

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

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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 Facebook Page.

4th Sunday in Lent, March 19, 2023, 10:15 a.m. – Online Edition

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

Welcome to Muddy Creek! Masks are optional for worship.

Announcements, Waving Hello

Prelude – *The Old Rugged Cross*.....G. Bennard

*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.**

*Opening Hymn: “Christ, Be Our Light”.....#715

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. (Refrain)

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine in the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice. (Refrain)

3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (Refrain)

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (Refrain)

5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.

*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 C: **Amen**

First Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The 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." ²Samuel 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.'" ³Invite 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." ⁴Samuel 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?" ⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But 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." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel 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 (Congregational responses in bold)

¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;

I shall not¹ be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-¹ side still waters.**

³You restore my¹ soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways¹ for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever.**

Second Bible Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for 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: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 9:1-25 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So 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."

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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." ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So 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." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

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

Children's Message
Sermon

*Hymn: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light".....#815

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. (Refrain)

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

*The Apostles' Creed.....p. 105

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 to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God 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 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 are in heaven, hallowed by 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)

*Sending Hymn: “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 has 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.

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

Postlude – *Postlude in E Minor*.....C. H. Rinck

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 plate or give it to the pastor. Welcome!

The Grove and Outdoor Clean Up (to prepare for our upcoming Community Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 2) will be this coming Saturday, March 25, 8 – 11 a.m. We would really appreciate your help cleaning up fallen tree limbs, sticks, and leaves! Bring your own rake. We especially need anyone with a trailer to help haul the debris to the yard waste facility. Contact: Tim Fritz, 717-335-0776.

Stuffing Easter Eggs for the Egg Hunt (first batch) will take place today after both services next Sunday. If you are able to stay for few minutes and stuff a few eggs, that would be wonderful!

Jesus ‘n Me Playgroup is today at 9 a.m. in the nursery. Theme: Jesus is Alive!

Refreshments Are Needed for the Cluster Lenten Service here at Muddy Creek this coming Wednesday at 7 p.m. Please sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes. Thanks!

Your Help with the Following Collections is Very Much Appreciated! Thank You!

*Please bring in small wrapped chocolates and candy and plastic Easter eggs for the upcoming **Community Easter Egg Hunt** in our Grove on April 2. Collection ends next Sunday March 26. Items can be placed in the marked bin by the mailboxes.

*Please bring in cookies, chips, candies, crackers and snacks to send to **College Students and Military Members** from the congregation. Collection ends next Sunday March 26. Items can be put in any of the marked bins at the entrances.

Easter Services Yard Signs are available by the mailboxes. Please consider placing one in your lawn to let your neighborhood know of our Easter Service Schedule. Signs can be returned to the church after Easter. Thank you for your help!

We Will Be Making Blankets for Lutheran World Relief next Sunday, March 26 after both services. You are invited to help cut and tie fringes for the blankets!

Easter Flower Order Deadline is Next Sunday. See the attached form at the end of this bulletin.

Our Lenten Book Study Concludes Next Sunday. The book is Reaching Out: The Three Movements of Spiritual Life by Henri Nouwen. The final session is next Sunday, March 26 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the topic Reaching Out to Our God (Chapters 7-9). Some people are also reading the book on their own.

Cluster Lenten Services 2023: The theme this year for our local Lutheran Cluster Lenten Services is “Turning Toward God’s Abundance”. All services are at 7 p.m., and they will also be available online. The offering will go to the conference Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Houston, Texas, April 16-22. (Checks may be made out to North Lancaster Conference Dean’s Fund).

This Wed. March 22, 7 p.m.: Pastor Scott Brubaker will be preaching **here at Muddy Creek**. Theme: Forgiveness – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (The Prodigal Son). We will also stream the service on our YouTube channel (youtube.com, muddycreeklutherande4004).

Wed. March 29, 7 p.m.: Pastor Sandy Gideon will be preaching at Mellingers, Schoeneck. Theme: Love – John 12:1-8 (Mary Anoints Jesus). Mellingers will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church).

The Upcoming Choir Practice in March is this Wednesday, March 22 before the Cluster Lenten Service (the choir will sing at both the Cluster Lenten Service and on Sun., March 26). All are invited to come sing!

Our Thanks to Mindi Stoner, daughter of Nedra Bearinger, for making an additional 23 pew cushions for our comfort. Feel free to use any pillow you see (unless, of course, someone is already sitting on it!)

The Altar Flowers Today are given in memory of Susan Crum by Mark and Lauren Gallagher.

In our Prayers: Elsie Altpeter, Gloria Aseli, Dorothy Beam, Curtis and Faith Beck, Alex Harding, Gerry Hartranft at the death of his father Leon Hartranft on March 11, Pat Kagarise, Betsy Klink, Tina Lavrenchuk, Roberta Mann, the Martin family at the death of Linda Martin last Sunday, Ruthie Martin, Mary Miller, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, Paul Moyer, Betty Ramsey, Tom Riggle, Dana Sanchez, Larry Shober, Susan and Walt Siegel, Thelma Sweigart, Becky Thunberg, Philip Webber, Kent Weinhold, Marian Weinhold at the death of her sister-in-law Mary Jane Buchter on March 8, Michael Weinhold.

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Mar. 12: 8:00 a.m. – 34, 10:15 a.m. – 55, YouTube and Facebook – 28	
Received through end of Feb.: \$27,659.00	Expenses thru Feb.: \$34,930.01
Received on Mar. 12: \$1,964.55	Received Mar. to date: \$7,325.10

Worship Helpers Today:

10:15 a.m. Lay Reader: Brenda Berger 10:15 a.m. Cantor: Pastor Peter
 10:15 a.m. Acolyte: Jack Lammey
 10:15 a.m. Money Counters: Marie Buohl, Connie Hoover, David Sensenig

Worship Helpers Next Sunday, March 26:

10:15 a.m. Lay Reader: Doris Rauch 10:15 a.m. Cantor: David Sensenig
 10:15 a.m. Acolyte: Denise Burkhart
 10:15 a.m. Money Counters: Doris and Brad Rauch

