

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



Time, Talent and Interest Survey - Deadline July 31

A big thank you to all who have taken the time to fill out the Time, Talent and Interest Survey. This survey was emailed out to everyone as part of the Planning for the Future process at Muddy Creek. As we plan for the future and give thanks for all the assets God has given us at Muddy Creek, the Church Council realizes that the people, including you, are our greatest asset!

If you have not yet filled out the survey, there are two ways to do it: online (which is preferred) via the link that was emailed to you or the link on the church website (mclchurch.org), or through paper copies that are available on the table under the church mailboxes. Paper copies can be returned in the marked box on the same table. If possible, we would like each household member to complete the survey. Survey responses are due by July 31st. Thanks!

Volunteer Fair and T-Shirt Day- Sunday, September 8th as part of “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday

Following both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services on Sunday, September 8, Muddy Creek is putting on a “Volunteer Fair”. Committees and other groups will staff decorated tables at which you may get more information about specific things to volunteer for at Muddy Creek. You may have already responded to the Time, Talent, and Interest Survey about different things for which you are interested in volunteering, and this is your chance to get further information about each one (or discover new ones)!

Free Muddy Creek T-shirts will be given out on this day to those who do not yet have one. If you already have a Muddy Creek T-shirt, you are encouraged to wear it on this Sunday!

We will also celebrate our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s yearly “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday on this day.

Please note: this Sunday, September 8th, is the first Sunday of our Fall worship schedule with services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Ingathering 2024: Lutheran World Relief School Kit Donations of Spiral Notebooks, Pens, Rulers and Soap (Only) Needed Deadline to Bring in Items: Sunday, Sept. 8. Thanks!!

Every Fall, our synod makes an appeal called an “Ingathering” to collect school kits, blankets and soap to be sent all over the world through Lutheran World Relief to be used by refugees in need. This year we will be assembling school kits on Sunday, September 15th. During August and early September, you can help by donating the following new items (please pay attention to the specifics of each item, as it is a requirement that each kit be identical; no religious or patriotic symbols please).

Most Needed:

- 70 sheet spiral notebooks, wide or college-ruled, approx. 8 x10 ½
- Black or blue ballpoint pens—new



Also Needed:

- Rulers
- New bars of soap in original wrappers (4—5 oz. size).

Please Note - Not Needed This Year:

Due to your generous donation of previous years, we have leftovers of several items and, this year, will not have to collect crayons, pencils, erasers, sharpeners or scissors.

Please place donations in the marked bins beside the mailboxes by Sunday, Sept. 8.
 Questions: Contact Pastor Peter

School Kit Assembly on September 15 – All Invited

After the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, September 15, everyone is invited to help assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits of school supplies will be sent to school children in the developing world. We will also be boxing up soap that was donated. Thank you to everyone for bringing in school kit donations!

Please Bring in Food Items for Peter's Porch on Sunday, August 4 and Sunday, Sept. 1

On the first Sunday of every month, we are collecting food items for Peter's Porch, the food distribution pantry operated by our sister congregation, Faith United Lutheran Church in Denver. Please bring in food items on Sunday, Aug. 4 and Sunday, Sept. 1 and place them in the bins located in the sanctuary entrances. Thank you!

Worship During August and September

Up to and including Labor Day weekend (September 1st), the summer worship format continues with services at 8 and 9 a.m. Starting Sept. 8, the services will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. with a 9:00 a.m. Christian Education Hour. The 8:00 a.m. service is a shorter, spoken service with no singing. The later service has the liturgy, singing and pipe organ music.

In August, Will Meckley will be providing special music at the 9:00 a.m. service on Aug. 11, and everyone is invited to sing at the 9:00 a.m. service on Aug. 25 for a "Mixed Chorus". In September, choir will resume and perform for the first time on Sept. 8.

Worship will continue to be livestreamed at the later service and posted on our church website and Muddy Creek YouTube Channel.

Artwork Display by Jeanette Leid on August 4

Before and after both services on Sunday, August 4, we are delighted that Jeanette Leid has agreed to display some of her latest artwork in the sanctuary. Thank you, Jeanette!



Christian Education Resumes Sept. 8!

Christian Education for all ages will resume on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 9 a.m.!
For children, there is a class every Sunday in the Sunday School room at 9 am. And for adults, there is an Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall downstairs on the third Sunday of each month.

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup Resumes Sept. 8th at 9 am

The Jesus 'n Me Playgroup for all young ones (babies, toddler, preschoolers and their caregivers/parents) resumes monthly, on the second Sunday of the month, in the nursery at 9 a.m.

Sunday Sept. 8: "God Made Me" Come celebrate the wonder of eyes, ears, feet and hands as we make a special handprint picture for you to take home and save. We'll learn the fingerplay "God made fingers, nose and toes", and sing "God made me from my head to toes".

"Prophets of Justice" - Adult Forum - Sunday, Sept. 15th

On Sunday, Sept. 15th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, you are invited to the first Adult Forum of the 2024-2025 school year. The topic is "Prophets of Justice: Amos and Micah". A prophet is one who "speaks the word of the Lord to the people" (not necessarily one who foretells the future). We will explore these two famous prophetic books in the Bible as they speak God's word of justice and compassion for the poor and the oppressed in society.

Archives Update

This summer, a task force consisting of Gail Bare, Ted Bare, Dave Emrhein, Julie Emrhein and Pastor Peter has been busy organizing the church's archives in the Archive Room downstairs, and creating new historical displays for the congregation. Thank you to this group!

Bring in Your Redner's Sales Slips

If you shop at any Redner's Warehouse Markets, you can add to the Good Samaritan Fund at Muddy Creek by bringing your register tapes to church and putting them in the Redner's containers at all entrances. Just be sure to use your Redner's reward card each time you shop and also at Redner's Quick Shop on food, etc. (gas sales do not qualify, unfortunately). **Important:** please make sure you bring in the entire receipt. Please do not cut off the bottom! The church receives 1% of the Save a Tape amount on the receipt. We received \$158.97 from your last tapes. Thank you from the Social Ministry committee.

"Brenda and Friends" Bus Trip Schedule

August 8, 2024 - "Always...Patsy Cline" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
August 14-17, 2024 - 4-Day Mystery Trip
September 12, 2024 - River Lady Lunch Cruise and Historic Smithville, NJ
September 19, 2024 - "One Slight Hitch" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
More information about the trips can be found on the display outside Pastor Peter's office.

2024 Synod Assembly Highlights

Our ELCA Synod, the Lower Susquehanna Synod, includes 226 Lutheran churches in the region around Harrisburg, Lebanon, York, Lancaster and Gettysburg. This year, the synod met in assembly by Zoom on May 31 and in-person at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in York on June 1. The two delegates from Muddy Creek to the assembly were Council President Will Wood and Pastor Peter.

The theme of the assembly was “The Healing of the Nations: Christ’s Healing for a Broken World.” As part of the emphasis on healing ministries, the assembly heard a presentation from Christ Lutheran Church in Harrisburg about their free health and dental clinic which Christ Lutheran operates in their church 5 days a week. The clinic, called “God’s Clinic”, is staffed by volunteer nurses and dentists in conjunction with Holy Spirit Hospital and Penn State Health.

The assembly also included two worship services. During one worship service, in which the offering went to help build a hospital in Tanzania together with Tanzanian Lutheran partners, we were also treated to a performance of the Youth Choir of the Sudanese Worshiping Community in Harrisburg.

The assembly approved the 2025 Synod budget and elected people to various positions, including reelecting the synod vice president Jennifer Lau, electing people to our Synod Council, and electing delegates to the 2025 National ELCA assembly. ELCA is the acronym for our national denomination, the Evangelical Church in America. At the ELCA’s assembly next year, our national denomination will vote on the restructuring of synods and agencies because the ELCA’s structure from when it was formed in the 1980’s is now too large for our declining denominational membership.

Our current synod bishop of our Lower Susquehanna Synod, Bishop James Dunlop, will be retiring next year. And so, our Synod Assembly next June 5-7 will feature the election of a new bishop. To prepare for next year’s Synod Assembly, we will need to elect Muddy Creek’s delegates by December 31 of this year to allow time for training and input sessions. Muddy Creek is allowed up to two delegates as well as our pastor.

