

# MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

*Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 26, 2026*

*10:15am Service*

*Online Bulletin*



## TODAY'S READINGS

ACTS 2:42-47

PSALM 23

I PETER 2:19-25

JOHN 10:1-10

[www.mclchurch.org](http://www.mclchurch.org)      717-336-2770      [office@mclchurch.org](mailto: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 "All Glory to Jesus" ..... J. Peterson

#### \*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: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" ..... #392

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;

his the scepter, his the throne;

Alleluia! his the triumph,

his the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion

thunder like a mighty flood:

"Jesus, out of ev'ry nation

has redeemed us by his blood."

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans  
 are we left in sorrow now;  
 Alleluia! he is near us;  
 faith believes, nor questions how.  
 Though the cloud from sight received him  
 when the forty days were o'er,  
 shall our hearts forget his promise:  
 "I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
 here on earth our food, our stay;  
 Alleluia! here the sinful  
 flee to you from day to day.  
 Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
 earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
 where the songs of all the sinless  
 sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
 Lord omnipotent we own:  
 Alleluia! born of Mary,  
 earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.  
 As within the veil you entered,  
 robed in flesh, our great high priest,  
 here on earth both priest and victim  
 in the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
 his the scepter, his the throne;  
 Alleluia! his the triumph,  
 his the victory alone.  
 Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
 thunder like a mighty flood;  
 "Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
 has redeemed us by his blood."

**\*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.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**Choir:** "Before Our Lord and King" ..... J. Culver

**Children's Message**

**THE WORD**

**First Reading:** Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 23** (sung responsively)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my | soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup> **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:** 1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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 10:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them.

<sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY:** “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” .....#502

1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth  
and, where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
thy rod and staff my comfort still;  
thy cross before to guide me.

## **\*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: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence is held for reflection.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far.  
 Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation.  
 Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance.  
 Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Together aloud, we pray...) **Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. As we pray for healing for George and Jeanne Lorah, restore all to health of body, mind, and spirit.** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing.  
 Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **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.**

**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: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing".....#543**

1 Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
 In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
 Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.

2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's story;  
 here you touched him, saw his glory.  
 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

3 Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
 Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
 Here my Spirit's power filled you;  
 here his tender comfort stilled you.  
 Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

**\*Dismissal**

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

**POSTLUDE: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"..... T. Hastings**



## PARTNER MINISTRY EVENTS

### “Brenda and Friends” Bus Trips

- April 30th (Thursday) “Some Enchanted Evening,” Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
- May 7, 2026 (Thursday) - Winterthur & Longwood Gardens when the tulips & azaleas are blooming (and other flowers and flowering trees, as well)
- May 30, 2026 (Saturday) - 1-Day Mystery Trip

*For more information, contact Brenda Berger (717) 336-6886 or [berger@dejazzd.com](mailto:berger@dejazzd.com)*

### East Cocalico Lions Club

#### **Senior Citizens Banquet – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm – Reamstown Fire Hall**

Join the Lions Club for a special afternoon together. Doors open at 12:30pm, with the meal served at 1pm, followed by entertainment featuring a chalk artist at 2pm. This free event is open to anyone age 55 and over. **Registration required!** Contact Tim at 717-475-3530.

### Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA

Considering a summer job as a camp counselor? The Lutheran Camping Corporation is seeking faithful individuals to help build a welcoming camp community.

Counselors must be at least 18 or a High School graduate this June. Training is provided. Learn more at <https://www.lutherancamping.org/employment/>

#### **This Weeks Office Hours:**

Monday	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-11:30am
Tuesday	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm
Wednesday	April 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm
Thursday	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm
Friday	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am-11:30am

#### APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

<b>Attendance</b>		<b>Offerings</b>	
9:30am	74	Weekly	\$2,079
Online	52	Month-to-Date	\$9,938

#### **General Fund plus Mission Support**

Received through March	\$37,898
Expenses through March	\$48,460