

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

10:30 pm Service



Welcome to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

* = Please stand as you are able;
Congregational responses are **bold**

PRELUDE “Still, Still, Still” P. Manz

Welcome

Announcements

***Passing the Peace**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

***HYMN** “O Come All Ye Faithful” #283, v. 1-3

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

***Responsive Reading** Isaiah 9:2, 9:6

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

C: **Authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named**

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

***Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN "Joy to the World".....#267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Christmas Gospel Part 1: Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was

expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.



HYMN “The First Noel”#300

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

Christmas Gospel Part 2: Luke 2:8-14

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the

angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

HYMN “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”#289

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

Christmas Gospel Part 3: Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Sermon

SPECIAL MUSIC “*Now Let all the World Be Silent*”Choir Anthem

***Prayers of Intercession**

Empowered by the news of Christ’s birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence is held for reflection.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night.

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

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares.

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

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling.

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

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care.

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

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With the joy of Christ’s birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Holy Communion

*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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.*

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*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.**

*Invitation to Communion

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.*

***Candle Lighting**

SPECIAL MUSIC “*O Holy Night*”Choir Anthem

***HYMN** “*Silent Night*”#281

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
‘round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav’nly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from your holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

***BLESSING**

The triune God, glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

***HYMN** “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*”#270

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

***Dismissal** (read responsively)

P: Glory to God in the highest!

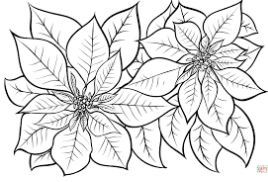
C: And peace to God's people on earth!

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

Merry Christmas!

POSTLUDE "Today in Bethlehem" R. Parks



Poinsettias donated in memory or honor of loved ones:

Gail and Ted Bare

In Memory of Mildred and Galen Shimp

Nedra Bearinger

In Memory of Ralph S. Bearinger

Connie Becker

In Memory of Family and Friends

Linda and Brenda Berger

In Memory of Nathaniel and Kathryn Berger
George and Katie Yeager
Mickey Jones
Susan Bland
John and Cora Berger, Leroy Berger
Sandra Stinson
Gladys Stauffer

Pat Brendle

In Honor of My Children, Grandchildren
and Great Grandchildren
In Memory of Nancy and John Brendle
and Grandparents

Marie Buohl

In Honor of My Children and Grandchildren
In Memory of Walter Buohl

Pastor Chavis

In Honor of Mom
In Memory of Family

The Emrhein Family

In Honor of Mary Zerbe
In Memory of Betty and Lester Ramsey

Traci Galen

In Memory of My Father Glenn Greenwalt
and My Mother Mary Ann Seidel

Linda Gerhart

In Memory of Melvin and Dottie Burkhart
by their Grandchildren
In Memory of Elmer and Ernestine Gerhart
by their Grandchildren

Jeanne and George Lorah

In Memory of Mark Lorah by the Family
In Memory of Chester and Cathy Kochel
In Memory of Parents

David Moodhart	In Memory of Leonard & Harriet Moodhart
Judy Nichol	In Memory of Loved Ones
Audrey and Roger Noll	In Memory of Loved Ones
Brenda Peters	In Memory of Leslie Hinden by the Grandchildren
Carl H. Schenskie	In Memory of Joanne E. Schenskie
Stephanie Spangler	In Memory of Leroy and Viola Witmer In Memory of Dave and Polly Spangler
Lee Anne Ueberroth and Family	In Memory of Dale and Shelva Witmer In Memory of Richard Ueberroth II
Yvonne Weaver	In Honor of the Birth of Jesus In Memory of John Weaver by the Family
Darlene Weidman	In Honor of Sisters, Sister-in-law, and Aunt In Memory of Loved Ones
Jane Wenger	In Honor of My Grandchildren In Memory of my Parents and My Brother
Pat Yerger, Sev Yerger and Ashley Warner	In Memory of Jesus and All the Saints Before Us