

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 10:15 a.m. service will be livestreamed and posted today on our YouTube channel and Facebook Page.

The Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 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, Determination of Quorum, Waving Hello

Prelude: *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*.....J. Pachelbel

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: “Prepare the Royal Highway”#264

1. Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story;

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!

2. God’s people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! (Refrain)

3. Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet every nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: (Refrain)

4. His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness to abounding: (Refrain)

*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. Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
2. "Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be exalted thus!"
"Worthy the Lamb", our lips reply, "for he was slain for us!"
3. Jesus is worthy to receive honor and pow'r divine;
And blessings, more than we can give, be, Lord, forever thine.
4. Let all creation join in one to bless the sacred name
of God who sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb.

*Prayer of the Day C: **Amen**

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

L: O God, we light the second 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. 1-2.....#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.

First Bible Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the

wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Congregational responses in bold)

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²**that he may rule your | people righteously**
and the | poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;**
you alone do | wondrous deeds!
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

Second Bible Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 3:1-12 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” L: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”.....#249

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.
5. All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

*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 through the “Give Online” button on the home page of the church website, mclchurch.org.)

*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**

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving.....p. 206

L: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.** L: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.** L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy.....p. 207

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer.....page 208

Our Father, who are 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.

Distribution of Communion (To obtain home communion sets of grape juice and wafers that you may use to receive communion as you follow along with any communion service, please contact Pastor Peter.)

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Communion Sending Prayer

*Blessing: C: **Amen** (sung)

*Sending Hymn: "Hark the Glad Sound!"#239

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song.

2. He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, the iron fetters yield.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of His grace to enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

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

Postlude – *How Far Is It to Bethlehem?*.....P. Manz
Congregational Budget Meeting and Elections

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!

Invitation to Communion: Everyone is invited to receive communion today by coming up the center aisle beginning with the front pews, taking an empty glass for wine or a pre-filled glass with white grape juice. You may kneel or stand at the communion rail. Please hold out your hands to receive the bread from the pastor (if you want a gluten-free wafer, please tell the pastor). Then, receive and drink the wine poured into your glass from the Communion Assistant. If you have opted for a pre-filled glass of grape juice, you may drink it when the Communion Assistant comes to you. Please return to your seats by either outside aisle. If you would prefer to have communion in your pew, please inform an usher.

Today We Celebrate Holy Communion with the Historic Communion Set from the 1700's. As a final celebration in honor of Muddy Creek's 290th anniversary this year, we are celebrating communion today using Muddy Creek's historic pewter communion set from the 1700's.

The set consists of eight pieces. Being used for communion at the altar today are four of the pieces: Two pewter communion wine chalices made by Johann Christoph Heyne of Lancaster (made between 1752 and 1781), and two pewter communion bread plates (patens). One bread plate was made by Richard King IV of London (made between 1745 and 1777), and the other was made by Thomas Danforth III in Philadelphia (made between 1777 and 1813). Three more pieces are on display on the table in the annex along with the original white knit gloves for handling communion ware: A pewter communion wine tankard (3.5 pints), made by Richard King IV of London (made between 1745 and 1777), another pewter communion bread plate by Thomas Danforth III of Philadelphia (a twin to the one on the altar, also made between 1777 and 1813), and pewter baptismal basin made by Townsend and Compton of England (made between 1785 and 1810). The final piece, a tall ornate communion pitcher (flagon) with an attached lid is on display in the lower right corner of the history display case.

Historical notes from the book Pewter in Pennsylvania German Churches by Donald M. Herr, which includes notes about Muddy Creek's historic pewter set: **1.** Communion chalices were among the finest forms created by American pewterers. [Muddy Creek's] chalices by **Johann Christoph Heyne** of Lancaster, PA [marked with "JCH"] are such an example. The strong knopped stem, boldness of outline, and ample cup are Germanic influences seen in this stately form. **2.** Richard King Jr. (also called **Richard King IV**) [who made both the wine tankard and one of the communion plates of Muddy Creek's set] was the son of a London, England pewterer

by the same name. On December 12, 1745, King was granted the right to produce pieces with his mark [our tankard has an oval mark on the inside bottom with “R. King”]. King was elected to all the offices of the London Company, including Master in 1777. He died in 1798. **3. Thomas Danforth Boardman**, 1784-1873, [who made two of the communion plates of Muddy Creek’s set] had the largest and longest-lived single pewter business in America. He personally manufactured pewter pieces for 76 years. He developed a formula (which he kept secret to keep ahead of his competitors) that he said would finish up to the sheen of the English pewterers. Along with his brother Sherman, Thomas made pewter in Hartford, Connecticut and had sales outlets in New York City and Philadelphia. **4. John Townsend**, [who made the baptismal basin in Muddy Creek’s set] was a Quaker in London, England. He started making pewter with his stamp in June of 1748, and sent tremendous quantities to America through his ties to the Quaker community in Philadelphia. Along with his daughter Mary and her husband Thomas Compton, (the firm was later called “Townsend and Compton”), Townsend sent so many pieces to America that his pewter pieces are found more frequently in southeastern Pennsylvania, including Pennsylvania German churches, than any other eighteenth-century maker.

Did you know? Two of bread plates from the original set, those made by Thomas Danforth III of Philadelphia between 1777 and 1783, are still actively in use? The bread plates we use for communion every month at Muddy Creek are actually the pewter bread plates of the original set from the 1700’s!

The Congregational Meeting is Today: Immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service today, we will hold the Congregational Meeting to approve the 2023 Budget and elect people to serve on Church Council and the Cemetery Board. We are extremely grateful for the service of the outgoing Council members – Mike Leid, Tim Fritz, and recently-deceased Walter Buohl. And we are also very grateful for the service to the Cemetery Board of Matt Aungst, who retired from the board after faithfully serving as its President.

Joint Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek next 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 next Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. Hymn requests may be in advance on the clipboard under the mailboxes. **Deadline for hymn requests is today.** (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!

Christmas Eve Services Yard Signs Are Available Starting Today. 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!

The Deadline to Order and Pay for Photos of Muddy Creek is Today. 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. The deadline to order and turn in money is today. Ordered photos will be available next Sunday, Dec. 11.

Next Sunday, 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!

Food Collection for Peter's Porch is Today. Today, 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.

Next Choir Practice: Everyone is invited to Choir practice this coming 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.

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 Candlelight Services at Muddy Creek will be at 4:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

Dorothy Beam sends the following: "I wish everyone at Muddy Creek a blessed Christmas. I thank you for all the cards and visits I have been receiving. Sincerely, Dorothy Beam"

The Altar Flowers This Morning are given by Judy Nichol in memory of loved ones.

In our Prayers: Gloria Aseli, Lesia Aungst, Dorothy Beam, Curtis Beck, 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.

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Nov. 27: 8:00 a.m. – 12, 10:15 a.m. – 36, YouTube and Facebook - 18	
Received through end of Oct.: \$137,132.98	Expenses thru Oct.: \$167,426.16
Received on Nov. 27: \$1,414.55	Received Nov. to date: \$11,823.65

Air Conditioning Fund Total as of Nov. 27 (donations still gratefully accepted): \$10,998.10

Worship Helpers Today:

10:15 a.m. 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

Worship Helpers Next Sunday (Dec. 11):

10:15 a.m. Acolyte: Mason Sheaffer 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader: Jill Youndt

10:15 a.m. Cantor: Pastor Peter

10:15 a.m. Money Counters: Brad and Doris Rauch