

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

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Website: www.mcchurch.org, Follow us on Facebook and our Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel.
The 9:00 a.m. service will be livestreamed and posted today on our YouTube channel and our website.

14th Sunday After Pentecost, August 25, 2024, 9:00 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: Assurance.....J. N. Beck

*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.**

*Gathering Hymn: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”#759

- 1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!
- 2. May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!
- 3. While life’s dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.
- 4. When end life’s transient dream, when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o’er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove; oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

*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**

Special Music: Mixed Chorus (anyone in attendance is invited to come forward and sing)

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling.....#608 (please bring a hymnal up with you)

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” ¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.” L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 34:15-22 (Congregational responses in bold)

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,
and God’s ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death¹ to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous¹ will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life¹ of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will¹ not be punished.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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 6:56-69 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

Children’s Message
Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: "Break Now the Bread of Life".....#515

1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord; my spirit waits for you, O living Word.
2. Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All-in-All!
3. You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

*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: "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 is 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: *Every Valley Shall Be Exalted*.....J. N. Beck
Immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service, you are invited to stay in the sanctuary for a time of fellowship and refreshments, courtesy today of Marie Buohl. 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.

Collection of School Supplies (Notebooks, Pens and Rulers) and Soap Bars: Please bring in school supply items and bars of soap for the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering and place them in the marked bin by church mailboxes. Due to your past generosity and surplus leftovers, this year will only be focusing on collecting spiral notebooks, pens and rulers. The collection ends Sept. 8th. We will be assembling the school kits after the 10:15 a.m. service on Sept. 15. Thanks!

Next Sunday (the first Sunday of the month), Please Bring in Food Items for our Local Food Pantry, Peter's Porch, and place them in the marked bins at any of the church entrances.

The Fall Worship Schedule Begins Sunday, Sept. 8 with services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. and Christian Education and Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteer Fair and Muddy Creek T-Shirt Sunday on Sept. 8! Mark your calendars for Sept 8th! After each service, we will have a Volunteer Fair in the sanctuary to give you more information about volunteer opportunities at Muddy Creek. Each committee will have a booth. Also, please wear your Muddy Creek t-shirt on this Sunday if you have one. Free ones will be provided for anyone who doesn't have one and would like one!

Sunday School, Jesus 'n Me Playgroup Begin Sept. 8th! All children are invited to Sunday School, which begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School Room. Also on this Sunday, babies, toddlers and preschoolers and their parents are invited to the Jesus 'n Me Playgroup at 9:00 a.m. in the nursery for the theme "God Made Me". On Sundays when there is no Jesus 'n Me Playgroup (it is only on the 2nd Sunday of the month), all preschoolers and toddlers are invited to join the K-6th kids in the Sunday School class!

Invitation to Choir - Summer is almost at its end, which means it's time for the Choir to begin again! Everyone is invited to come and sing. The choir will sing on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with rehearsals at 6:30 p.m. on the Thursday before the Sunday we sing. The first rehearsal is on Thursday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, and the first time singing is on Sunday, September 8 at 10:15 (warm-up at 9:45). Looking forward to seeing you!

Check Out the Updated History Display Case in the Sanctuary! Thank you to the Archive Task Force of Gail and Ted Bare, Julie and Dave Emrhein, Marleise Emrhein and Pastor Peter for updating the history display case in the sanctuary by the church mailboxes. The Task Force is continuing to catalog and organize the items in the Archive Room, and is also working on an additional history display case in the downstairs hallway across from the Archive Room.

Coming Up in September:

Sunday, Sept. 1 (Labor Day Weekend) - Last Sunday of summer worship schedule, Communion

Sunday, Sept. 8 - Fall Worship Schedule begins with services at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m.

- Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. begins
- Volunteer Fair at Muddy Creek after both services
- Muddy Creek T-Shirt Sunday (wear yours if you already have one, free ones available for those who have not yet received one)
- Jesus 'n Me Playgroup: "God Made Me"
- Last day of collection of school kit supplies and soap

Sunday, Sept. 15 - School Kit Assembly after the 10:15 a.m. service

- Adult Forum: "Prophets of Justice"

Sunday, Sept. 22 - Harvest Home Sunday

In-Person Meetings of the Prayer Shawl Knitting Group have been suspended for the time being. Knitters will continue to make prayer shawls from their homes. Thank you, knitters!

The Altar Flowers Today are given by Brad and Doris Rauch in honor of their 39th wedding anniversary and their daughter Johanna's birthday.

The Special Flower Arrangement Today is given by Barbara Erickson in honor of her father Arthur and her grandson Dillon's birthdays.

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: Gloria Aseli, Linny Ansel, Dorothy Beam, Butch Ebbert, Sara and Ken Frazer, Molly Fritz, Helen Martin, Josephine Martin, the Martin family, Katie McCalicher, Charles Moyer, Paul Moyer, Tom and Audrey Riggle, Joanne Saylor, Mary Ann Seidel, Susan Siegel, Donald Steinmetz, Becky Thunberg

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Aug. 18: 8:00 a.m. - 18, 9:00 a.m. - 62, Online views (includes livestream) - 30

Received through end of July: \$146,295.75 Expenses thru July: \$119,134.00

Received on Aug. 18: \$2,851.30 Received Aug. to date: \$10,136.83

9 AM Worship Helpers Today:

Acolyte - Lay Reader - Fred Hainley

Cantor - Pastor Peter Money Counters - Julie and David Emrhein, Kim Eshleman

Worship Helpers Next Sunday, September 1:

8 am Communion Assistant - 9 am Communion Assistant and Acolyte -

9 am Lay Reader – Lynn Breidenstein 9 am Cantor - Greg Gehman

9 am Money Counters - Linda and Tim Fritz Bread Baker - Marliese Smith