

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.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2024, 10:15 a.m. - Online Edition

** = Please stand as you are able All congregational responses are in bold*
(Young Families: There are two “activity boxes” for children located under the ushers’ bench at the rear of the sanctuary.)

Welcome to Muddy Creek!

Announcements, Good Morning/Waving Hello

Prelude: *My Tribute*.....A. Crouch

*Gathering Hymn: “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”#377

- 1. Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!
- 2. Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. (Refrain)
- 3. Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me. (Refrain)
- 4. Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent; death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clother us in wonder, adorn us in light. (Refrain)
- 5. City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM! (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 138

*Kyrie.....page 138

- L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: 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. C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: Help, save, comfort and defend us , gracious Lord. C: **Amen.**

*Canticle of Praise (“Glory to God in the highest...”).....page 139

- L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.
- C: **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 sin 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 C: **Amen**

Choir Anthem: *My Tribute*.....A. Crouch

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Psalm 22:25-31 (Congregational responses in bold)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the ^l great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ^l fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat ^l and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts ^l live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ^l to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow ^l before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs ^l to the LORD,**

who rules o- ^l ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow ^l down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- ^l fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall ^l serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to genera- ^l tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people ^l yet unborn,

saying to them, "The ^l LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

*Gospel Acclamation:page 142
(Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia)

*Gospel: John 15:1-8 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

Children's Message
Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: "Abide With Me"#629

1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?

Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom,
and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*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 145

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

*Sending Song: "On Our Way Rejoicing".....#537

1. On our way rejoicing gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy; who if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?
Refrain: On our way rejoicing; as we forward move, hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

2. Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore, on our way rejoicing now and evermore. (Refrain)

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

Postlude: *We Magnify the Lord*.....J. Peterson
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 the Dimitris family. 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 plate 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.

Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek Today! This afternoon at 3:00 p.m., you and your friends/neighbors are invited to a Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek. Our organist, Greg, will be playing hymns and special music. Hope to see you this afternoon!

Sign Up to Volunteer and Pack Food at Blessings of Hope. On Monday evening, May 20, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Muddy Creek is again volunteering to pack food for the Blessings of Hope food ministry at the warehouse on Becker Road. Please sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes, or contact Pastor Peter. This event is once again sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee.

Food Collection Is Next Sunday: Next Sunday (the first Sunday of the month), we will be collecting food items for our local food pantry, Peter's Porch. Items may be placed in the marked bins in the entryways. Thanks!

Ascension Service: On Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m., all are invited to our cluster Ascension Day Service at Swamp Lutheran Church, 275 Swamp Church Road in Reinholds. Pastor Tim Craven of Mellingers Lutheran Church will be preaching.

The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets at Yvonne Weaver's house, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Yvonne Weaver at 717-371-6453. All are invited!

The Altar Flowers Today are given in memory of Katie Yeager by Linda and 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: Linny Ansel, Gloria Aseli, Dorothy Beam, Elaine Gehman, Ken Frazer, Pat Kagarise, Pastor David Klepper, Betty Kramer, the Martin family, Helen Martin, Katie McCalicher, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, Paul Moyer, George Nagle, Betty Ramsey, Tom and Audrey Riggle, Joanne Saylor, Jared Schutter, Mary Ann Seidel, Susan Siegel, Becky Thunberg, Sharon Weinhold

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance April 21: 8:00 a.m. - 23, 10:15 a.m. - 55, Online Views (includes livestream) - 21	
Received through end of Mar.: \$53,440.18	Expenses thru Mar.: \$48,425.35
Received on April 21: \$1,861.75	Received Apr. to date: \$7,137.06

10:15 am Worship Helpers Today:

Acolyte - Jack Lammey Lay Reader - Doris Rauch
Cantor - Pastor Peter Money Counters - Linda Gerhart, Hollie Kemper

Worship Helpers Next Sunday, May 5:

Bread Baker - Marliese Smith 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant and Acolyte - Sophia Dimitris
10:15 am Lay Reader – Brenda Berger 10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig
10:15 am Money Counters - David and June Sloat