

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.

16th Sunday After Pentecost, September 8, 2024, 10:15 a.m. - Online Edition *“God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday”, Volunteer Fair, and Muddy Creek T-Shirt Sunday*

** = 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: *May the Mind of Christ My Savior*.....A. Barham Gould
*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: “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. Alleluia! 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.
Alleluia! 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. Alleluia! 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. Alleluia! Allelulia! Praise with us the God of grace!

*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: *O Christians, Leagued Together (Luther League Hymn)*

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 146 (Congregational responses in bold)

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

³Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
the LORD | loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares ¹for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall ¹reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. ¹Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: James 2:1-10, 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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: Mark 7:24-37 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

Children's Message
Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: "Take My Life, That I May Be"#685

1. Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
5. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

*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

Our Father, who are 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.

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

*Sending Song: "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate".....#722

1. O Christ, your heart, compassionate, bore ev'ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ combined in perfect rhyme

to write God's love in human deeds, eternity in time.

2. As once you welcomed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind, so may all bruised and broken lives through us your help still find.

Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep alone, and help us bear another's pain as though it were our own.

3. O Christ, create new hearts in us that beat in time with yours, that, joined by faith with your great heart, become love's open doors.

We are your body, risen Christ, our hearts, our hands we yield that through our life and ministry your love may be revealed.

4. O Love that made the distant stars, yet marks the sparrow's fall, whose arms stretched wide upon a cross embrace and bear us all: come, make your church a servant church that walks your servant ways, whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sacrifice of praise!

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

Postlude: *Praise Him Now*.....J. Peterson

MUDDY CREEK VOLUNTEER FAIR in the sanctuary

Immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service, you are invited to stay in the sanctuary for the Volunteer Fair and also for a time of fellowship and refreshments, courtesy today of Brenda Berger and Nedra Beringer. 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.

Volunteer Fair and Muddy Creek T-Shirt Sunday Today! After each service today, you are invited to the Muddy Creek Volunteer Fair in the sanctuary to give you more information about volunteer opportunities at Muddy Creek. Each committee has a booth. Through the recent Time, Talent, and Interest Survey, many of you expressed an interest in volunteering in specific areas. Whether or not you completed the survey, please visit the volunteer tables for specific volunteer information. Also, today is Muddy Creek T-shirt Sunday! If you don't already have one, please pick up a free t-shirt on the table in the Volunteer Fair! If your size is out of stock, we'll order one for you!

The Fall Worship Schedule Begins Today with services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. and Christian Education and Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Today is also "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday", which is celebrated each year by all the Lutheran Churches in our denomination.

Sunday School, Jesus ‘n Me Playgroup Begins Today! All children are invited to Sunday School, which begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School Room. Also, all 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 once a month), all preschoolers and toddlers are invited to join the K-6th kids in the Sunday School class!

Collection of School Supplies (Notebooks, Pens and Rulers) and Soap Bars Ends Today. You are Invited to Help Assemble the School Kits Next Sunday. Thank you to all who brought in school supply items and bars of soap for the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering. The collection ends today. You may place your donations in the marked bin by church mailboxes. We will be assembling the school kits after the 10:15 a.m. service next Sunday! Thanks for bringing in items!

Adult Forum Next Sunday at 9:00 a.m.: “Prophets of Justice” - All adults are invited to come to the Fellowship Hall on Sun. Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. for an Adult Forum. Led by Pastor Peter, we will have a Bible Study on Amos and Micah, the “Prophets of Justice”. We will explore these famous books as they speak God’s word of justice and compassion to us about the poor and the oppressed in society!

Welcome Back to the Choir! Also, You are Invited to Sing in the Choir! Welcome back to the choir, which is singing again at the 10:15 a.m. service! Everyone is invited to come and sing! Please talk to our Director of Music, Greg Gehman, if you are interested. The choir sings at the 10:15 a.m. service on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (with a warm-up at 9:45 a.m.). Rehearsals are at 6:30 p.m. in the choir loft on the Thursday before the choir sings. Everyone is invited!

Next Sunday, Please Bring in Food Items for the Harvest Home Display! Next Sunday, please bring a canned good of fruit, vegetable, soups or meat for the Harvest Home display and put it in a Peter’s Porch bin at the sanctuary entrances. Also, fresh apples, pears, potatoes, squash, pumpkins and fall mums for the display are appreciated. These items will be all form part of the Harvest Home Sunday display on Sept. 22. They will then be given to our local food pantry, Peter’s Porch, at Faith United Lutheran Church in Denver. Thank you to Jeanette Leid for creating the Harvest Home Display on Sept. 22!

Sign Up to Repackage Food at Blessings of Hope on Mon. Oct. 21: Muddy Creek’s Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a volunteer opportunity on Mon. Oct. 21 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. We will repackage food at the Blessings of Hope warehouse, 500 Becker Rd., Leola (actually Brownstown/Oregon). If you are interested, please sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes or contact Pastor Peter. Our group size is limited to 25 people, so please sign up now! We will meet at the warehouse at 6:15 p.m.! Come volunteer!

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 Judy Nichol in honor of those in the church who graciously give of their time and talents.

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.

If You Would Like to Donate to Mason Sheaffer's Eagle Scout Project to Upgrade Muddy Creek's Playground, you may do so by going to his GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/543e2b2f>, or you may scan the following QR code. Any extra funds will be given back to the church as a donation. Thank you so much, Mason!

Scan to donate



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

Attendance and Giving:

Attendance Aug. 25: 8:00 a.m. - 18, 9:00 a.m. - 62, Online views (includes livestream) - 34
 Attendance Sept. 1: 8:00 a.m. - 18, 9:00 a.m. - 51, Online views (includes livestream) - 25
 Received through end of August: \$158,166.36 Expenses thru August: \$133,901.02
 Received on Sept. 1: \$4,552.30 Received Sept. to date: \$4,552.30

10:15 AM Worship Helpers Today:

Acolyte - Jack Lammey Lay Reader - Joe Sanchez
 Cantor - Gail Bare Money Counters - David and June Sloat

10:15 AM Worship Helpers Next Sunday, Sept. 15:

Acolyte - Lay Reader - Doris Rauch
 Cantor - Pastor Peter Money Counters - Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle