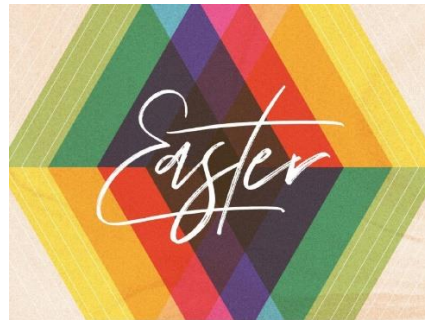


MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 290 Years!

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



Holy Week and Easter Worship in April – Invite Your Friends!

Sunday, April 10, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. – Palm Sunday, Passion Narrative Presentation

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 17, 6:30 a.m. – Easter Dawn Service in the Cemetery (assemble at the church)

7:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. – Easter Communion Services

Upcoming Cluster Services

The theme this year for our Cluster Lenten Services, held jointly with our neighboring Lutheran Churches, is “Returning to Joy” (What Happens When We Return to the Lord?)” All services are on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Also, the sermon for each service is available online starting at 7 p.m. each Wednesday on the Faith United Lutheran YouTube Channel.

The link to it can be found on our church website, mclchurch.org. Masks are recommended but not required, and no refreshments will be served due to CoVid. The offering will go to Ephrata Area Social Services. If you would like to donate online to Ephrata Area Social Services, please go to their website, ephrataareasocialservices.org, and click the green “Give” button.

Wed. March 30: Pastor Sandy Gideon will be preaching at Mellingers, Schoeneck.
Theme: Everlasting Joy Shall Be Upon Their Heads - Isaiah 51:4-11

Wed. April 6: Pastor Scott Brubaker will be preaching at St. John Center, East Earl.
Theme: God Has the Last Word – Revelation 21:1-7

Thursday, May 26 (Ascension): Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry will be preaching at Swamp, Reinholds. Theme: Returning with Joy – Luke 24:44-53

Annual Meeting To Be Held on May 15 Including Vote on Air Conditioning Project

On Sunday, May 15, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service, our Annual Meeting will be held. It was rescheduled from the original date of January 30 due to CoVid. At the meeting, we will hold a vote on moving forward with the Air Conditioning Project. At the Church Council meeting in March, the Council voted to recommend to the congregation at the upcoming Annual Meeting that we commence with the Air Conditioning of the Sanctuary at a cost not to exceed \$100,000, with the money to come from the Air Conditioning Fund and the Bequest Fund. Also at the Annual Meeting, we will approve the Annual Bulletin of Reports. Please come out for this important meeting to help us get our quorum of 40 people!

Worship Helpers Resume in April, Updated CoVid Protocols

As CoVid transmission numbers in our county continue to improve, more things are resuming at Muddy Creek. Regular Holy Communion will resume in April, at the altar rail at 10:15 a.m. and in the aisle at 8:00 a.m., using bread. As well, the regular sung liturgy at the 10:15 a.m. service will resume. Worship Helpers at the services will also begin again – Ushers, Acolytes, Communion Assistants, Lay Readers, Altar Guild and Cantors. The wearing of masks will continue to be optional. We will continue to monitor the numbers, and make additional adaptations as able or needed.



Warm Up That Choir Singing Voice for Easter!

Yes, it's true! After a two-year break due to CoVid, the choir will resume in April, and start practicing to sing an anthem at Easter. So, warm up your choir singing voice! Everyone is invited to come and sing with the choir (no previous experience necessary). Practices will be on Sunday mornings, April 3 and April 10, from 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the choir loft, and the choir will perform on Easter Sunday, April 17 at the 7:30 and 10:15 a.m. services. In May, practices will be on Sunday mornings, May 15 and May 22, from 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the choir loft, and the choir will sing on Sunday, May 22 at the 10:15 a.m. service.

