

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

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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.

Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2024, 10:15 a.m. - Online Edition

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

Welcome to Muddy Creek!

Announcements, Dedication of Prayer Shawls, Waving Hello

Prelude: *In the Cross*I. Conkey

*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: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”#803

- 1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christy, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*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.

*Prayer of the Day

Choir Anthem: *If Christ Should Come to Me*.....R. Wilson

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:23-31 (Congregational responses in bold)

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's ¹line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- ¹spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- ¹den from them;**
but when they cry out, ¹the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the ¹great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ¹fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat ¹and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts ¹live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ¹to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow ¹before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

*Gospel Acclamation:page 205
(**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind -
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**)

*Gospel: Mark 8:31-38 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Children's Message
Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"#802

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding,
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

2. Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy:
all discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.

3. Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,
he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.

4. Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head,
we are your own living members; where you live, there shall we be
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.

*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 art 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: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”#759

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!
2. May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!
3. While life’s dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.
4. When ends life’s transient dream, when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o’er me roll; blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove; oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

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

Postlude: *Postlude in E Minor*.....Ch. H. Rinck
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 Dave, Julie and Marleise Emrhein. Thanks!

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 box or give it to the pastor. Welcome!

Next Sunday, You are Invited to a Congregational Forum on Muddy Creek’s Planning for the Future Committee Report and Recommendations at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Extra copies are available on the table under the mailboxes. All are invited to the forum!

Today in Worship, We are Dedicating Prayer Shawls. You are invited to take one or more prayer shawls immediately following the service to give to anyone you know who is going through a difficult time and who could use the warm embrace of God and our prayers. These shawls have been knit by the Prayer Shawl Knitting Group which meets at Yvonne Weaver’s house on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. (if you are interested in helping to knit, please contact Yvonne Weaver at 717-336-3120). Prayer Shawls are also available for pick-up on any Sunday from the bin underneath the mailboxes.

Notes for Online Participants:

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.

Wednesday Evening Cluster Lenten Services Begin This Week: All are invited to Lenten services, held together with other local Lutheran churches in our cluster. Following this year's theme of "Open My Life, Lord", the schedule will be as follows:

*This Wed. Feb. 28, 7 p.m. at Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, Ephrata. Pastor Marissa Becklin from Faith United Lutheran will preach on "Open My Hands, Lord".

*Wed. March 6, 7 p.m. here at Muddy Creek. Pastor Jim Goodyear from Bergstrasse Lutheran will preach on "Open My Ears, Lord".

*Wed. March 13, 7 p.m. at Mellingers Lutheran Church, Schoeneck. Pastor Sandy Gideon from St. Paul Lutheran will preach on "Open My Heart, Lord".

*Wed. March 20, 7 p.m. at St. John Center Lutheran Church, East Earl. Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry from Muddy Creek will preach on "Open My Life, Lord".

*Thurs. May 9, 7 p.m. at Swamp Lutheran Church, Reinholds. Pastor Tim Craven from Mellingers Lutheran will preach at the cluster Ascension Day service.

The offering will go to support this year's Disaster Relief Mission Trip which will be in Port Charlotte, Florida. April 28 - May 4. Checks may be made out to: "Disaster Relief Trip, North Lancaster Conference Dean's Fund"

The Deadline to Order Easter Flower Sponsorships is March 10th. You may give daffodils, tulips or lilies to adorn the church on Easter, and take them home following the Easter services on March 31. Use the form located at the end of this bulletin or on the table under the mailboxes. Please place your orders and money in the marked box under the mailboxes.

From March 3 (Next Sunday) to March 17, We are Collecting Chocolates, Candies and Plastic Easter Eggs for our Community Easter Egg Hunt in the Grove on March 24 (Palm Sunday) at 11:30 a.m. Items may be placed in the marked box near the mailboxes. You are invited to help stuff the plastic eggs immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service on March 17th. This is being sponsored by the Evangelism Committee.

From March 10 - March 31 (Easter), We are Collecting Snack Items for Goodie Boxes to be sent to Muddy Creek participants who are college students or serving in the military. Snack items may include cookies, chips, candies or crackers. Items may be placed in the marked collection bins in the entrances. This is being sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee.

Upcoming Dates in March:

Sunday March 17, 11:15 a.m. Help stuff plastic Easter eggs following the second service.

Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday): Passion Narrative Dramatic Reading at both services,

9:00 a.m. Evangelism Committee meets in the Fellowship Hall (all invited)

11:30 a.m. Community Easter Egg Hunt in our Grove

Sunday, March 31 (Easter):

6:30 a.m. Easter Dawn Service in the Cemetery (assemble in front of the church)

7:30 a.m. Easter Service with Communion

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (all invited)

10:15 a.m. Easter Service with Communion

The Altar Flowers Today are given by the Emrhein family: “Happy Birthday, Julie! Love, Dave and Marleise.”

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.

In our Prayers: Linny Ansel, Pat Artz, Gloria Aseli, Dorothy Beam, Tom Carretta, Darla Hackman, Anne Kinnamon, Pastor David Klepper, Betty Kramer, the Martin family, Helen Martin, Katie McCalicher, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, Paul Moyer, Betty Ramsey, Tom and Audrey Riggle, Joanne Saylor, the Saylor family, Mary Ann Seidel, Becky Thunberg, Sharon Weinhold

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Feb. 18, 8:00 a.m. – 20, 10:15 a.m. - 50, Online Views (includes livestream) - 29
 Attendance Ash Wednesday Service, Feb. 14 - 32 , Online Views (includes livestream) - 34
 Received through end of Jan.: \$14,993.48 Expenses thru Jan.: \$17,853.37
 Received on Feb. 18: \$4,139.35 Received Feb. to date: \$11,476.15
 Received for ELCA World Hunger Appeal on Super Bowl Sunday: \$303.27! Thanks everyone!

10:15 a.m. Worship Helpers Today:

Acolyte - Lay Reader - Nancy Beck
 Cantor - David Sensenig Money Counters - Julie and Dave Emrhein, Kim Eshleman

Worship Helpers Next Sunday, March 3:

Bread Baker - Marliese Smith 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
 10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant and Acolyte - Zach Sheaffer
 10:15 am Lay Reader – Hollie Kemper 10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare
 10:15 am Money Counters - Linda and Tim Fritz

