

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517

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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 our website.

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2024, 10:15 a.m. - Online Edition

* = Please stand as you are able All congregational responses are in **bold**
(Young Families: There are two “activity boxes” for children located under the ushers’ bench at the rear of the sanctuary.)

Welcome to Muddy Creek!
Announcements, Good Morning/Waving Hello, Dedication of Prayer Shawls
Prelude: *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* J. Pachelbel
*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.**

*Gathering Hymn: “Hark, the Glad Sound”#239
1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let ev’ry heart prepare a throne and ev’ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris’ners 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.

*Greeting 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**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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (two candles on the wreath are lit)

L: Lord 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.

*Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Psalm - Luke 1:68-79 (Congregational responses in bold)

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,

you have come to your people and | set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,**

born of the house of your | servant David.

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,

⁷¹ from the hands of | all who hate us,

⁷² **to show mercy | to our forebears,**

and to remember your | holy covenant.

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,

⁷⁴ **free to worship you | without fear,**

⁷⁵ **holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.**

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,

⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge | of salvation**

by the forgiveness | of their sins.

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion | of our God

the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,**

and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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: Luke 3:1-6 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the

wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

Children’s Message

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: “Prepare the Royal Highway”.....#264

1. Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story: (Refrain)

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

2. God’s people see him coming: you 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 ev’ry 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 heav’n above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: (Refrain)

*The Apostles’ Creed

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 into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of 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 to Muddy Creek or Disaster Relief 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 are in heaven, hallowed be 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 response)

*Sending Song: “Blessed Be the God of Israel”.....#250

1. Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David’s tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.
2. With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.
3. My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,
to tell God’s people they are saved from sin’s eternal sway.
Then shall God’s mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

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

Postlude: *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*.....A. Whitworth
Immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service, you are invited to stay in the sanctuary for a time
of fellowship and refreshments, courtesy today of Marie Buohl. Thanks!

Announcements

Notes for Online Participants:

We are so glad you are participating in worship online! Welcome!

If you would like to pick up prefilled home communion kits of wafers and grape juice in order to participate online along with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month, please contact Pastor Peter or pick them up from the box on the table under the church mailboxes. Or, if you wish, you may use bread and grape juice/wine from your own home.

Offering to Muddy Creek or Disaster Relief may be contributed online through the church website, mcchurch.org, “Give Online” button on the home page.

The monthly newsletter can be found on the church website under “What’s Happening”.

Caring Tree Donations: We are currently collecting items under the Caring Tree. The deadline to bring in donations is Dec. 22. We will be collecting new packaged underwear for the orphanage children in Jamaica for Hollie Kemper’s Mission Trip there, and we are collecting items for the Good Samaritan Womens’ Shelter in Ephrata and the Good Samaritan Men’s Shelter. A list of needed items can be found in the newsletter.

The Deadline to Order Poinsettias to Decorate the Church at Christmas is Today! Forms are available in the newsletter, at the end of the stapled bulletins, or on the table under the mailboxes (this is also where you can place your order forms and payment). Cost is \$7.50 each.

Prayer Shawl Dedication This Morning: At both services this morning, we are dedicating prayer shawls that have been recently knitted by our Prayer Shawl Ministry Knitting Group. Following the service, you are invited to take one or more prayer shawls for anyone you know who might benefit from being held in prayer and the warm embrace of God’s love for them. Additionally, prayer shawls are always available for pick-up anytime from the bins underneath the mailboxes in the sanctuary. If you are interested in knitting prayer shawls, please contact

Yvonne Weaver, 717-336-3120, knittingmama3120@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve Services Yard Signs are available for pick up in the sanctuary. Please place one on your lawn to invite your neighborhood to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4:30 and 10:30 p.m. Signs may be returned following Christmas.

The Following Events Are All Happening Next Weekend (Fri., Sat., Sun., and Mon.):

***Friday, Dec. 13, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall: Cookie Exchange Social.** Please bring a dozen cookies for the exchange (we need 4 dozen in total to make the system work). Please bring an empty container, your cookie recipe, and a snack to share. A sign-up sheet is on the table by the mailboxes. Any questions, please contact Pat Brendle or Audrey Noll.

***Saturday, Dec. 14, 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall: Volunteers Needed for Cemetery Veteran's Wreath Preparation.** If you would like to volunteer to help tie the bows on to the wreaths that will be placed upon the graves of all the veterans in our Muddy Creek Cemetery, please come on This will be followed by a brief ceremony at the cemetery flagpole and the local scouts placing the wreaths on the veterans' graves. Contact Judy Nichol, 717-484-1447, jnichol@windstream.net, if you are able to help with this project.

***Sunday, Dec. 15, 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall:** All are invited to the Adult Forum, with special guest presenter and Muddy Creek poet David Sensenig presenting his latest poetry and Christmas poems.

***Sunday, Dec. 15, Immediately Following the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: The Congregational Budget and Elections Meeting Will Be Held.** Please come out so that we may have a quorum! Advance copies of the 2025 budget are available on the table under the mailboxes.

***Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:00 p.m. at Muddy Creek: All are Invited to Our Community Christmas Carol Hymn Sing and Cookies.** This Carol Hymn Sing is an annual joint event of Peace U.C.C. and Muddy Creek. Bring your friends and neighbors! Donations of cookies are also needed!

***Monday, Dec. 16 at 1:00 p.m. Muddy Creek's Field Trip to Lancaster History,** 230 North President Ave. in Lancaster. Anyone interested in coming on this Field Trip may speak with Pastor Peter. We will be viewing Muddy Creek's original deed from the sons of William Penn, and viewing other items we have already donated. As well, Muddy Creek and the Archive Task Force will be donating more items to Lancaster History.

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup and Sunday School Today: All babies, toddlers and preschoolers and their parents and grandparents are invited to come today at 9:00 a.m. in the Nursery for the Jesus 'n Me Playgroup. The theme is "A Christmas Celebration". Additionally, Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. is offered today and every Sunday for all children. Preschoolers are invited to this Sunday School class on the other Sundays when there is no Playgroup.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services At Muddy Creek will be at 4:30 pm and 10:30 pm (Communion). Invite your friends and neighbors!

Christmas at the Organ: Carol Sing and Organ Recital : On Sunday, December 29, 3:00 pm, the Lancaster Chapter of the American Organist (AGO) will present their annual Carol Sing and Organ Recital. It will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 409 Cherry Street in Columbia, PA. Organists will accompany the congregation on an Advent or Christmas tune followed by playing an organ arrangement on that same tune. Free-will offering will be taken.

The Altar Flowers Today are given in memory of Lucille and Charles Hartranft by the family.

The Sign Up for Altar Flower Sponsorships is on the table outside Pastor Peter's office. If you wish, you may sponsor flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Cost is \$45. Bulletins may also be sponsored in honor or memory of someone for \$15.

In Our Prayers: Gloria Aseli, Linny Ansel, Addison Butch Ebbert, Charlie Fisher, Ken Frazer, Molly Fritz, Eleanor Litzenberger, the Martin family, Katie McCalicher, Mike Messner, Paul Moyer, George Nagle, Doug Rauch, Tom and Audrey Riggle, Joanne Saylor, Mary Ann Seidel, Donald Steinmetz, Becky Thunberg.

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Dec. 1: 8:00 a.m. - 23, 10:15 a.m. - 59, Online views (includes livestream) - 29	
Received through end of November: \$210,695.81 (includes Qualified Charitable Distributions - Thank you!)	Expenses through Nov.: \$180,369.00
Received on Dec. 1: \$2,639.00	Received Dec.. to date: \$2,639.00

10:15 AM Worship Helpers Today:

Acolyte - Barb Yerger
Lay Reader - Nancy Beck
Cantor - Gail Bare
Money Counters - Linda and Tim Fritz

10:15 AM Worship Helpers Next Sunday, Dec. 15:

Acolyte - Mason Sheaffer
Lay Reader - Judy Nichol
Cantor - Greg Gehman
Money Counters - Gail and Ted Bare



Place completed form, with money attached, in the marked box on the table under the mailboxes (if using a check, note: poinsettias.) Or it may be sent to the church office.

Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 8, 2024

Cost is \$7.50 (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.
Flowers can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services, or anytime following.*

Plants will be placed in the church by December 22.

If you would like your poinsettia “in honor of” or “in memory of” included in the bulletin, please list below (please print clearly). Please note: Please complete a separate form for each poinsettia purchased (for instance, Do not list “in Honor of” and “in Memory of” on the same form.)

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 _____