Easter Yard Signs

The Evangelism Committee has prepared yard signs advertising Easter services at Muddy Creek. Please consider using these in your lawn as a way to let the community know about our Easter Services and invite them to attend. Signs may be picked up in the sanctuary near the church mailboxes. Thank you for your help in spreading the news about Easter worship!

Easter Flowers

Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary (and take home after the Easter services) can be ordered with the form in the bulletin, by contacting the church office (office@mcchurch.org, 717-336-2770), or by contacting Jane Wenger (717-471-0556). The cost for lilies (white, 3-4 blooms) is \$6.90, daffodils (6.5 inch pot) is \$5.65, and tulips (6 inch pot) is \$5.70. Checks can be made out to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, with “Easter Flowers” written on the notation. The deadline to order is Sunday, April 3rd.



How Can I Help With the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis?

Simply make a donation payable to Muddy Creek in the offering and indicate “Eastern European Crisis Response” on it, or else go the church website, click the “Give Online” button and then select “Ukrainian Crisis”. 100% of your gift will go to displaced Ukrainians and those affected in neighboring countries. Your donation will be sent by us to **Lutheran Disaster Response** as it works through our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners will provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

Sunday School

Sunday School for infants to youth continues at 9 a.m. in the Sunday School and Nursery Rooms. Masks are required for all participants. On Palm Sunday, April 10, there is a special Easter Egg Hunt for all Sunday School participants, Jesus ‘n Me participants, and all friends!

Upcoming Jesus ‘n Me Playgroups



Sunday, March 27th at 9:00 a.m. in the Nursery (masks required).
Theme: “Praise Parade”: Everyone loves a parade, especially when it is in celebration of our wonderful God! Little ones will make noisemakers with which to praise God. Add some singing, stories, and parachute play, and it makes for a lively morning!

Sunday, April 10th at 9:00 a.m. in the Nursery (masks required).
Please note: This is the 2nd Sunday of the month, not the 4th Sunday.

We will meet in the nursery for the theme of “Jesus is Alive – An Easter Celebration”, and conclude with an Easter Egg Hunt for all playgroup participants! Invite your friends, too!



Upcoming Confirmation Gatherings

Sunday, April 3rd at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall: Last Gathering of the Year
– Parents and Youth Confirmation Gathering. The topic is “Baptism”.

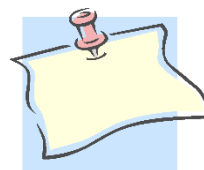
Sunday, May 8th (Mother’s Day): The Day of Confirmation at both services, with youth giving their faith statements.

Upcoming Adult Forums

Sunday, April 10 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (please note the location). The topic is
“The Book of James in the New Testament: What Kind of Religion Does God Really Want?”

Sunday, May 8 (Mother’s Day and Confirmation Day) at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary: A Guided Tour of Muddy Creek’s Stained Glass Windows (part of the 290th Anniversary Celebration).

News and Notes



Snack Item Collection for College Students and Military Members

Beginning March 6, we will be collecting snack items to send to college students and military service members from our congregation. Snack items may include cookies, chips, candies or crackers. Donations can be placed in the marked boxes at any of the entrances. If you know of any student or service member to add to our list, please contact Jane Wenger (jlwredjet@gmail.com, 717-471-0556). The deadline to contribute is March 27th. Thanks!

Air Conditioning Fund Open

The Air Conditioning Fund is now open and gratefully accepting donations for this, our next improvement project. As of March 20, we have \$1500.00 in the Air Conditioning Fund. Thank you to all for your generous support! The vote on the Air Conditioning Project will be at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 15th.

Council Notes

*At the Church Council meeting on March 9th, the Council voted to recommend to the congregation at the upcoming Annual Meeting that we commence with the Air Conditioning of the Sanctuary at a cost not to exceed \$100,000, with the money to come from the Air Conditioning Fund and the Bequest Fund. Also,

*The Council appointed Lynn Breidenstein to the vacant two-year Council position. Thank you, Lynn!

