

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – February 1, 2025

10:15am Service

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

MICAH 6:1-8

PSALM 15

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

MATTHEW 5:1-12

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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.

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 “Gather Us In” J. Behnke

*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: “Gather Us In” # 532

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
 we are the old who yearn for your face;
 we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
 called to be light to the whole human race.
 Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
 gather us in, the proud and the strong;
 give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
 give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
 here we will take the bread of new birth,
 here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
 call us anew to be salt for the earth.
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
 give us to eat the bread that is you;
 nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
 lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
 not in some heaven, light years away—
 here in this place the new light is shining,
 now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
 Gather us in and hold us forever,
 gather us in and make us your own;
 gather us in, all peoples together,
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***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

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. 139

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

2 'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry,
'to be exalted thus';
'Worthy the Lamb,' our lips reply,
'for he was slain for us.'

3 Jesus is worthy to receive
honour and power divine;
and blessings, more than we can give,
be, Lord, forever thine.

4 Let all creation join in one
to bless the sacred name
of God who that sits upon the throne,
and to adore the Lamb.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

THE WORD

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
 and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
 and bow myself before God on high?
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
 with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
 and what does the LORD require of you
 but to do justice and to love kindness
 and to walk humbly with your God?.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 15 (sung responsively)

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
 Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
 who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
 they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.
 They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
 Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is

foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

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 5:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

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

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"#611**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto me and rest;
 lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast."
 I came to Jesus as I was,
 so weary, worn, and sad;
 I found in him a resting-place,
 and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Behold, I freely give
 the living water, thirsty one;
 stoop down and drink and live."
 I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
 my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "I am this dark world's light;
 look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright."
 I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
 and in that light of life I'll walk.

***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: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence is held for reflection.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking the truth. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. *(As a church family, let's say together other people we lift to God.)* **Lord, we pray strength and healing for people impacted by the storms, inclement weather, and power outages. Shelter and protect them, and those we pray silently or aloud for now.** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and leaders who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus 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: "Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise"#534

1 Savior, again to your dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
once more we bless you ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.

2 Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;
with you began, with you shall end the day;
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.

3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the coming night;
for us transform its darkness into light.
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn;
your evening presence promise to your own.

4 Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.

*Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Arise, My Soul, Arise" arr. unknown

Today's Service

Rev. Stacy Chavis	Interim Pastor
Acolyte	Sophia Dimitris
Cantor	Gail Bare
Communion Assistants	Scott Strickland, Judy Dengler - 8am Lynn Breidenstein, Audrey Noll - 10:15am
Counters	Brenda Berger, Judy Nichol, Audrey Noll
Lector	Lynn Breidenstein

Today's altar flowers were donated by Peggy Leid in memory of Jeffrey Leid.

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.

The **2026 General Congregational Meeting** will be held on **February 8th** after the 10:15am service. Please plan to attend to learn more about goals and events for this year.

The **Congregational Luncheon** will follow. The Parish Life Committee will provide the main meal. Feel free to bring dessert!

NOTE: *In the event that we are unable to have service or a quorum on 2/8/26, the meeting will be held on **February 15th***

Super Bowl Sunday – February 8th - Wear your favorite team jersey or colors – any team, any sport. Also, we will collect spare change for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal!

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

*“**Thank you** for your contributions to Peters Porch. Your faithfulness and commitment have been a blessing, enabling us to continue sharing God's love and serving our community in meaningful ways. May God bless you and your family in the year ahead. Thank you for being part of this community and for helping us make a lasting impact in our ministry and in the lives of those we serve. With gratitude, Zion Lutheran Church.”*

*On behalf of Good Samaritan and the individuals and families we serve, we would like to **thank you** for your recent donation of paper supplies and more on December 26th, 2025. Your gift is transforming lives. We're deeply grateful for your generosity. Your support helps transform lives... and helps our neighbors facing hardship feel seen valued and care for, especially when they might otherwise feel overlooked. Thank you for making a lasting difference. With gratitude, Nate Hoffer, CEO and Mikaela Poteako, CAO, Good Samaritan Services”*

Worship Assistants for February 8th

Acolyte	Russel Beck
Cantor	Greg Gehman
Counters	Jere & Joan Shimp
Lector	Doris Rauch