

# Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, September 7, 2025, 10:15am

Online Bulletin

# TAKE UP *your* CROSS AND **FOLLOW ME**

## TODAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

[www.mclchurch.org](http://www.mclchurch.org) 717-336-2770 [office@mclchurch.org](mailto:office@mclchurch.org)

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

This 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:** “Lift High the Cross” ..... J. Leavitt

#### \*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:** “Praise the Lord! O Heavens” ..... #823

Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him;  
 praise him, angels, in the height;  
 sun and moon, rejoice before him;  
 praise him, gleaming stars of light.  
 Praise the Lord, for he has spoken;  
 worlds his mighty voice obeyed:  
 laws which never shall be broken  
 for their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord, for he is gracious;  
 never shall his promise fail.  
 God has made his saints victorious;  
 sin and death shall not prevail.  
 Praise the God of our salvation;  
 hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;  
 heav'n and earth, and all creation,  
 laud and magnify his name!

**\*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** ..... PG. 138

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** ..... PG. 140

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory,  
 and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun,  
 continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy,  
 bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Children's Message**

## THE WORD

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 1 (Congregational responses are **bold**.)

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>|</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>|</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law <sup>|</sup> of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching <sup>|</sup> day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves  
that <sup>|</sup> do not wither; everything they <sup>|</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so <sup>|</sup> with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind <sup>|</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>|</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>|</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the Lord knows the way <sup>|</sup> of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall <sup>|</sup> be destroyed.**

### Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup>to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus,  
and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart,

back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (sung)

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.)**

**\*Gospel:** Luke 14:25-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Communion” ..... Dave Sensenig  
[sung to the tune of 566 – “Morning Has Broken”]

Here on this morning, gathered together  
We come to this table and wait for the Lord  
Sharing the meal that we call communion  
As we have done so often before.

Here we remember God's plan completed  
 Here we remember Christ's sacrifice  
 Bread and wine, symbols in this communion  
 Of that great act which gave us life.

Here is His body, broken for our sakes  
 Here is His lifeblood, poured out for all  
 And as we share in this sweet communion  
 We taste His love as we hear His call.

Here at this altar, sins are forgiven  
 Here all the saints are gathered round  
 We are connected, each to the other  
 And it is here that true love is found.

Strengthened in spirit, strengthened in purpose  
 Now we can face the world once again  
 Hearts filled with thanks, we leave our Lord's table  
 As all the saints repeat the amen.

**\*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**

**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 HYMN**

**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**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*A brief silence is held for reflection.*

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are hungry, unhoused, lonely, or sick. As we continue to pray for those on the Prayer Ministry list, we also lift up the following. Friends, please repeat their names as I call them. Lord we pray for ... and all those we name silently or aloud before you now...

May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

## THE EUCHARIST

### \*The Great Thanksgiving

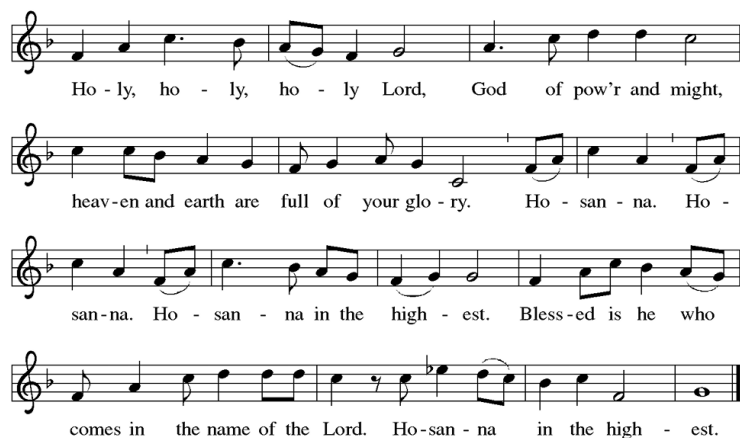
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### \*Proper Preface and Sanctus

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### \*Words of Institution

#### \*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.**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: **Amen**

*All are invited to participate in Communion. Gluten-free wafers and juice are offered as alternatives.*

*Children will receive communion or a blessing according to parental wishes.*

*Please follow the direction of the ushers.*

#### \*Post Communion Blessing

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift and faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

#### \*Post-Communion Prayer

P: Lord God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

## 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: "Lift High the Cross" ..... #660

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
 till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
 our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

All newborn servants of the Crucified  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
 as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. [Refrain]

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
 praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

### \*Dismissal

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

### POSTLUDE: "Arise, My Soul, Arise!" ..... composer Unknown

After service, please stay and fellowship with us in the sanctuary.  
 We thank *Karen O. & Judy D.* for providing refreshments today!

*Linda and Brenda Berger* donated the Altar Flowers  
 in memory of Kathryn Berger

## Announcements

**Welcome** Visitors and guests - thank you for being with us today! We would love to know more about you. Using the yellow card in your pew, tell us how we can pray for you, and if you'd like us to reach out, give us your preferred contact information.

**You are in our Prayers** - As we continue to pray for those on the Prayer Ministry list, we also solicit prayers for Michael Breidenstein, Jr., Molly Fritz, Diane Weinhold Grube, Mike Leid, Clarence Rutt, and the family of Cecilia Lausch.

**Memorial Funds** - A memorial account has been set up to honor Cecilia Lausch. We also have open accounts for Leroy Berger, Ken Frazer, and Joane Saylor.

**Attention all singers!** The Muddy Creek Choir will begin rehearsing Thursday, **September 11<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm. Afterward, rehearsals only be on Thursdays preceding the Sundays we sing (2nd and 4th Sundays, with some exceptions). We're asking former and new singers to join us in inspiring the congregation and lifting our voices to the Lord. *Greg Gehman*

### **Brenda's Bus Trip!**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** –We will enjoy a hot served lunch & dessert buffet before “Never Too Late” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. This hilarious farce about a married man in his fifties who suddenly learns he's about to be a father again. It's been 24 years since his daughter was born, and he is a little reluctant to repeat the process. Can this stubborn old, new father survive? Come along and see! Tour also includes deluxe motor coach & a tip for the driver. *Brenda Berger*

### **Harvest Home Display** - This year's theme: Back to our Roots!

Fresh veggies and fruits, along with non-perishable items will be on display. Although canned goods and nonperishables are still our communities' biggest need, let's celebrate garden harvests, the canning process, and those beautifully filled mason jars. Bring items on **September 27<sup>th</sup>**; we will begin setting up at 10am. Display props and ideas are welcome. Donations remaining after tear down will be donated to Peter's Porch. *Nancy Beck & Jeannette Leid*

## **CHURCH UPDATES**

### **Attendance** (August 31<sup>st</sup>)

8am           14  
9:30am    45; Online Views - 24

### **Received**

August 31<sup>st</sup> \$1,276  
August total \$8,516

### **Expenses** Year-to-date, General Fund plus Mission Support:

Received in July           \$88,522.43  
Expenses through July   \$106,678.58

### **Worship Helpers Today:**

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

### **Worship Helpers - September 14<sup>th</sup>**

Acolyte       Malia Mancini  
Cantor        Hollie Kemper  
Counters     Julie and Dave Emrhein, Kim Eshleman  
Lector        Lynn Breidenstein