*The church received a refund check for \$16,680.06 from Horst Construction for the money we paid them for the Elevator Project. The money was put into the Improvement Fund.

*Walter Buohl reported that there was a water leak in the ceiling above the Sanctuary entryway. The leak was repaired, but masonry work and some additional repairs are ongoing.



Food Collection

Peter's Porch Collection

Please bring in canned, bagged and boxed items for the Peter's Porch drive-thru food distribution located at our sister congregation, Faith United Lutheran Church in Denver. Items can be placed in the collection bins inside the entrances at Muddy Creek.

Here is a complete list of other items requested by Peter's Porch -

Cans and Jars: fruits, vegetables, fish, chicken, poultry, beans, soup, spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, salsa, broth boxes (chicken, vegetable, beef).

Pasta, rice, tortillas, taco shells.

Cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, snacks, crackers, popcorn.

Monetary Donations

Peter's Porch distributes the food on the first Saturday of every month from 8-10 a.m. Contact Pastor Peter if you are interested in volunteering with the monthly distribution.

Volunteers Needed For Property Tasks

If you can help with any of the following property tasks, please contact Walter Buohl at 717-445-6060. We will provide the materials, and you may do it at your convenience. Thank you!

- Paint the railing along the steps at the front of the church
- Paint the aluminum window sills on the outside of the Fellowship Hall
- Power-wash the church's equipment shed

Congratulations

*Congratulations to Kristin and Bryan Kunkle on the birth of their daughter, Eloise Grace Kunkle, on March 2. Proud big sister is Maddie.

*Congratulations to Janet Frantz on the birth on her great-grandson Ikaika Casas on March 8. Parents are Anthony and Rachel Casas.

Money Counter Helpers

April 3 – Gail and Ted Bare

April 10 – Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle

April 17 – Jeanette and Mike Leid

April 24 – Connie Hoover, Diane Leed

Acolytes, Communion Assistants and Lay Readers

April 3 – Comm. Assistant: Stacy Aungst, Acolyte: Cole Aungst, Lay Reader: Lynn Breidenstein

April 10 – Acolyte: Zach Sheaffer, Passion Narrative Readers: Lynn Breidenstein

April 17 (Easter) 7:30 a.m. - Communion Assistant & Acolyte: Grace Youndt, Lay Reader: Brenda Berger

10:15 a.m. - Communion Assistant & Acolyte:

Lay Reader: Nancy Beck

April 24 – Acolyte: Zach Sheaffer, Lay Reader:

Communion Assistant at 8:00 a.m. services: Scott Strickland
Bread Baker for Communion: Marliese Smith

Office Hours

Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Please use the intercom button by the elevator entryway, and our Administrative Assistant, Linda Mohn, will buzz you in. Feel free to use the new elevator to come to the 2nd floor!

Altar Flower Price Increase

Beginning in April, our florist, Roxanne's Flowers, is needing to add a \$5 delivery charge, so our cost of altar flower sponsorships will increase from \$30.00 to \$35.00.

Altar Flower Sign-Ups

If you wish to sponsor altar flowers or bulletins (you may make them in honor of or in memory of someone if you wish), please sign up in the binder located outside Pastor Peter's office. Cost is \$35 to sponsor altar flowers or \$15 to sponsor bulletins. Call the church office at 717-336-2770 if you have any questions.

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
February 27, 8 a.m. – 18, 10:15 a.m. – 44	38 (includes livestream)
March 6, 8 a.m. – 31, 10:15 a.m. – 50	29 (includes livestream)
March 13, 8 a.m. – 6, 10:15 a.m. – 32	34 (includes livestream)
March 20, 8 a.m. – 26, 10:15 a.m. – 49	24 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 75 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 184 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in February: \$12,309.73
Expenses to General Fund in February: \$16,142.24
Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of February: \$26,160.96
Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of February: \$33,031.24
Air Conditioning Fund as of March 20: \$1,500.00