

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Third Sunday In Lent – March 8, 2026

10:15am Service

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

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>)

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 “O Savior Blest” J. S. Bach

*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: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” #324

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
 hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
 never shall the cross forsake me;
 lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
 light and love upon my way,
 from the cross the radiance streaming
 adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
 by the cross are sanctified;
 peace is there that knows no measure,
 joys that through all time abide.

***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

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
 Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;
 we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
 Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
 Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
 For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Special Music: "Jesus, The Thought of You" arr. R. Lau

Children's Message**THE WORD****First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7**

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 95 (sung responsively)

¹ Come, let us sing | to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

² **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.**

³ For you, Lord, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.**

⁷ For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

- ⁸ **“Harden | not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**
- ⁹ There your ancestors | tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.
- ¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.’**
- ¹¹ Indeed I swore | in my anger,
‘They shall never come | to my rest.’ ”

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind –
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

***Gospel Reading:** John 4:5-42

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

P: 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
 Thy head upon My breast.”
 I came to Jesus as I was,
 Weary, and 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,
 Till trav'ling days are done.

***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!

***HYMN OF REFLECTION**

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: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence is held for reflection.*

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (*Together aloud, we pray...*) **God, we ask for healing and strength for Clarence Rutt, the family of David Sloat, people who serve as caretakers, families affected by war, and for those we lift silently or aloud to you now...Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and our choir.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **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.**

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: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”#325**

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3 When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

***Dismissal**

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

POSTLUDE: “Postlude in A Minor” A. Hesse

Today's Service

Interim Pastor Rev. Stacy Chavis
Organist Greg Gehman, Music Director

Acolyte.....Russel Beck
Cantor Greg Gehman
Counters.....Julie, Dave, Marleise Emhrein
LectorJill Youndt

Today's altar flowers were donated by Brenda Berger in honor of Linda Berger's birthday.
Today's bulletins were donated by Pat Brendle and Kim Eshleman in memory of John Brendle.
Pat Buohl donated the refreshments for the Fellowship Hour.

March 15th Worship Assistants

Acolyte.....Russel Beck
Cantor.....Hollie Kemper
Counters..... Nedra Bearinger
Lector Joe Sanchez, Lynn Breidenstein

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: In addition to those on our Prayer Ministry list, we pray for healing and strength for Clarence Rutt, the family of David Sloat, caretakers, and those affected by war.

Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Support the Muddy Creek Good Samaritan Fund with your Redner's receipts! Simply place your complete register receipts ("tapes") in the Redner's containers at all church entrances.

How it works:

- Muddy Creek receives **1%** of the Save-a-Tape total printed on each receipt when you use your Redner's Rewards Card for purchases at Redner's Market and Quick Shop
- Food and other items qualify. (You will receive a discount for gas, but these purchases do not qualify for the church donation.)
- **Bring the entire receipt — do not cut it** – so that we can calculate our total.

Thanks to recent submissions, we will receive **\$137.25**. Thank you for your continued support!

Easter Service Lawn Signs

Starting Sunday, March 8

Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Easter services! The Evangelism Committee has placed yard signs in the annex which list the Muddy Creek Easter services times. Please take one for your lawn. Contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886, bergerb@dejazzd.com

A Call To Serve - Usher Informational Gathering

Sunday, 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

Location: 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 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

March 1st	Attendance		Offerings	
	8am	21	Weekly	\$2,444
	10:15am	53	Month-to-Date	\$2,444
	Online	29		

General Fund plus Mission Support

Received through February \$24,980

Expenses through February \$32,521