

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church
11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Second Sunday of Advent, December 7th, 2025

10:15am Service – Online Bulletin



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 11:1-10

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

ROMANS 15:4-13

MATTHEW 3:1-12

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>)

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: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" J. Pachelbel

*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.

P: 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:** "Prepare the Royal Highway" #264

1 Prepare the royal highway,

the King of kings is near;

let every hill and valley

a level road appear.

Then greet the king of glory

foretold in sacred story:

Refrain:

O blest is he that came

in God the Father's name!

2 God's people, see him coming:
 your own eternal king!
 Palm branches strew before him;
 spread garments; shout and sing.
 God's promise will not fail you;
 no more shall doubt assail you: [Refrain]

3 Then fling the gates wide open
 to greet your promised king;
 your king, yet every nation
 its tribute too should bring.
 All lands, bow down before him;
 all voices, thus adore him: [Refrain]

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
 it comes from heaven above.
 His rule is peace and freedom,
 and justice, truth, and love.
 So let your praise be sounding
 for kindness so abounding: [Refrain]

***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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and 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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (two candles are lit)

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

C: **Reminding us of the Peace you bring.**

L: We long for your return 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.1-2

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.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Children's Message**THE WORD****First Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,

and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

² **that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, Lord God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;
¹⁰and again he says,
 “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;
¹¹and again,
 “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;
¹²and again Isaiah says,
 “The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”
¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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: Matthew 3:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” #272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

*Apostles' Creed

P: Together, let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostle's 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.**



You can place your contribution in an Offering box or use this QR code.
Thank you for supporting 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**

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.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples.

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

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response.

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

Remembering those on the Prayer Ministry list with steadfastness and encouragement, please strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. As community celebrating Advent, let us say *together* the names of additional loved ones we lift to you. Lord, we pray strength and healing for 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... Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides us. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ.

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

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. 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 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name enjoying 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 (Advent, setting 10)

*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 Prayer**

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**

***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: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 254**

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Risen Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" A. Whitworth

Today's altar flowers are provided by Judy Nichol in celebration of the birth of baby Jesus.

After service, all are invited to fellowship with us in the sanctuary.

Today's Service

Rev. Jeff Pretz	Supply Pastor
Organist	Greg Gehman, Director of Music
Acolyte	Russel Beck
Cantor	Hollie Kemper
Communion Assistants	8am - Scott Strickland, Jane Wenger 10:15am - Nancy Beck, Hollie Kemper
Counters	David & June Sloat
Lector	Nancy Beck

Announcements

Welcome: Visitors and guests - thank you for being with us today. We'd love to know more about you. Use the yellow card in your pew to share some information and tell us how we can pray for you. We are glad you are here!

Prayers: Our Prayer Ministry is in continual prayer for many members, their families, and loved ones. In addition to those persons, we pray Roger Noll, Clarence Rutt, the people of the Philippines and Jamaica, and the children and adults at the New Vision Home.

Poetry TODAY: Muddy Creek member David Sensenig will be presenting some of his new poetry between services at 9am today. All are invited; please plan to join us!

Lessons and Carols - Singers needed! If you like to sing, but choir takes more time than you have, here's your chance. Muddy Creek will host "Lessons and Carols" on December 14th at 2:30pm. The service is a series of scripture readings about the birth of Jesus with a special music and a congregational song 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!

NEXT SUNDAY- 1 Service & Congregational Meeting – There will be one service (10:15am) on 12/14/25; the Congregational meeting will be held immediately afterward. In this important meeting we will share 2026 updates and vote on the budget. Your vote counts; please plan to attend.

Christmas Eve Services Lawn Signs – Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Christmas Eve services! Please take a yard sign listing the 4:30 and 10:30pm Christmas Eve services. If you have any questions, contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886 or bergerb@dejazzd.com.

Caring Tree: 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 – donations from Special envelopes 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 UPDATES

Attendance - November 30th

8:00am: 17

10:15am: 31

Online Views: 49

Giving

November 30th: \$ 1,260

Month to Date: \$10,200

Next Week’s Worship Assistants (December 14th):

Acolyte Sophia Dimitris

Cantor Dave Sensenig

Counters Julie & Dave Emhrein, Kim Eshleman

Lector Doris Rauch