 18.*

If you would like your poinsettia “in honor of” or “in memory of” included in the bulletin, please list below (please print clearly):

Purchaser’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

If you wish to order poinsettias without your name being listed in the bulletin, check here \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services, or anytime following.