And finally, the Synod passed a resolution requiring that all of our pastors receive cultural competency training in LGBTQ+ issues, just as pastors are currently required to have regular periodic training about appropriate boundaries and also about racism.

Thank You’s

The family of Lucy Snader wishes to thank everyone at Muddy Creek for the prayers, cards and donations at Lucy’s passing. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Peter for the beautiful service and to Greg for the wonderful music. - Sandy Schutter

Dear members of Muddy Creek, your continual prayers for me and my family during my brother Elmer Gockley’s recent health concerns and then at his passing have given me strength and hope to know that others care. Before he died, I told him of your prayers and he was grateful. Many, many thanks for your great outreach of love for others. Sincerely, Linda J. Mohn and family

I would like to thank all the members of the congregation for the thoughts, prayers and cards which I have received since my recent fall. - Jared Schutter

Dear Muddy Creek congregation, Thank you very much for the goodie box and your constant support and kindness. I appreciate everything even if I'm several states away, and it's nice to have a good snack after some of the long days I've been having. I'm doing very well, albeit busy, as I just started an internship in Nashville at RCA Studio A. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the start of summer. Thank you so very much again for your caring and thinking of me.

- Will Meckley

Thank you to the members of Muddy Creek congregation who remembered my brother Bill's passing through prayers, cards, texts and kind words. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and comforting. Blessings, Judy Nichol

Congratulations

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to Muddy Creek:

- *Barbara Erickson, resident of Ephrata Manor, whose daughter is Kris Tafuri-Carretta, son-in-law is Tom Carretta, and granddaughter is Emma Tafuri-Carretta. Welcome, Barbara!
- *Kurt and Tracy Fichthorn and their son Kole, of Reinholds. Welcome to Kurt, Tracy and Kole!
- *Congratulations to Zach Shaeffer who received his Eagle Scout Award in a Court of Honor on July 23. Congratulations, Zach!
- *Congratulations to Barbara Fink and Richard Yerger who were married at Muddy Creek on July 28. Congratulations Rich and Barb!

Condolences

Our condolences to:

- *Linda Mohn and family at the death of her brother Elmer Gockely on June 17.
- *Audrey Noll and family at the death of her sister Pat Kagarise on June 23.
- *Yvonne Weaver and family at the death of her sister-in-law Jean Moyer on June 30.

Offering

Income to General Fund: June - \$50,776.37

Expenses to General Fund: June - \$16,443.60

Income to General Fund and Mission Support Year-to-Date as of end of June: \$129,884.46
(includes Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) received)

Expenses to General Fund and Mission Support Year-to-Date as of end of June: \$102,896.32

Attendance

Worship Attendance

May 26,	8 a.m. – 23,	9 a.m. – 50
June 2,	8 a.m. – 21,	9 a.m. – 40
June 9,	8 a.m. – 32,	9 a.m. – 48
June 16,	8 a.m. – 21,	9 a.m. – 48
June 23,	8 a.m. – 23,	9 a.m. – 40
June 30,	8 a.m. – 23,	9 a.m. – 44
July 7,	8 a.m. – 18,	9 a.m. – 58
July 14,	8 a.m. – 30,	9 a.m. – 43
July 21,	8 a.m. – 24,	9 a.m. – 45

Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook

63 (includes livestream)
33 (includes livestream)
42 (includes livestream)
35 (includes livestream)
42 (includes livestream)
45 (includes livestream)
34 (includes livestream)
36 (includes livestream)
20 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 101 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 213 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Worship Helpers Schedule

- Aug. 4 8 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
9 am Communion Assistant and Acolyte-
9 am Lay Reader –
9 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper
9 am Money Counters - June and Neal Leid Bread Baker - Marliese Smith
- Aug. 11 9 am Acolyte -
9 am Lay Reader - Joe Sanchez
9 am Cantor - Pastor Peter
9 am Money Counters - David and June Sloat
- Aug. 18 9 am Acolyte - Mason Sheaffer
9 am Lay Reader - Brad Rauch
9 am Cantor - David Sensenig
9am Money Counters - Michelle Dimitris, Jim Weber, Jane Wenger
- Aug. 25 9 am Acolyte -
9 am Lay Reader - Fred Hainley
9 am Cantor - Gail Bare
9 am Money Counters - Julie and David Emrhein, Kim Eshleman