

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

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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.

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2022, 10:15 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

Prelude: *Lo! How a Rose/Once in Royal/Angels We Have Heard*.....A. Whitworth

*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: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”#288

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*Greeting 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 C: **Amen**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (the acolyte lights three candles on the wreath)

L: O God, we light the third 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. 1-3.....#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.
2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
3. O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Choir Anthem: "Light an Advent Candle".....B. S. Mayo

First Bible Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Psalm 146:5-10 (Congregational responses in bold)

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the ¹ LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that ¹ is in them;**
who keeps promis- ¹ es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to ¹ those who hunger.
The LORD sets the ¹ captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down;**
the LORD ¹ loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares ¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹ of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall ¹ reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. ¹ Hallelujah!

Second Bible Reading: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of 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 11:2-11 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

Children’s Message

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”.....#256

1 ""Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!"" So says our God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

2 For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!

Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; bow down in humble favor.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

*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, melchurch.org, “Give Online” button on the home page.)

*Apostles’ Creed.....p. 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.

*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: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”#282

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all from heav’n’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,
and ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing

4. For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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

Postlude – *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*.....W. Held

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!

Joint Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek today 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 this afternoon at 3 p.m. Come out and celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season with our church neighbors! Friends are welcome and invited!

Christmas Eve Services Yard Signs Are Available for Pick Up: 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!

Adult Forum Today at 9 AM- Dave Sensenig Will Be Presenting New Poetry He Wrote at the Adult Forum 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!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at Muddy Creek will be at 4:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Invite your family, friends and neighbors! Children and families will play the colored bells at the 4:30 p.m. service. At the 10:30 p.m. service, the choir will sing and we will have Communion.

Services on Christmas Morning and on New Year's Day: There will be one service at 9 a.m. on both Christmas Morning (Sun. Dec. 25) and on New Year's Day (Sun. Jan. 1, with communion).

Next Choir Practice: Everyone is invited to Choir practice on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The choir will sing at the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, and on at the 9 a.m. Christmas Morning service.

Christmas Caring Tree (located in the sanctuary near the mailboxes): **Please bring in your items by next Sunday, Dec. 18th.** We are collecting items for women and their children who are at the **Good Samaritan Women's Shelter in Ephrata.** Take a star from the tree with an item to bring in, or else pick anything from the list below:

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. Make Christmas "merry" for some local women and children!

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

