

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

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 Website: www.mclchurch.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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 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: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.....arr. N. Johnson

*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: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”#272

1. Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse’s lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
 It came, a flow’r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
 With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
 To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
3. This flow’r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
 Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
 True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.
4. O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
 O Savior, king of glory, whose dost our weakness know;
 Bring us at length we pray to the bright courts of heaven into the endless day.

*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

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

L: Lord God, we light the fourth 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. 1-4.....#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.
4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
 From depths of hell, your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

First Bible Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Congregational responses in bold)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and ¹come to help us.

³Restore ¹us, O God;
 let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD ¹God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your ¹people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the ¹bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of ¹tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision ¹of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh ¹us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O ¹God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at ¹your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong ¹for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- ¹way from you;
 give us life, that we may call up- ¹on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD ¹God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.

Second Bible Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 1:18-25 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. L: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: “What Child is This”.....#296

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

*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 placed anytime in the wooden boxes on the entry tables.)

*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)

*Singing Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"#279

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!

3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

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

Postlude – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.....J. Linker

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!

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).

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!

Christmas Caring Tree (located in the sanctuary near the mailboxes): Thank you to all who have brought in items for women and their children who are at the Good Samaritan Women's Shelter in Ephrata. Today is the deadline to bring in items (please contact Pastor Peter in order to accommodate late items).

Choir: The choir will sing at the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, and on at the 9 a.m. Christmas Morning service.

In our Prayers: Gloria Aseli, Lesia Aungst, Dorothy Beam, Curtis Beck, Elsie Becker, Fred Hainley, Alex Harding, Pat Kagarise, Tina Lavrenchuk, Jeanne Lorah, 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.

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Dec. 11: 8:00 a.m. – 22, 10:15 a.m. – 52, YouTube and Facebook - 35	
Received through end of Nov.: \$148,931.63	Expenses thru Nov.: \$188,947.67
Received on Dec. 11: \$2,487.55	Received Dec. to date: \$8,426.55
Air Conditioning Fund Total as of Dec. 11 (donations still gratefully accepted): \$11,503.10	

Worship Helpers Today:

10:15 a.m. Acolyte: Mason Sheaffer	10:15 a.m. Lay Reader: Joe Sanchez
10:15 a.m. Cantor: Gail Bare	
10:15 a.m. Money Counters: Marie Buohl	

Worship Helpers Christmas Eve (Sat. Dec. 24):

4:30 p.m. Acolyte: Grace Youndt	
10:30 p.m. Acolyte and Communion Assistant: Kelby Weaver	

Worship Helpers Next Sunday (Dec. 25, 9:00 a.m.):

10:15 a.m. Acolyte: Mason Sheaffer	10:15 a.m. Lay Reader: Brad Rauch
10:15 a.m. Cantor: Greg Gehman	
10:15 a.m. Money Counters: Brenda Berger, Audrey Noll	