

# 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.

***Sixth Sunday of Easter, Confirmation Day, Mother’s Day, May 14, 2023, 10:15 a.m. - Online***  
*\* = Please stand as you are able      All congregational responses are in bold*  
*(Young Families: There is an “activity box” for children located under the ushers’ bench at the rear of the sanctuary.)*

Welcome to Muddy Creek!

Announcements and Waving Hello

Prelude: *Faith of Our Mothers*.....H. Hemy

\*Gathering Hymn: “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” .....#772

- 1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statues 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 wandering sheep.

\*Greeting 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.**

\*Hymn 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: *A Mother’s Prayer*.....I. B. Wilson

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

Psalm 66:8-20 (Congregational responses in bold)

<sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats.**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. 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 14:15-21 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

Special Music: "Seek Ye First" performed on the colored bells. (All women, youth and children are invited to come forward and play in honor of Mother's Day.)

Children's Message

Sermon – The Faith Statement of Asia Breidenstein  
The Faith Statement of Riley Beichner  
The Faith Statement of Wyatt Hanney

\*Hymn of the Day: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart".....#800

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, and make me love you as I ought to love.  
2. I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

3. Have you not bid me love you, God and King; all, all your own, soul, heart and strength and mind? I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling. Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!

4. Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame:  
the baptism of the heav'n descended dove, my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

The Rite of Confirmation of Asia Breidenstein, Riley Beichner and Wyatt Hanney

P: I present Asia Breidenstein, Riley Beichner and Wyatt Hanney who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brother, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold these, your servants, in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ, Amen.

Together with the entire congregation, I ask you to profess your faith in our God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, by professing the Apostles' Creed.

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.**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each confirmand answers individually: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brother and pray for them in their life in Christ? C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

(Confirmands kneel)

Confirmation verse of Asia Breidenstein – Proverbs 3:5:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

Confirmation verse of Riley Beichner – 2 Corinthians 4:8-9:

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed.”

Confirmation verse of Wyatt Hanney – Romans 12:19:

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written,  
“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

P: Continue to stir up in \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen  
(Confirmands face the congregation)

P: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brother in Christ.  
C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**  
(Applause)

\*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 145  
**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 response)

\*Sending Hymn: “O Jesus, I Have Promised”.....#810

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
- 3. Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
- 4. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

\*Dismissal P: Go in Peace. Serve the Risen Lord! C: **Thanks be to God.**  
Postlude: *True-hearted, Whole-hearted*.....G. Stebbins

## 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!

**Today We Celebrate the Confirmations of Asia Breidenstein, Riley Beichner and Wyatt Hanney!** Asia, Riley and Wyatt will give their Faith Statements today as the sermon. We really appreciate their willingness to share with us, and rejoice with them and their families as they are confirmed today. Congratulations, Asia, Riley and Wyatt!

**Happy Mother's Day** to everyone today! All women, youth and children are invited to play the colored bells as part of today's worship service.

**This Thursday, May 18 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.

**Collection for Cemetery Wreaths for Veterans' Graves:** During May, the Cemetery Board is asking for donations toward the annual project of putting Christmas wreaths on the graves of all veterans in the Muddy Creek Cemetery. Donations should be marked "Veterans' Wreath Fund" and can be placed in the decorated red bowls in the sanctuary or sent in to the office. Thank you!

**Our Summer Worship Schedule** begins on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day weekend). There will be two services, at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday School for All Children** will be held today at 9:00 a.m. downstairs in the Sunday School Room. The last day for Sunday School will be next Sunday, May 21.

**Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 4** at approximately 10:00 a.m. A special Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service on June 4 to vote on a motion from church council that we purchase a riding lawnmower at a cost of up to \$20,000. Please mark your calendars and come out!

**Our Annual Community Yard Sale**, sponsored by the Evangelism Committee, will be held in the church Grove on Saturday, June 10, 7:00 a.m. – noon. Rain date is June 17. To reserve a 12-foot-wide spot which costs only \$5 (all of which will be donated directly to Peter's Porch Food Pantry by us), please call Pat Brendle at 717-799-2591. There will also be a food truck on site from the Schoeneck Lions Club, and our congregation will be selling baked goods and cookbooks.

**If You Can Help Make Individually-Wrapped Baked Goods** to donate for the Yard Sale on June 10, please call Gail Bare at 717-733-9535. Donated baked goods can be dropped off at the church on Friday evening, June 9 or Saturday morning, June 10 or by arrangement with Gail.

**Help Needed to Put Leaves from the Grove into Trash Barrels:** To prepare for the upcoming Community Yard Sale in the Grove, we need volunteers to stuff leaves from the piles around the tree bases in the Grove into large trash barrels, which we will then haul away. The empty barrels can be found outside behind the Elevator Entrance (around the corner by the trash can), and full barrels can be put under the carport by the cornerstone. Call Tim Fritz at 717-335-0776 if you have questions. Thanks!

**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. Next gathering is May 23. Contact: Yvonne Weaver at 717-371-6453. All are invited!

**The Altar Flowers Today** are given by Peggy Leid in memory of Jesse Mann, in honor of mothers, and in honor of the confirmands.

**In our Prayers:** Gloria Aseli, Dorothy Beam, Curtis Beck, Penny Bender, Pat Kagarise and family at the death of their son Steve Unangst (nephew of Audrey and Roger Noll), Betsy Klink, Tina Lavrenchuk, the Martin family, Mary Miller, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, Paul Moyer, Betty Ramsey, Tom Riggle, Susan and Walt Siegel, Becky Thunberg, Philip Webber, the family of Harold Weinhold who died this past Thursday, Kent Weinhold.

**Attendance and Giving:**

Attendance May 7, 8:00 a.m. – 24, 10:15 a.m. – 51

Received through end of Apr.: \$63,112.49

Expenses thru Apr.: \$66,394.16

Received on May 7: \$5,306.55

Received May to date: \$5,306.55

**Worship Helpers Today:**

10:15 am Acolyte -

10:15 am Lay Reader - Brad Rauch, 10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman

10:15 am Money Counters - Julie and Dave Emrhein, Kim Eshleman

**Worship Helpers Next Sunday, May 21:**

10:15 am Acolyte -

10:15 am Lay Reader - Doris Rauch, 10:15 am Cantor – Hollie Kemper

10:15 am Money Counters – Linda and Tim Fritz