

# Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517

Church Office: 717-336-2770, office@mcchurch.org      Pastor Peter: 717-598-5095, peter@mcchurch.org  
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.

**Third Sunday in Lent, March 3, 2024, 10:15 a.m. - Online Edition**

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

*Welcome to Muddy Creek!*

Announcements, Waving Hello

Prelude: *Ah, Holy Jesus*.....arr. J. Linker

\*Confession and Forgiveness .....pages 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: “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 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 Praise ("Come, let us join...").....page 204

1. Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne;  
ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
2. "Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be exalted thus!"  
"Worthy the Lamb", our lips reply, "for he was slain for us!"
3. Jesus is worthy to receive honor and pow'r divine;  
And blessings, more than we can give, be, Lord, forever thine.
4. Let all creation join in one to bless the sacred name  
of God who sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb.

\*Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. <sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

Psalm 19 (Congregational responses in bold)

- <sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo-<sup>1</sup>ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its<sup>1</sup> maker's handiwork.
- <sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale<sup>1</sup> to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge<sup>1</sup> to another.**
- <sup>3</sup>Although they have no<sup>1</sup> words or language,  
and their voices<sup>1</sup> are not heard,
- <sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends<sup>1</sup> of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent<sup>1</sup> for the sun.**
- <sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out<sup>1</sup> of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to<sup>1</sup> run its course.

**<sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-<sup>1</sup>vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to<sup>1</sup> the simple.

**<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and re-<sup>1</sup>joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light<sup>1</sup> to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en-<sup>1</sup>dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous<sup>1</sup> altogether.

**<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than<sup>1</sup> much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey<sup>1</sup> in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser-<sup>1</sup>vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is<sup>1</sup> great reward.

**<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's<sup>1</sup> own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my<sup>1</sup> secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion<sup>1</sup> over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a<sup>1</sup> great offense.

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable<sup>1</sup> in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and<sup>1</sup> my redeemer.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 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 2:13-22 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his

disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Children's Message

Sermon

\*Hymn of the Day: "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways".....#772

1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!

2. Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere;  
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

3. Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;  
and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.

4. Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road;  
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

\*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](http://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**

### Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving.....p. 206

L: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.** L: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.** L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy.....p. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer.....page 208

**Our Father, who are 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.**

Distribution of Communion

(Note for online followers – Prefilled grape juice and wafer kits are available from the table under the mailboxes for use at home as you follow along with Communion. Or, feel free to use your own wine/juice and bread from home.)

\*Post-Communion Blessing

\*Communion Sending Prayer

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

\*Sending Song: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” .....#623

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law’s demands;  
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to the cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

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

Postlude: *Postlude in A Minor* .....A. Hesse  
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 Pat Brendle 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!

#### **Invitation to Communion for Online Participants:**

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

Offering may be contributed online through the church website (mclchurch.org) “Give Online” button on the home page.

Today, we celebrate with the McCalicher family that daughters Grace and Hope are having

their first Communion!

**Today at 9:00 a.m., You are Invited to a Congregational Forum on Muddy Creek's Planning for the Future Committee Report and Recommendations** in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to the forum!

**All Are Invited to a Parish Life and Social Ministry Committee Meeting Today** in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:15 a.m. service to help plan the Easter Breakfast.

**If You Can Help Bring Refreshments for the Cluster Lenten Service** this Wednesday, please sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes.

**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:

\*Wed. March 6, 7 p.m. here at Muddy Creek. Pastor Jim Goodyear from Bergstrasse Lutheran will preach on "Open My Ears, Lord".

\*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 Next Sunday, March 10th!** 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.

**From Today to March 17, We are Collecting 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. You are also invited to help stuff the plastic eggs immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service on March 17th. This is being sponsored by the Evangelism Committee.

**From March 10 (Next Sunday) - 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.

**Can You Help With the Outdoor Clean-Up at Muddy Creek?** On 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.

**All are Invited to a Music Concert** next Sunday, March 10 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:**

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

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 memory of John Brendle by Pat Brendle and Kim Eshleman.

**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, 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 Riggle, Joanne Saylor, the Saylor family, Mary Ann Seidel, Becky Thunberg, Sharon Weinhold

**Attendance and Giving:**

Attendance Feb. 25, 8:00 a.m. – 24, 10:15 a.m. - 60, Online Views (includes livestream) - 39

Received through end of Jan.: \$14,993.48                      Expenses thru Jan.: \$17,853.37

Received on Feb. 25: \$5,461.25                                      Received Feb. to date: \$16,937.40

**Worship Helpers Today, March 3:**

Bread Baker - Marliese Smith            8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland

10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant and Acolyte - Zach Sheaffer

10:15 am Lay Reader – Hollie Kemper                      10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare

10:15 am Money Counters - Linda and Tim Fritz

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

Acolyte - Grace Youndt

Lay Reader - Jill Youndt

Cantor - Greg Gehman

Money Counters - Gail and Ted Bare

## *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](mailto: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.