

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517

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Website: www.mcchurch.org. Follow us on Facebook and our Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel.
The 10:15 a.m. service will be livestreamed and posted today on our YouTube channel and our website.

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024, 10:15 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time Begins)
Online Edition

* = Please stand as you are able All congregational responses are in **bold**

Welcome to Muddy Creek!

Announcements, Waving Hello

Prelude: *O Savior Blest*.....J. S. Bach

*Confession and Forgivenesspages 94 – 96

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen.**

L: 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.**

L: 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.**

L: 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: “Lift High the Cross”.....#660

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ the Son of God. (Refrain)
- 2. All newborn soldiers of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. (Refrain)
- 3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. (Refrain)
- 4. So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory (Refrain)

*Greeting L: 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**.....page 203

*Kyrie.....page 203

- 1. Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word, it saves us from despair.
- 2. Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

3. Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us in your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

*Canticle of Praisepage 204

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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

Choir Anthem: *Come to the Cross*.....R. Wilson

First Reading: Number 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (Congregational responses in bold)

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
- ²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- ¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**
- ¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.
- ¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

*Gospel Acclamation:page 205
**(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: John 3:14-21 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that 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. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

L: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”.....#631

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;

visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled breast;

let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
 Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
 end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
 3. Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
 suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
 pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
 4. Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
 let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
 Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
 till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!

*The Apostles' Creed

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 the life everlasting. Amen.

*Thanksgiving for Offering C: **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.**
 (Offering to Muddy Creek or Disaster Relief may be contributed online through the
 church website, mclchurch.org, "Give Online" button on the home page.)

*Hymn #752 ("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 the Church P: Lord, in your mercy C: **Hear our prayer**

*Lord's Prayer.....page 208
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.

*Blessing C: **Amen** (sung response)

*Sending Song: "Give to Our God Immortal Praise!".....#848

1. Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all his ways.
 Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.
 2. He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave.
 Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.
 3. Give to the Lord of lords renown; the King of kings with glory crown.
 His mercies ever shall endure when lords and kings are known no more!

*Dismissal P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord! C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Postlude in G Minor*.....G. Merkel

Immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service, you are invited to stay in the sanctuary for a time of fellowship and refreshments, courtesy today of Mary Zerbe and Brenda Berger. Thanks!

Announcements

Welcome to everyone, especially all visitors and guests! If you are visiting today, it would be really appreciated if you would fill out the yellow card in your pew and put it in the offering box or give it to the pastor. Welcome!

Notes for Online Participants:

If you would like to pick up prefilled home communion kits of wafers and grape juice in order to participate online along with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month, please contact Pastor Peter or pick them up from the box on the table under the church mailboxes. Or, if you wish, you may use bread and grape juice/wine from your own home.

Offering to Muddy Creek or Disaster Relief may be contributed online through the church website, melchurch.org, "Give Online" button on the home page.

Wednesday Evening Cluster Lenten Services: All are invited to Lenten services, held together with other local Lutheran churches in our cluster. Following this year's theme of "Open My Life, Lord", the schedule will be as follows:

*This Wed. March 13, 7 p.m. at Mellingers Lutheran Church, Schoeneck. Pastor Sandy Gideon from St. Paul Lutheran will preach on "Open My Heart, Lord".

*Wed. March 20, 7 p.m. at St. John Center Lutheran Church, East Earl. Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry from Muddy Creek will preach on "Open My Life, Lord".

*Thurs. May 9, 7 p.m. at Swamp Lutheran Church, Reinholds. Pastor Tim Craven from Mellingers Lutheran will preach at the cluster Ascension Day service.

The offering will go to support this year's Disaster Relief Mission Trip which will be in Port Charlotte, Florida. April 28 - May 4. Checks may be made out to: "Disaster Relief Trip, North Lancaster Conference Dean's Fund"

The Deadline to Order Easter Flower Sponsorships is Today! You may give daffodils, tulips or lilies to adorn the church on Easter, and take them home following the Easter services on March 31. Use the form located at the end of this bulletin or on the table under the mailboxes. Please place your orders and money in the marked box under the mailboxes.

Can You Help With the Outdoor Clean-Up at Muddy Creek This Saturday? This Saturday, March 16, from 8-11 a.m., volunteers are needed to collect fallen wood in the Grove to prepare for the Community Easter Egg Hunt, and to put mulch on the flower beds around the church. Trailers are especially needed! No leaf blowers are necessary as we are mulching the leaves this year. Any questions, please contact Property Committee Chairperson Tim Fritz at 717-335-0776.

Next Sunday (Mar. 17) is the Deadline to Donate Chocolates, Candies and Plastic Easter Eggs for our Community Easter Egg Hunt in the Grove on March 24 (Palm Sunday) at 11:30 a.m. Items may be placed in the marked bin near the mailboxes. This is being sponsored by the Evangelism Committee. As always, we appreciate your enormous generosity!

