

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 Facebook Page.

2nd Sunday in Lent, March 5, 2023, 10:15 a.m. – Online Version

** = 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 – *I Will Sing of My Redeemer*.....arr. R. Parks

*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: “O Day of Rest and Gladness”.....#521

- 1. O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light.
O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright:
on you the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing “Holy, holy, holy,” to the great God triune.
- 2. On you, at earth’s creation, the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious the Spirit sent from heav’n;
and thus on you, most glorious, a three-fold light was giv’n.
- 3. Today on weary nations the heav’nly manna falls;
to holy convocations the silver trumpet calls,
where gospel light is glowing with pure and radiant beams
and living water flowing with soul-refreshing streams.
- 4. New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.
We sing to you our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
the church its voice upraises to you, blest Three in One.

*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 C: **Amen**

First Bible Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 121 (Congregational responses in bold)

- ¹I lift up my eyes ¹ to the hills;
from where is my ¹ help to come?
²**My help comes ¹ from the LORD,**
the maker of heav- ¹ en and earth.
³The LORD will not let your ¹ foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you ¹ fall asleep.
⁴**Behold, the keep- ¹ er of Israel**
will neither slum- ¹ ber nor sleep;
⁵the LORD watches ¹ over you;
the LORD is your shade at ¹ your right hand;
⁶**the sun will not strike ¹ you by day,**
nor the ¹ moon by night.

⁷The LORD will preserve you ^l from all evil
and will ^l keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your ^l coming in,
from this time forth for- ^l evermore.**

Second Bible Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 3:1-17 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And 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.” L: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message
Sermon

*Hymn: “God Loved the World”#323

1. God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save, that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.
2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death; all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone,.
3. If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer; Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.
4. Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son forgives all sins that you have done, and justified by Jesus’ blood, your baptism grants the highest good.
5. All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

*The Apostles’ Creed.....page 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**

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 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.

Distribution of Communion (To obtain home communion sets of grape juice and wafers that you may use to receive communion as you follow along with any communion service, please contact Pastor Peter.)

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Communion Sending Prayer

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

*Sending Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"#638

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. (Refrain)

Refrain: This is my story, this my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)

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

Postlude – *Postlude in G Minor*.....A. Hesse

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!

Invitation to Communion: Everyone is invited to receive communion today by coming up the center aisle beginning with the front pews, taking an empty glass for wine or a pre-filled glass with white grape juice. You may kneel or stand at the communion rail. Please hold out your hands to receive the bread from the pastor (if you want a gluten-free wafer, please tell the pastor). Then, receive and drink the wine poured into your glass from the Communion Assistant. If you have opted for a pre-filled glass of grape juice, you may drink it when the Communion Assistant comes to you. Please return to your seats by either outside aisle. If you would prefer to have communion in your pew, please inform an usher.

Our Lenten Book Study Begins Today! The book is Reaching Out: The Three Movements of Spiritual Life by Henri Nouwen. The Book Study is on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Today's topic is Reaching Out to our Innermost Self (Chapters 1-3). Other dates are next Sunday, March 12 (Reaching Out to our Fellow Human Beings – Chapters 4-6) and March 26 (Reaching Out to our God – Chapters 7-9). You may also read the book on your own, if you wish. Free books are still available on the table by the mailboxes. Sign up on the clipboard by the mailboxes, or email peter@mclchurch.org.

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 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 March 26. Items can be put in any of the marked bins at the entrances.

*Today (the first Sunday of the month), we are collecting food items to give to our local food pantry, **Peter's Porch**. Items can be put in 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!

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 8, 7 p.m.: Pastor Marissa Becklin will be preaching at St. Paul's, Adamstown. Theme: Mercy – Luke 13:31-35 (Lament over Jerusalem). St. Paul's will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - St. Paul's Lutheran, Adamstown, PA).

Wed. March 15, 7 p.m.: Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry will be preaching at Bergstrasse, Ephrata. Theme: Compassion – Luke 13:1-9 (The Barren Fig Tree). Bergstrasse will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - Bergstrasse Lutheran Church).

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).

Next Sunday We are Dedicating Prayer Shawls at both services. Please consider taking one to anyone you know who could use the warm embrace of God during a difficult time!

Choir Practices in March are this coming Thurs., March 9 at 6:30 p.m. (the choir will sing on Sun., March 12), and 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!

Free T-Shirts, Notepads Available: On the table by the mailboxes, there are free T-Shirts and notepads available from Thrivent. T-shirt sizes are M, L, and XL.

Upcoming Events in March:

Sunday, March 19 at 9 a.m. in the Nursery: Jesus 'n Me Playgroup. Theme: Jesus is Alive!

Saturday, March 25, 8-11 a.m.: Grove and Outdoor Clean Up to Prepare for the Egg Hunt.

Sunday, March 26 after both services: Making Blankets for Lutheran World Relief.

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

The Bulletins Today are given in memory of John Brendle by Pat Brendle and Kim Eshleman.

In our Prayers: Gloria Aseli, Dorothy Beam, Curtis and Faith Beck, Nancy Beck, Alex Harding, Darlene Heian, Pat Kagarise, Betsy Klink, Tina Lavrenchuk, Roberta Mann, Linda Martin, the Martin family, Ruthie Martin, Mary Miller, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, Betty Ramsey, Tom Riggle, Dana Sanchez, Susan and Walt Siegel, Lucy Snader, Becky Thunberg, Philip Webber, Kent Weinhold, Marian Weinhold, Michael Weinhold.

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Feb. 29: 8:00 a.m. – 26, 10:15 a.m. – 40, YouTube and Facebook – 50

Ash Wed. Feb. 22 - 30, YouTube and Facebook - 53

Received through end of Jan.: \$13,799.20 Expenses thru Jan.: \$19,394.51

Received on Feb. 26: \$1,909.83 Received Feb. to date: \$14,447.36

Worship Helpers Today:

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

10:15 am Acolyte and Communion Assistant– Zach Sheaffer

10:15 am Lay Reader – Lynn Breidenstein 10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper

10:15 am Money Counters - Nick Duong & Thai Phan, Pat Brendle

Worship Helpers Next Sunday, March 12:

10:15 a.m. Lay Reader: Will Wood 10:15 a.m. Cantor: Greg Gehman

10:15 a.m. Acolyte: 10:15 a.m. Money Counters: Jeannette and Mike Leid

Easter Flowers

If you wish to order any flowers to decorate the church on Easter, please give the money and order form to Jane Wenger, or put the money and form in an envelope and place it in the offering box (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 26.



Cost is: \$6.00 per 6.5” pot of Daffodils
 \$6.00 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)

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 26.

Please PRINT CLEARLY. Thank you.