

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

1st Sunday of Advent – November 30, 2025

10:15am

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

ISAIAH 2:1-5

PSALM 122

ROMANS 13:11-14

MATTHEW 24:36-44

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 “”Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel” J. Leavitt

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: **Amen.**

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

A brief silence is held for reflection.

Long-expected God,

C: **We confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security that only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness. ✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, ready to welcome the Savior.

C: **Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN: “Hark the Glad Sound!”** #239

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved 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. 203

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word, it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us in your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** PG. 204

Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.

“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be exalted thus!”

“Worthy the Lamb”, our lips reply, “for he was slain for us!”

Jesus is worthy to receive honor and pow'r divine;

And blessings, more than we can give, be, Lord, forever thine.

Let all creation join in one to bless the sacred name

of God who sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the
threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you
live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: Lord God, we light the first candle of Advent.

C: **We kindle it with hope.**

L: We long for you to come to our world to break through and reign with compassion, justice
and peace.

C: **Come to us, O Christ the Light!**

ADVENT HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #257, v.1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Children's Message

THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 122 (sung responsively)

¹ "Let us go to the house | of the LORD."

² **Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:**

“May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within in your walls
and quietness within in your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** PG. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel Reading: Matthew: 24:36-44**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

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

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**#244

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.

The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
the marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

***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: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence is held for reflection.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. [As we remember those on the Prayer Ministry list, as a community celebrating Advent, let us say together the names of additional loved ones we pray for:] Diane Weinhold Grube, Roger Noll, Clarence Rutt, the people of the Philippines and Jamaica, the children and adults at the New Vision Home, and those we name silently or aloud before you now... Surround all with care and consolation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
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: May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C: **Amen** (sung)

***SENDING HYMN: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**#249

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

***Dismissal**

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” A. Whitworth

Today’s Service

Rev. Stacy Chavis	Interim Pastor
Acolyte	Barbara Yerger
Cantor	Greg Gehman
Counters	June and Neal Leid
Lector	Lynn Breidenstein

Today’s altar flowers are donated in Memory of Mark Lorah

Brenda, Darlene, Audrey provided refreshments for fellowship after the 2nd service

Announcements

Welcome: Visitors and guests - thank you for being with us today. We'd love to know more about you. Using the yellow card in your pew, let us know how we can pray for you and other information you would like us to know about you. We are glad you are here!

Prayers: Our Prayer Ministry is in continual prayer for many members, their families, and loved ones. We also pray for Diane Weinhold Grube, Roger Noll, Clarence Rutt, the people of the Philippines and Jamaica and the children and adults at the New Vision Home.

Choir: Singers needed! If you would like to sing, but choir is more time than you have, here's your chance. On December 14th Muddy Creek will sponsor 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 three of the songs. Join us Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 pm to practice the carols!

Christmas Eve Services Lawn Signs – Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Christmas Eve services! Beginning **today**, the Evangelism Committee will hand out yard signs listing the 4:30 and 10:30pm Christmas Eve services. Please take one for your lawn. If you have any questions, contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886 or bergerb@dejazzd.com.

Order your Poinsettia Today! –This is the last day you can place an order (\$7.50 each) for a poinsettia. They will be delivered to the church on December 20th.

Cookie Exchange – Will be held Friday, December 5 at 6:00 pm. in the Social Room. Bring 5 dozen cookies (per person participating) of the same cookie plus the recipe. **Note:** *Very important to have 5 dozen or the exchange will not work properly.* Also bring 1 empty container plus 1 small priced wrapped gift for Christmas BINGO. Light refreshments will be provided. Please sign up on the table at the mailboxes. Questions can be directed to Pat 717-799-2591.

Wreath Laying for Muddy Creek Cemetery – Please plan to meet on **December 6th** at 9:30am in the social hall. We will tie bows on wreaths, and the Boy Scouts will place wreaths in the cemetery on Saturday. When many hands help, this activity takes about half an hour. You can also help by placing donations in an Offering Box (add "Cemetery Veteran's Wreaths" to the cash envelope or on the check's memo field). See you on Saturday!

Poetry from Dave Sensenig: Muddy Creek member David Sensenig will be presenting some of his new poetry between services at 9am on December 7th. All are invited; please plan to join us!

Caring Tree Donations Begins Today: Please take a tag from the Caring Tree and bring in an item or two to make someone's Holiday brighter. This year, we are again collecting for the Good Samaritan Shelter and for New Vision Home in Jamaica.

Giving Statements – If you would like a 2025 giving statement and have not received one in the past, contact Joe Sanchez at 717-917-2490 before January 1st. 2026 envelopes will be placed in sanctuary mailboxes on Dec. 7th. Remember to indicate your preference on each envelope by choosing: CURRENT EXPENSES; BENEVOLENCES (mission to Synod and ELCA); BUILDING/IMPROVEMENT; and/or OTHER (altar flowers, bulletins, World Hunger, Good Samaritan Fund,

Ephrata Area Social Services, etc.). FYI - Funds will go to BENEVOLENCES unless designated otherwise. Four additional ways to give: Simply Giving Program (contact Joe Sanchez for automatic bank account withdrawals); “Bill Pay” from your bank; Clicking “Give Online” at mclchurch.org; or by scanning the QR code in your bulletin. We appreciate your generosity!

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!

CHURCH NOTES

Next Week’s Worship Assistants (December 7th):

Acolyte	Russel Beck
Cantor	Hollie Kemper
Communion Assistants	8am - Scott Strickland, Jane Wenger 10:15 - Nancy Beck , Hollie Kemper
Counters	David and June Sloat
Lector	Nancy Beck

Attendance – November 23rd

8:00am	19
10:15am	56

Giving

Received Nov 23 rd	\$1,986
Month to date:	\$8,940

October Year-to-date General Fund plus Mission Support

Received:	\$ 129,629
Expenses:	\$ 151,719