You are Invited Next Sunday (Mar. 17) to Help Stuff Easter Eggs in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:15 am service. The Easter Egg Hunt is Mar. 24 (Palm Sunday) at 11:30 a.m.

From Today - March 31 (Easter), We are Collecting Snack Items for Goodie Boxes to be sent to Muddy Creek participants who are college students or serving in the military. Snack items may include cookies, chips, candies or crackers. Items may be placed in the marked collection bins in the entrances. This is being sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee.

If You Can Help Bring Food For the Easter Breakfast, please sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes. Thanks!

The Jesus 'n Me Playgroup Meets Today at 9:00 a.m. in the nursery. All babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents are invited for the theme "An Easter Celebration".

Easter Yard Signs: Easter yard signs are available at the front of the sanctuary to take home and put in your front yard to help let your neighbors and friends know about the Easter services at Muddy Creek! Please take one, and return it after Easter.

All are Invited to a Music Concert Today at 4:00 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church, 600 E. Penn Grant Rd, Willow Street. Organist Margaret Marsch (who played for the dedication of our renovated pipe organ), harpsicordist Faith Martin (who also practices the pipe organ several times a week at Muddy Creek) and others are performing.

Upcoming Dates in March:

This Saturday, March 16, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Help with Outdoor Clean-up at Muddy Creek.

Next Sunday, March 17, 11:15 a.m. Help stuff plastic Easter eggs following the second service.

Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday): Passion Narrative Dramatic Reading at both services,

9:00 a.m. Evangelism Committee meets in the Fellowship Hall (all invited)

11:30 a.m. Community Easter Egg Hunt in our Grove

Sunday, March 31 (Easter):

6:30 a.m. Easter Dawn Service in the Cemetery (assemble in front of the church)

7:30 a.m. Easter Service with Communion

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (all invited)

10:15 a.m. Easter Service with Communion

The Altar Flowers Today are given in honor of Linda Berger's birthday by Brenda Berger.

The Sign Up for Altar Flower Sponsorships is on the table outside Pastor Peter's office. If you wish, you may sponsor flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Cost is \$45.

In our Prayers: Linnny Ansel, Gloria Aseli, Dorothy Beam, Tom Carretta, Ken Frazer, Elaine Gehman, Greg Gehman, Darla Hackman, Anne Kinnamon, Pastor David Klepper, Betty Kramer, the Martin family, Helen Martin, Katie McCalicher, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, Paul Moyer, Betty Ramsey, Tom and Audrey Riggie, Joanne Saylor, the Saylor family, Jared Schutter, Mary Ann Seidel, Becky Thunberg, Jim Weber, Sharon Weinhold

Attendance and Giving:

Attendances: Mar. 3, 8:00 a.m. – 31, 10:15 a.m. - 74, Online Views (includes livestream) - 30
 Wed. Mar. 6 (Cluster Lenten Service) - 85, Online - 8

Received through end of Jan.: \$14,993.48 Expenses thru Jan.: \$17,853.37
 Received on Mar. 3: \$6,389.10 Received Mar. to date: \$6,389.10

Worship Helpers Today, March 10:

Acolyte - Grace Youndt Lay Reader - Jill Youndt
 Cantor - Greg Gehman Money Counters - Gail and Ted Bare

10:15 a.m. Worship Helpers Next Sunday, March 17:

Acolyte - Lay Reader - Joe Sanchez
 Cantor - Hollie Kemper Money Counters - Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle

Easter Flowers

If you wish to order any flowers to decorate the church on Easter (March 31, 2024), please give the money and order form to Jane Wenger, or put the money and form in an envelope and place it in the marked box under the sanctuary mailboxes (or you may mail your order in to the church office with your check.) Lilies, Tulips and Daffodils are available. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 10.



Cost is: \$6.50 per 6.5” pot of Daffodils
 \$6.50 per 6” pot (5-6 bulbs) of Tulips
 \$8.00 per pot of Lilies (white) (3-4 blooms per pot)

Checks are preferred (please note on check “Easter Flowers”) but, if you choose to use cash, exact amount of money is needed.

1 order per form, please

YOUR NAME: _____

Number and type of plants: # _____ Type _____

If you would like “in honor of” or “in memory of” included in the bulletin, please fill in the appropriate lines.

In honor of _____

by _____

(optional)

In memory of _____

by _____

(optional)

(Optional) Do not include in bulletin _____

Any questions, please contact Jane Wenger @ jlwredjet@gmail.com or (717) 471-0556

**All flowers ordered can be picked up following the service.

Deadline for ordering is March 10. Please PRINT CLEARLY. Thank you.