

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Second Sunday of Christmas – January 4, 2025

10:15am Service

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

PSALM 147:12-20

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

JOHN 1:1-18

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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 “We Three Kings” arr. A. Whitworth

*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: “Once in Royal David’s City” #269

1 Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
 who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable,
 and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and meek and lowly,
 lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
 through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle
 is our Lord in heav'n above;
 and he leads his children on
 to the place where he is gone.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
 with the oxen standing by,
 we shall see him; but in heaven,
 set at God's right hand on high;
 there his children gather round,
 bright like stars, with glory crowned.

***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, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: Amen.

Children's Message**THE WORD****First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

⁷ Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 147: 12-20 (sung responsively)

¹²Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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 Reading: John 1:10-18**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.****Sermon*****HYMN OF THE DAY: "What Child is This?"#296**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 come, peasant king, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 the virgin sings her lullaby;
 joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

***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.



To make an Offering, you can scan this QR code or place your gift in an offering box. Thank you for supporting 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: 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.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly.

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

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace.

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

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. (*Together, let us say aloud the names of additional loved ones we lift to God.*) **Lord, we pray strength and healing for Brad Rauch, Clarence Rutt, and the family of Roger Noll.**

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

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory.

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.

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.

By the leading of a star, he was shown to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine, he revealed your glory. 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 full of your glory.*

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

***Words of Institution**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love, you sent to us Jesus, your son, who reached out to heal the sick and the suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying; This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, oh Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; To whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

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.

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Amen

Everyone is invited to participate in Communion. Children will receive communion or a blessing according to parental wishes. Gluten-free wafers and juice are offered as alternatives.

***Post Communion Blessing**

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

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: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”**#275

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light. [Refrain]

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star. [Refrain]

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]

***Dismissal**

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “Joy to the World”arr. A. Whitworth

Today's Service

Rev. Stacy Chavis	Interim Pastor
Acolyte	Russel Beck
Cantor	Gail Bare
Communion Assistants	8am - Judy Dengler, Hollie Kemper 10:15am - Lynn Breidenstein, Nancy Beck
Counters	Nick Duong, Thai Phan, Pat Brendle
Lector	Hollie Kemper

Richard D. Yerger donated today's altar flowers.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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 Brad Rauch, Clarence Rutt, and the family of Roger Noll.

NEXT SUNDAY: There will be one service (10:15am) on 1/11/26; 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.

Next Week's Worship Assistants (January 11th):

Acolyte	Barb Yerger
Cantor	Hollie Kemper
Counters	Jeanette & Mike Leid
Lector	Jill Youndt

Partner Ministry Events

“Brenda and Friends” Bus Trips

Feb. 26, 2025 (Thursday) - Neil Simon's “The Sunshine Boys” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.
For more information, contact Brenda Berger (717) 336-6886 or berger@dejazzd.com

With Gratitude

Thanks to all who served, helped coordinate, or attended one or both of the Christmas Eve services. What a wonderful time of fellowship and worship!

“Thanks to my Church Family for all their many acts of kindness, prayers, support, and cards during this exceedingly challenging time – also thank you to all who helped serve the lunch and those who came to the service. A special thank you to Pastor Chavis who visited Roger in the hospital and nursing home – she made him incredibly happy by giving him Communion – her support is appreciated. Sincerely, Audrey Noll.”

*“On behalf of Good Samaritan Services and the individuals and families we serve, we would like to **thank you** for your recent donation of a new lawn mower on December 8, 2025...Your support helps transform lives and helps our neighbors facing hardship feel seen, valued, and cared for- especially when they might otherwise feel overlooked. Thank you for making a lasting difference. With Gratitude, Nate Hoffer, Chief Executive Officer and Mikaela Potrako, Chief Advancement Officer.”*