

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Second Sunday In Lent – March 1, 2026

10:15am Service

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

GENESIS 12:1-4A

PSALM 121

ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

JOHN 3:1-17

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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 “Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow” B. Ingemann

*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: “Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow” #327

1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.

Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.

2 One the light of God's own presence
 on the ransomed people shed,
 chasing far the gloom and terror,
 bright'ning all the path we tread.
 One the object of our journey,
 one the faith which never tires,
 one the earnest looking forward,
 one the hope our God inspires.

3 One the strain that lips of thousands
 lift as from the heart of one;
 one the conflict, one the peril,
 one the march in God begun.
 One the gladness of rejoicing
 On the far eternal shore,
 where the one almighty Father
 reigns in love forevermore.

4 Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
 onward, with the cross our aid.
 Bear its shame, and fight its battle
 till we rest beneath its shade.
 Soon shall come the great awaking;
 Soon the rending of the tomb!
 Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
 and the end of toil and gloom.

***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

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.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 121 (sung responsively)

- ¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?
- ² **My help comes | from the Lord,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**
- ³ The Lord will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the Lord watches | over you;
the Lord is your shade at | your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.**
- ⁷ The Lord will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.
- ⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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: John 3:1-17**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

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

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY: "God Loved the World"#323**

1 God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in Him believe
should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 If you are ill, if death draws near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus rescues us from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood,
your baptism grants the highest good.

5 All glory to the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

***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.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today.

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

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up all who are marginalized and oppressed because of hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. *(Together aloud we pray)*
“Lord, strengthen and protect, Clarence Rutt, David Sloat, caretakers, those impacted by inclement weather and all those we lift silently or aloud to you now...”
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless visitors and those watching services online and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
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: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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: "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"#335

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
 there's a precious fountain;
 free to all, a healing stream
 flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:
 In the cross, in the cross
 be my glory ever;
 till my ransomed soul shall find
 rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
 love and mercy found me;
 there the bright and morning star
 sheds its beams around me. [Refrain]

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
 bring its scenes before me;
 help me walk from day to day
 with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
 hoping, trusting ever,
 till I reach the golden strand
 just beyond the river. [Refrain]

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve God and one another in faith.
 C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Postlude in G Minor" G. Merkel

A Call To Serve - Usher Informational Gathering

Sunday, March 1 | 8:45am & 11:30am

March 8 | 8:45am & 11:30am

We will hold instructional meetings for all individuals who would like to assist with the ushering duties of the church. This is a great opportunity to assist with worship and become a part of a real team effort. Brief meetings will take place in the rear of the sanctuary.

Easter Flowers

March 1 through March 22 – Orders Needed

This year, we will again order Easter lilies, daffodils, and tulips for the congregation and loved ones. All orders must be placed by March 22nd. They will be delivered to the church on April 5th. Order forms are available on the table below the mailboxes.

Celebration of Life for Betty McMahon

Saturday, March 21 | 1 – 4pm

Venue 272, 112 Muddy Creek Church Rd, Denver, PA 17517

All are welcome to join the family and friends of Betty McMahon as we celebrate her life following her passing on February 8, 2026.

College/Military Goodie Boxes

March 22 through April 12 – Collection Dates

We are collecting snack donations for our College and Military Goodie Boxes!

Donations may be placed in the designated collection boxes located at all church entrances.

Church & Grove Outdoor Clean-Up

Saturday, March 28 | 8am – 12pm

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a morning of outdoor clean-up around the church and in the grove. **Items Needed:** Wheelbarrows, Rakes, Shovels, Pruners, Gloves, and any other tools you've found helpful at past clean-ups. Trailers are also needed to haul debris to the Denver Borough site. If you are able to provide a trailer on March 28, please contact **Judy Nichol at 717-484-1447**. Thank you for using your gifts to serve the Lord as we care for His church grounds together.

Muddy Creek Cemetery Board

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, March 21 | 9am

The Muddy Creek Cemetery Board will host a Spring Leaf Clean-Up Day. Volunteers are needed to help rake and remove leaves. The local Boy Scouts will be assisting, but additional help would be greatly appreciated. If you're interested in helping, please feel free to bring your own rake, wheelbarrow, or leaf blower.

Special Offering Request

Sunday, March 22

Muddy Creek Cemetery is a historic cemetery that has been in operation since the American Revolution. It serves as the final resting place for more than 200 veterans who have served in the United States military, dating back to the Revolutionary War.

The Cemetery Board is requesting a special offering to help offset a portion of our general maintenance and landscaping expenses. Any support you can provide would be greatly appreciated and will be used to help preserve and maintain the cemetery for future generations.

Board Opening

A volunteer is needed to fill a one-year term on the Cemetery Board. If you are interested in serving, please contact Council President Audrey Noll.

Partner Ministry Events

“Brenda and Friends” Bus Trips

March 2nd (Monday) Asher’s Chocolate & the Philadelphia Flower Show
 March 19th (Thursday) “Andy Cooney Irish Cabaret” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
For more information, contact Brenda Berger (717) 336-6886 or berger@dejazzd.com

Administrative Items

February 22nd

Attendees.....8:00am: 20	Weekly Reg. Giving \$ 1,889
10:15am: 21	Mo. to Date Giving \$ 12,993
Online Views..... 29	

Ash Wednesday

Attendees.....12:00pm: **11**
 7:00pm: **24**
 Online Views**36**

Year-to-date General Fund plus Mission Support:

Received in January.....\$12,044