

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517

12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 31, 2025, 9:30am

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

Proverbs 25:6-7a

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13 1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:7-14

www.mclchurch.org 717-336-2770 office@mclchurch.org

Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mclchurch>) and YouTube
(<https://www.youtube.com/@muddycreeklutheranchurchde4004>)

The second service is livestreamed and posted on our website and YouTube channel.

Children's activity boxes are in the rear of the sanctuary

Welcome to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

* = Please stand as you are able; Congregational responses are **bold**

GATHERING

Welcome

Announcements

Passing the Peace

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRELUDE “Gather Us In” J. Behnke

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: 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.**

P: Let us confess our sins, in the presence of God and of one another. 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.**

P: 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: “Gather Us In”#532

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away— here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***Greeting**

P: 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**

***KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, For the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, Gracious Lord. **Amen.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King almighty God and Father, we worship you.

We give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us,

you are seated at the right hand of the father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the father. Amen

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: "In Christ Alone"..... .C. Berry (Greg Gehman piano)

Children's Message

THE WORD

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 112 (sung responsively)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the

fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia!

***Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Lord Jesus, Think on Me” # 599**

Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
by anxious thoughts oppressed;

let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

***The Apostles' Creed**

P: Together, let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostle's Creed,

C: 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 life everlasting. Amen.

***Thanksgiving for Offering**

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.



Feel free to scan this QR code or place an Offering in the wooden boxes on the entry tables. Thank you for your support of the ministries of Muddy Creek!

***OFFERING**

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 Intercession**

P: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence is held for reflection.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor/Labour Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Our hearts are with those listed with the Prayer Ministry, and the following loved ones we now lift in prayer. Lord, we pray for..... and all those we name silently or aloud before you now. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.
Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: **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.**

THE SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen** (sung)

***SENDING HYMN:** “The Spirit Sends us Forth to Serve”#551

The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.

We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.

We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.

Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in Peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”..... T.Hastings

Today’s altar flowers are in memory of Dale and Shelva Witmer.

After service, please join us for snacks provided by Russ and Nancy Beck.

Announcements

Welcome: Visitors and guests - thank you for being with us today! Using the yellow card in your pew, fill in as much as you’d like and let us know how we can pray for you.

Prayers: Our Prayer Ministry is in continual prayer for many members, their families, and loved ones. In addition to those persons, we pray for Michael Breidenstein, Jr., Molly Fritz, Diane Weinhold Grube, Mike Leid, the family of Cecilia Lausch, and Clarence Rutt.

Memorial Funds: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Cecilia Lausch. A Memorial account has been set up in her honor.

Attention all singers! The Muddy Creek Choir will begin rehearsing Thurs., Sept. 11 at 6:30 pm with following rehearsals only Thursdays during the week prior to the Sundays we sing. We will sing the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month (may be some exceptions). We'd love to have all old and new singers join us in lifting our voices in praise to the Lord (and maybe some inspiration for the congregation). See Greg Gehman if you have any questions.

Today's Worship Assistants

Acolyte Sophia Dimitris
Cantor Gail Bare
Counters David and June Sloat
Lector Lynn Breidenstein

Next Week's Worship Assistants (September 7):

8:00am Communion Assistants Scott Strickland and Judy Dengler
10:15am Communion Assistants and Acolyte Grace Youndt and Nancy Beck
Cantor Gail Bare
Counters Linda and Tim Fritz
Lector Judy Nichol
Bread Baker Marliese Smith

Weave Together! SEP 21st and OCT 3rd North Lancaster and Lancaster County congregations are invited to participate in our first annual "Weave Together" Community Service Project & Retreat! Invite friends and neighbors to crochet or knit 12" X 12" single squares using any washable & dryable worsted (4) weight yarn. Any stitch, any color! We will collect the squares and deliver them on Friday, September 19th.

CHURCH UPDATES

Attendance -August 24
8:00 am - 22
9:30 am – 42; Total Online Views - 29

Giving

Received Aug 24th \$936.00
August to date: \$7,240.41

July Year to-date General Fund plus Mission Support:

Received: \$88,522.43
Expenses: \$106,678.58