

# Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

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This service will be posted later today on the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel (see website).

*5th Sunday of Easter*  
*Worship in the Grove, Sunday, May 2, 2021*

Announcements, Annual Meeting Call to Order by President Audrey Noll, Waving Hello  
Prelude – *Hallelujah, What a Savior!*.....P. P. Bliss

Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:25, 27, 29-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**R: Abide in God, as God abides in us.**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**R: Abide in God, as God abides in us.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**R: Abide in God, as God abides in us.**

<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

**R: Abide in God, as God abides in us.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

**R: Abide in God, as God abides in us.**

Prayer of the Day    **C: Amen**

Bible Reading: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now 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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?”<sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.<sup>39</sup> When 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.<sup>40</sup> But 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.

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Children’s Message  
Sermon

Hymn: *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!* (hummed)

1. *Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light! Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! 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. Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*
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. Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*
4. *Weeping be gone; sorrow, be silent; death put asunder, and Easter is bright. Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*
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! Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*

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.

Prayers of the Church P: Lord, in your mercy C: **Hear our prayer**

### Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art 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.

Partaking of Communion (at your place in the pews)

Moment of Reflection during one verse of "*Abide With Me*"

Post Communion Blessing

Communion Sending Prayer

Blessing C: **Amen**

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

Resuming of Annual Meeting by President Audrey Noll

### Announcements

**Welcome** to everyone, especially all visitors and guests. You may set up lawn chairs for your household at the marked flag locations, or you may participate from your car parked right here in the Grove. In order to keep everyone safe, masks over nose and mouth are required for everyone, including those already vaccinated. Please maintain 6 feet of distancing when you talk with others not from your household. The upstairs restrooms in the church building are available (the front doors only are open). Please continue to wear your mask in the restroom, do not congregate with others while in the building, and remain 6 feet away from others. In case of rain, services are cancelled, but you may view the message online.

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** (rescheduled due to lack of a quorum) will be held today, immediately following the service. The rain date is May 9. We will vote on three changes to our Constitution, including reducing the quorum number from 60 to 40, increasing the amount of a non-budgeted expenditure that the Council can authorize from \$3,500 to \$5,000, and appointing rather than electing the Audit Committee. Copies of the Annual Report are on the entry table.

**Everyone is Invited to Have Communion Today!** Please take a pre-filled communion package from the entry table. Communion will be in your place, as instructed.

**Worship Update: Because of Excellent Vaccination Rate, Indoor Worship Will Resume on May 16<sup>th</sup>.** Even though the spread of CoVid in Lancaster County remains at a “very high” risk, the CoVid Task Force discovered from our recent anonymous poll that the rate of vaccination (with a vast majority already having two doses) among Muddy Creek participants is over 70%, which is about twice that of the rest of the county. Based on the increased safety factor then, the Task Force and Church Council have decided to resume indoor worship with 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. services beginning May 16<sup>th</sup>. The services at 8 and 9 reflect the typical summer worship schedule.

All the exact same safety protocols from last Fall’s indoor worship will be in effect, including everyone wearing masks over nose and mouth, 6-foot spacing, no singing, pew communion, and a service length of about 35 minutes. To get maximum ventilation, all of the windows will be open and the overhead attic fan will be on. The upstairs restrooms are open. The downstairs carport entrance is closed during construction of the elevator, but you may enter and exit through either of the two main doors on the sanctuary level.

We are very proud of Muddy Creek for having so many participants being already vaccinated, and grateful that it allows us to move back indoors for worship. The safety of our participants will continue to guide any future worship modifications, as the CoVid Task Force is currently monitoring the community data twice a week and will adjust its recommendations as is safe.

**Construction on the Elevator Project** has begun! Construction has already begun on a new permanent doorway leading directly into the Fellowship Hall. The regular downstairs entrance will be closed off during construction. Construction is projected to conclude on July 15.

**The Blue Bin and the Peter’s Porch Food Collection Bin have now been Relocated** to outside the main upstairs entrance door because of the elevator construction project. The blue bin contains newsletters, bulletins and sermons, and copies of the Annual Report. Bring in food to give for distribution through Peter’s Porch!

**Confirmation Gatherings** for youth and parents continues today online at 11 a.m. by Zoom.

**In our Prayers:** Lesia Aungst, Dorothy Beam, Nancy Beck, Russell Beck, Erik Bentz, Kirby Burkhart, Natalie Frankfort Howe, Sharon and Cindy Frankhouser, Eugene and Hazel Fry, Nick Gehman, Alex Harding, Roger Hoover, Margaret Kuhlman, Aileen Kulp, Tina Lavrenchuk, Nolan Leid, Michael Martin family, Katie McCalicher, Mary Miller, Charles Moyer, Roma Oberholtzer, Betty Ramsey, Larry Ramsey, Ella Sensenig, the family of Paul Shober who passed away, Becky Thunberg.

**Attendance and Giving:** April 18: 9 a.m. Worship in the Grove – 56, Online – 60

April 25: (rain) Online views (includes livestream) - 78

Received through March: \$35,901.10 Expenses through end of March: \$46,764.82

Received on April 25: \$1,535.00 Received April to date: \$13,800.00

Elevator Fund as of April 25: \$208,584.79 (Still needed for project: \$7,624.21)