

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Fourth Sunday In Lent – March 15, 2026

10:15am Service

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

PSALM 93

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

JOHN 9:1-41

www.mclchurch.org 717-336-2770 office@mclchurch.org

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

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 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” F. Maker

*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: “Savior, When in Dust to You” #601

1 Savior, when in dust to you
low we bow in homage due;
when, repentant, to the skies
scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
oh, by all your pains and woe
suffered once for us below,
bending from your throne on high,
hear our penitential cry!

2 By your helpless infant years,
 by your life of want and tears,
 by your days of deep distress
 in the savage wilderness,
 by the dread, mysterious hour
 of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
 turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye;
 hear our penitential cry!

3 By your hour of dire despair,
 by your agony of prayer,
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
 by the gloom that veiled the skies
 o'er the dreadful sacrifice,
 listen to our humble sigh;
 hear our penitential cry!

4 By your deep expiring groan,
 by the sad sepulchral stone,
 by the vault whose dark abode
 held in vain the rising God,
 oh, from earth to heav'n restored,
 mighty, reascended Lord,
 bending from your throne on high,
 hear our penitential cry!

***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.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 23 (sung responsively)

¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³ You restore my | soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,

⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

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.**

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”

¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”

²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”#779**

1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

***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: 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 shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our Cocalico community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake.

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

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters.

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

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. (*Together aloud, we pray...*) **God, continue to accompany and fortify Clarence Rutt, Sev Yerger, the family of David Sloat, caretakers and aide workers, and those we lift silently or aloud to you now...** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant. Transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever.

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: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"#338**

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burdens of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve God and one another in faith.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Postlude in D Minor" C. Ett

Today's Service

Interim Pastor
Music Director

Rev. Stacy Chavis
Greg Gehman

Acolyte Russel Beck
Cantor Hollie Kemper
Counters Nedra Bearinger
Lector Joe Sanchez

Today's altar flowers were donated by Linda and Brenda Berger in memory of Nathaniel Berger.
Judy Dengele and Karen Oglesby donated the refreshments for the Fellowship Hour.

March 22nd Worship Assistants

Acolyte Barb Yerger
Cantor.....David Sensenig
Counters Hollie Kemper, Jane Wenger
LectorBrad Rauch

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Welcome! If you're visiting with us today, we're glad you're here. At your convenience, you are welcome to fill out the yellow card in your pew and share a little about yourself or let us know how we can be praying for you. We're happy you chose to spend today with us!

Prayers: In addition to those on our Prayer Ministry list, we lift up Clarence Rutt, Sev Yerger, the family of David Sloat, caretakers and aide workers.

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.

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

Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Easter services! The Evangelism Committee will be handing out yard signs which list the times of Easter services at Muddy Creek. All are invited to take one to put up on your lawn. The signs are in the Annex.

Questions, contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886, bergerb@dejazzd.com

Easter Flowers

Order by March 22nd

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

Join us for a morning of outdoor clean-up around the church and in the grove.

We need 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.

Easter Egg Hunt***Sunday, March 29 | 11:30am***

Calling all kids and adults alike! Come join our Community Easter Egg Hunt in the Grove. Don't miss a special visit from the Easter Bunny! Donations of plastic eggs and wrapped candy are appreciated. **For this event to continue as scheduled, volunteers are needed.** Please drop off donations no later than Sunday, March 22nd, on the table under the mailboxes

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, Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
- April 16-18 (Thurs-Sat) “The International Tattoo”, Norfolk, VA
Includes: Canal Cruise, Military Aviation Museum, Oceanfront Lodging -VA Beach, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, & Marvel Carriage Museum
- April 30th (Thursday) “Some Enchanted Evening”, Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
For more information, contact Brenda Berger (717) 336-6886 or berger@dejazzd.com

Swamp Lutheran Church Widowers Group Luncheon

Thursday, April 9th | 12pm

Udder Choice Restaurant, Ephrata, PA

Join us to hear our guest speaker from Middle Creek Wildlife Management discuss habitat, migration, and the history of MCWM.

RSVP to the church office at (717) 336-2849 or secretary@swamplutheran.org

Administrative Items

March 8th	Attendance	Offerings	
	8am	23	Weekly \$2632
	10:15am	48	Month-to-Date \$5076
	Online	15	

General Fund plus Mission Support

Received through February \$24,980

Expenses through February \$32,521