

# Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

*24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -- November 23, 2025*  
*10:15am*

*Online Bulletin*



## TODAY'S READINGS

JEREMIAH 23:1-6

PSALM 46

COLOSSIANS 1:11-20

LUKE 23:33-43

[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** “O Worship the King” ..... P. Clemmens

#### \*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:** “Come Thou Almighty King” ..... #408

1 Come, thou almighty King,  
 help us thy name to sing;  
 help us to praise;  
 Father, all-glorious,  
 o'er all victorious,  
 come and reign over us,  
 Ancient of Days.

2 Come, thou incarnate Word,  
merciful, mighty Lord;  
our prayer attend.  
Come and thy people bless,  
and give thy word success,  
and let thy righteousness  
on us descend.

3 Come, holy Comforter,  
thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour!  
Thou who almighty art,  
rule now in ev'ry heart,  
never from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.

4 To thee, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be  
hence evermore!  
Thy sov'reign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
love and adore.

**\*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.

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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:** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" ..... J. Althouse

**Children's Message****THE WORD****First Reading:** Jeremiah 23:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup> Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup> I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 46** (sung responsively)

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.
- <sup>6</sup> **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup> **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up- on the earth;**

- <sup>9</sup> 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.
- <sup>10</sup> **“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;  
 I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
 the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

**Second Reading:** Colossians 1:11-20

<sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

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 23:33-43

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done

nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

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

## Sermon

\***HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Ah, Holy Jesus” .....#349

1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.

2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.

3 Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;  
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;  
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,  
God interceded.

4 For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,  
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;  
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
for my salvation.

5 Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;  
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,  
not my deserving.

## \*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: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence is held for reflection.*

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. As we remember those on the Prayer Ministry list, please repeat the names of additional loved ones we pray for: Molly Fritz, Clarence Rutt, those impacted by weather in Jamaica and the Philippines, the children and adults at the New Vision Home, and those we name silently or aloud before you now... Comfort all in need of your tender care.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have died in faith (*especially*). May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; 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: "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" .....#536**

1 God be with you till we meet again;  
by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;  
holy wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

3 God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

**\*Dismissal**

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: "Jesus Shall Reign" ..... J. Hatton**

### Today's Service

Rev. Stacy Chavis	Interim Pastor
Acolyte	Russel Beck
Cantor	Gail Bare
Counters	Holly Kemper and Jane Wenger
Lector	Judy Nichol

Roger and Audrey Noll  
Donated the altar flowers in honor of their Anniversary.

Dave, Julie and Marleise Emhrein provided the refreshments  
for fellowship after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service.

### Announcements

**Welcome:** Visitors and guests - thank you for being with us today! Please use the yellow card in your pew to tell us more about you and 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 Molly Fritz, Clarence Rutt, those impacted by weather in Jamaica and the Philippines, and the children and adults at the New Vision Home.

**Singers needed!** If you'd like to sing but choir takes more time than you have, here's your chance. We are planning a new service to Muddy Creek on Sunday afternoon, December 14<sup>th</sup> - a service of "Lessons and Carols." It is a series of scripture readings on Jesus' birth - the Christmas story - with a congregational song and special music for each. We are looking for extra singers to "swell our ranks" for the 3 choir pieces. Practice is Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 pm. They are carols, but ones not found in our hymnal, so if you can sing melody - please join us!

**Thank You!** From Sandy Schutter – *Thank you to everyone for the cards, flowers, and prayers I received after my recent surgery. I really appreciated them. God bless you.*

#### **Goodie Bags for Thanksgiving!**

Following both services today, everyone is invited to take one or several bags (addresses provided) from Muddy Creek to our members who are 80 and over to make their Thanksgiving season a little more special!

**Poinsettia Time!** – This year, we will again order poinsettias for the congregation and loved ones. Up until November 30<sup>th</sup>, you can place an order (\$7.50 each). They will be delivered to the church on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Hanging the Greens!** We will decorate the Church for Christmas on **November 29<sup>th</sup>** at 8:30am. We will also place candle holders at each pew. Please call Jane Wenger (717-471-0556) with questions.

**Christmas Eve Services Lawn Signs** – Help spread the word about Muddy Creek’s Christmas Eve services! Beginning Sunday, **November 30<sup>th</sup>**, the Evangelism Committee will be handing out yard signs listing our Christmas Eve service times. Please take one for your lawn. Contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886 or [bergerb@dejazzd.com](mailto:bergerb@dejazzd.com) for questions.

**Cookies Exchange** – Will be Friday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm. in the Social Hall. Each person participating in the exchange should bring 5 dozen cookies (one type of cookie) and the recipe. It is very important to have 5 dozen of cookies or the exchange will not work properly. Also bring 1 empty container and 1 small priced wrapped gift for Christmas BINGO. Light refreshments will be provided. Please sign up on the table at the mailboxes. All questions can be directed to Pat at 717-799-2591.

**Wreath Laying for Muddy Creek Cemetery** – During November containers will be provided by the Muddy Creek Cemetery Board for donations to the veteran’s wreath fund for those who would like to contribute. Make checks payable to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church with “Cemetery Veteran’s Wreaths” in the memo field. Boy Scouts will place wreaths in the cemetery on Saturday, **December 6, 2025**. As in the past, we will be tying bows on wreaths; please plan to meet on that day at 9:30am in the social hall. When many hands help, this activity takes about a 1/2 hour.

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

**Giving Statements and Envelopes** – If you have not received giving statements in the past and would like one for 2025, please contact Joe Sanchez at 717-917-2490 before January 1<sup>st</sup>. 2026 envelopes will be in your sanctuary mailbox beginning Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to write your designations for your offering on the outside of each envelope: Current, Benevolence (mission to Synod and ELCA), Building/Improvement, Other (such as altar flowers, bulletins, World Hunger, Good Samaritan Fund, Ephrata Area Social Services, etc.), or Special Envelopes (Communion, Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas). Funds will go to Benevolence unless designated otherwise. Four other ways to give: Simply Giving Program (an automatic deduction from your bank account - talk to Joe Sanchez if you are interested), Bill Pay from your bank, clicking on the “Give Online” button on the church website ([mclchurch.org](http://mclchurch.org)), or scanning the QR code in your bulletin. We appreciate your generosity!

**Next Week’s Worship Assistants (November 30<sup>th</sup>):**

Acolyte	Barbara Yenger
Cantor	Greg Gehman
Counters	June & Neal Leid
Lector	Lynn Breidenstein

#### **Partner Ministries**

**“Brenda and Friends” Bus Trips** – Saturday, November 29, 2025 (Saturday) – We will host our annual trip to Lewisburg to Purity Candy and The Street of Shops.

*For more information, contact Brenda Berger: (717) 336-6886 or [bergerb@dejazzd.com](mailto:bergerb@dejazzd.com)*