

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517

Reformation Sunday - October 26, 2025

10:15am

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

PSALM 46

ROMANS 3:19-28

JOHN 8:31-36

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 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” M. Luther

*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:** “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” # 504

A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!
 We would be lost, rejected.
 But now a champion comes to fight,
 whom God himself elected.
 You ask who this may be?
 The Lord of hosts is he!
 Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
 God's only Son, adored.
 He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land
 all threat'ning to devour us,
 we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
 they cannot over-pow'r us.
 Let this world's tyrant rage;
 in battle we'll engage!
 His might is doomed to fail;
 God's judgment must prevail!
 One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,
 no thanks to foes, who fear it;
 for God himself fight by our side
 with weapons of the Spirit.
 Were they to take our house,
 goods, honor, child, or spouse,
 though life be wrenched away,
 they cannot win the day.
 The kingdom's ours forever!

***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.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: "A Clean Heart" B. Harlan

Children's Message

THE WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 46 (sung responsively)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall [|] not be shaken;
 God shall help it at the [|] break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the [|] kingdoms shake;
 God speaks, and the earth [|] melts away.**
- ⁷ The LORD of [|] hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob [|] is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works [|] of the LORD,
 what desolations God has brought up- [|] on the earth;**
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in [|] all the world;
 who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the [|] shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that [|] I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted [|] in the earth.”**
- ¹¹ The LORD of [|] hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob [|] is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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:** John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

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

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Amazing Grace”# 779

Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound–
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

***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: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence is held for reflection.

Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth.

Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our leaders with a common mission and purpose. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated.

Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill. As we remember those on the Prayer Ministry list, we also pray for Michael Breidenstein, Jr., Cindy Frankhouser, Molly Fritz, Diane Weinhold Grube, Clarence Rutt, Sandra Schutter, Waltraut Wegner, and those we name silently or aloud before you now... Be our stronghold at all times.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 Church's One Foundation"# 654**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
 she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
 till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
 Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
 that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in Peace. Serve God and one another in Faith.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "The Solid Rock" W. Bradbury

Today's Service

Rev. Stacy Chavis	Interim Pastor
Acolyte	Sophia Dimitris
Cantor	David Sensenig
Counters	Brenda Berger, Judy Nichol, Audrey Noll
Lector	Jill Youndt

The altar flowers were sponsored by Nick Duong and Thai Phan
 in honor of Muddy Creek Lutheran Church!

Please join us for fellowship after service; refreshments were donated by Nedra Bearinger.

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., Cindy Frankhouser, Molly Fritz, Diane Weinhold Grube, Clarence Rutt, Sandra Schutter, and Waltraut Wegner.

Property Committee Praises - Many thanks to the individuals and families who volunteered to work with the outside care team this summer! Volunteers planted flowers in May and from June through September took turns keeping them watered and the flower beds free of weeds. It required the efforts of many to keep the plants looking their best. The flowers not only help to beautify the Muddy Creek Church property, but provide a pleasant visual experience for those who pass by.

Weave Together Praises - Early totals from the WEAVE event are: 22 people from 9 congregations across Lancaster and Dauphin Counties attended and participated:

4 blankets were lovingly stitched at the retreat; 4 blankets are almost finished; 7 remaining sets to be stitched, for a total of 15 blankets!!

Blankets are to be completed and returned to Salem, Kissel Hill by Friday, October 31st.

Once the completed blankets have been returned, these will be distributed to north Lancaster county, Central Lancaster county, and southern Lancaster county. The planning team is looking into delivery options in each of these areas, but also looking for your feedback and input. Volunteers are needed:

- to help stitch the remaining three sets of squares together into three separate blankets
- to help distribute the blankets to three different organizations between Nov 1- Dec 1, 2025
- to serve on the planning committee for 2026 *Pastor Traci - pastortri1016@gmail.com*

Thrivent Members – We are grateful to all who direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars® to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church. Each year, the money we receive from Thrivent helps fund many programs. Please consider directing your Choice Dollars® to Muddy Creek through your online account or by calling Thrivent at 800-847-4836. Thank you for your continued support!

Flowers and Bulletin Sponsorship: To honor your loved ones with flowers (\$45) or through bulletin sponsorship (\$15) use the signup sheet on the table outside the Pastor's office.

CHURCH NOTES

Next Week's Worship Assistants (November 2nd):

Acolyte Malia Mancini

Cantor Greg Gehman

Counters Ray & Susan Sweigart

Lector Joe Sanchez

Communion Assistants 8am- Karen Oglesby, Hollie Kemper; 10:15- Nancy Beck, Audrey Noll

Attendance – October 26th

8:00 am - 17

10:15am – 48

Giving

Received Oct 12th \$1,951

Month to date: \$8,469

September Year-to-date General Fund plus Mission Support

Received: \$ 116,361

Expenses: \$ 134,957