

# Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, September 21, 2025, 10:15am*

## *Online Bulletin*



### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**AMOS 8:4-7**

**PSALM 113**

**1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7**

**LUKE 16:1-13**

**[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>)

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** “Come, We That Love the Lord” ..... A. Williams

#### \*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 to the Lord Almighty” ..... # 858

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
as with his love he befriend you.

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

**\*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. 139

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.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet  
from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your  
Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord..

C: **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "The Church's One Foundation" ..... S. Wesley (Greg Gehman, piano)

**Children's Message**

## THE WORD

### First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, “When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 113 (sung responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the <sup>1</sup> LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth for- <sup>1</sup> evermore.**  
<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its <sup>1</sup> going down  
let the name of the <sup>1</sup> LORD be praised.  
<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high a- <sup>1</sup> bove all nations;  
God’s glory a- <sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup> Who is like the <sup>1</sup> LORD our God,  
who sits en- <sup>1</sup> throned on high,  
<sup>6</sup> **but stoops <sup>1</sup> to behold  
the heavens <sup>1</sup> and the earth?**  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out <sup>1</sup> of the dust  
and lifts up the poor <sup>1</sup> from the ashes,  
<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them <sup>1</sup> with the rulers,  
with the rulers <sup>1</sup> of the people.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a <sup>1</sup> childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

### Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God;  
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am  
telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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 16:1-13**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

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

**Sermon**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" .....#609

1 Chief of sinners though I be,  
 Jesus shed his blood for me,  
 died that I might live on high,  
 lives that I might never die.  
 As the branch is to the vine,  
 I am his, and he is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love!  
 Higher than the heav'ns above,  
 deeper than the depths of sea,  
 lasting as eternity.  
 Love that found me -- wondrous thought --  
 found me when I sought him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart  
 balm to heal the wounded heart,  
 peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,  
 joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;  
 faith and hope to walk with God  
 in the way that Enoch trod.

4 Chief of sinners though I be,  
 Christ is all in all to me;  
 all my wants to him are known,  
 all my sorrows are his own.  
 He sustains the hidden life  
 safe with him from earthly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford  
 by your Spirit and your word!  
 When my wayward heart would stray,  
 keep me in the narrow way;  
 grace in time of need supply  
 while I live and when I die.

**\*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: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence is held for reflection.*

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. As we remember those on the Prayer Ministry list, we also pray for Michael Breidenstein, Jr., Molly Fritz, Diane Weinhold Grube, Mike Leid, Clarence Rutt, the family of Cecilia Lausch, and those we name silently or aloud before you now... May they find comfort and strength in your love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. 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. 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 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. Serve God and one another in Faith.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: "Hail to the Brightness" ..... L. Mason**

We thank Marie Buohl for today's altar flowers that are donated in memory of Walt Buohl.

After service, please join us for snacks provided by Marie Buohl.

### 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, the family of Cecilia Lausch, and Clarence Rutt.

#### **Brenda's Bus Trip! September 25th**

Never Too Late", at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - We will enjoy a hot served lunch & dessert buffet before "Never Too Late", 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.

**Weave Together!** Register for the "Weave Together" Retreat (Saturday, **10/3/25**, 8:30am-4pm) to weave the gathered squares into blankets to be distributed to unhoused persons between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Retreat includes a bible study, lunch, snacks and a time of sharing. If you don't crochet or knit, there will be plenty of work to be done sorting, gathering, cooking, etc.! Watch for dates when the gifts will be presented to our unhoused neighbors.

*Pr. Traci Glover pastortri1016@gmail.com*

**Lutheran Ingathering** - Through your generous support, we assembled **71 bags!** for Lutheran In-Gathering. Thanks to all who purchased, prayed, participated, and packed. Your contributions mean a great deal and will go a long way toward helping persons in need. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on October 11**, 8:30-11am at Bergstrasse to help unload vehicles dropping off items to be loaded up for Lutheran World Relief. The New Windsor center has been closed and a truck from Minnesota will be onsite to be loaded with our donations. Please share this with your teams. Coffee and donuts will be served.

**Blessings of Hope** – Muddy Creek will be at Blessings of Hope on Wednesday, **October 15th** from 6:30 to 9 pm. Please use the sign-up sheet to confirm your commitment to the team. Please submit your name by October 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Nancy Beck*

**Attention all singers!** The Muddy Creek Choir will rehearsal on Thursday prior to the Sunday we sing (the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month with some exceptions.) Help us lift our voices in praise to the Lord.

*Greg Gehman*

**Today's Worship Assistants**

Acolyte Jack Dengler  
 Cantor Dave Sensenig  
 Counters Gail and Ted Bare  
 Lector Hollie Kemper

**Next Week's Worship Assistants (September 21<sup>st</sup>):**

Acolyte Russel Beck  
 Cantor Greg Gehman  
 Counters Pat Brendle, Nick Duong, Thai Phan  
 Lector Doris Rauch

**CHURCH UPDATES**

**Attendance** -September 14<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am - 28

10:15am – 51; Online Views - 39

**Giving**

Received SEP 14<sup>th</sup> \$2,363

Month to date: \$5,250

**August Year-to-date** General Fund plus Mission Support:

Received: \$98,564.36

Expenses: \$123,149.73