

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

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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 our website.

16th Sunday After Pentecost, September 17, 2023, 10:15 a.m. - Online Edition
“God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday

** = Please stand as you are able All congregational responses are in bold*

Welcome to Muddy Creek!

Announcements, Waving Hello

Prelude: *Oh, Rest in the Lord*.....F. Mendelssohn

*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: “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death.....#452

1. Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light, so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth and height.
 2. To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release, to give the Spirit’s unity, the very bond of peace.
 3. There is one body and one hope, on Spirit and one call, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.
 4. Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save; with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.
 5. For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.
- Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

*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.**

*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**

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalms 103:8-13 (Congregational responses in bold)

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God. 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: Matthew 18:21-35 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Children's Message
Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”#777

1. “Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live.” (Refrain)

Refrain: Jesus, everflowing fountain, give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

2. “Come to me, all trav’lers weary; come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest.” (Refrain)
3. “Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me, I seek your face.” (Refrain)
4. “Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name.” (Refrain)
5. “Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer, come your open hands extend.” (Refrain)
6. “Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home.” (Refrain)

Reception of Pat Buohl into Membership.....p. 234

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 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.

L: People of God, do you promise to support this sister and pray for her in her life in Christ? If so, please say, “We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.” C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

L: Let us rejoice with this sister 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.**

*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, or you can scan the following QR code with the camera on your cellphone as an easy way to give offering to Muddy Creek or Disaster Relief.)



*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 art 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 Song: “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”.....#864

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God’s praises sing. Allelulia! Allelulia! Praises everlasting ring!
2. God be praised for grace and favor to our forebears in distress. God be praised, the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless. Allelulia! Allelulia! Glorious is God’s faithfulness!
3. Frail as summer’s flow’r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone; but, as mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on. Allelulia! Allelulia! Praise the great Eternal One!
4. Angels sing in adoration, in God’s presence face to face. Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space. Allelulia! Allelulia! Praise with us the God of grace!

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

Postlude: *Jesus Shall Reign*.....J. Hatton

You are invited to stay for a time of fellowship, cookies and beverages in the sanctuary immediately following the service.

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!

We Welcome Today Pat Buohl into membership at Muddy Creek. Welcome Pat!

School Kit Assembly Today: Today is “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, which is celebrated yearly by our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You are invited to stay in the sanctuary following the 10:15 a.m. service to help assemble the school kits which we are sending to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all who donated items!

Adult Forum Today: Today at 9 am, you are invited to an Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall. It will showcase the local “Blessings of Hope” food ministry, started by excommunicated Amish families. It has now blossomed into a ministry which repackages perfectly good food which would all normally go directly into landfills, utilizing 30,000 local volunteers, and giving the equivalent of 2 million meals a month to food banks and disaster relief. Come and learn about this fascinating ministry!

Deadline Today to sign up for our volunteer opportunity at “Blessings of Hope” this coming Saturday, Sept. 23. Sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes. Group size is limited to 20 people. We will carpool from Muddy Creek leaving at 8 am, or else you may meet directly at 500 Becker Rd at 8:15 am. Our shift is 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. This volunteer opportunity is sponsored by our Social Ministry Committee.

Next Sunday, We Will Celebrate Harvest Home Sunday! Food Collection for Next Sunday’s Harvest Home Display: Thank you to all who brought in food items today for the Harvest Home Display next Sunday. If you have items to bring in during the week, please contact Pastor Peter to make arrangements. These items will all be given to the local Peter’s Porch Food Bank following Harvest Home. A list is found in the newsletter. All items may be placed in the bins in the entryways.

10:15 AM Fellowship Time/Coffee Ministry: You are invited to stay after the 10:15 am service today to enjoy cookies and beverages in the sanctuary! **Thank you** today to Michelle and Sophia Dimitris for providing the refreshments. If you would be willing to provide refreshments following an upcoming service, please sign up on the pad on the table. If you have questions, please contact Audrey Noll at 717-336-3592.

You Are Invited to the First Choir Practice of the Year this coming Thursday, Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft. All are invited to sing in the choir!

Hymn Sing Next Sunday, Sept. 24 at 7 pm at Westgate Baptist Church, 2235 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster: You are invited to a Hymn Sing at Westgate Baptist Church next Sunday at 7 pm sponsored by the Lancaster American Guild of Organists (AGO). Part of the singing will be hymns selected by the organists - including some nifty introductions, reharmonizations, and arrangements on the hymn tunes - as well as favorites selected by the audience. Chapter member organists include John Zielinski, Jonathan Jones, Margaret Rohnacker, Karl Moyer, Bill Rhoades, Greg Gehman, Margaret Marsch, and Joshua Benkendorf. The organ, rebuilt in the 1980s, was originally built by the famed organbuilder Ernest Skinner in 1929. A freewill offering will be taken to support the ongoing maintenance/restoration of this historic organ.

The Altar Flowers Today are given in memory of Walter Bouhl by Marie Buohl.

The Sign Up for Flower Sponsorships on Sundays 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.

Free Trophies Downstairs: Feel free to take home any of the trophies that have been on display in the downstairs hallway outside the Archive Room. These trophies were all won over the years by teams from Muddy Creek competing in church leagues in Bowling, Softball, and Dartball.

Three More Volunteers Are Needed to help on an Outdoor Church Property Team to do occasional light outdoor work at Muddy Creek. Please contact Property Chairperson Tim Fritz at 717-335-0776 if you can help.

In our Prayers: Gloria Aseli, Dorothy Beam, Lydia Bearinger, Curtis Beck, Cole Dimitris, Tom Carretta, Kim Craven, Pat Kagarise, Bill Lausch, Tina Lavrenchuk, the Martin family, Helen Martin, Katie McCalicher, Mary Miller, Charles Moyer, Jean Moyer, Paul Moyer, Betty Ramsey, Tom Riggle, Susan and Walt Siegel, Rebecca Thunberg, Sev Yerger, Lisa Yohn

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Sept. 10, 8:00 a.m. – 16, 10:15 a.m. – 49, Online Views – 26
 Received through end of Aug.: \$114,743.98 Expenses thru Aug.: \$138,828.48
 Received on Sept. 10: \$1,505.55 Received Sept. to date: \$6,663.60

10:15 A.M. Worship Helpers Today

Cantor - Gail Bare Lay Reader - Lynn Breidenstein Acolyte -
 Money Counters - Marie Buohl, Connie Hoover, David Sensenig

10:15 A.M. Worship Helpers Next Sunday, Sept. 24

Acolyte - Cannon Youndt Lay Reader - Doris Rauch
 Cantor - Hollie Kemper Money Counters - Brad and Doris Rauch