

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

www.mclchurch.org

336-2770



From the Pastors

Homeless for Christmas?

We all know the part in the Christmas story where Joseph and Mary arrive at the inn, only to discover that there is no room. Fortunately, the innkeeper is generous enough to let them stay in his barn, where Jesus is then born.

This Christmas, we are supporting the Good Samaritan Shelter in Ephrata, where homeless women and children are given a place to stay (much like Jesus and his family needed a place to stay). Good Samaritan Services operates four shelters in Coatesville, Phoenixville, Lancaster and Ephrata. The Ephrata Shelter is dedicated solely for women and their children. It is supported completely by donations - no government funding is received. This Christmas through our “Caring Tree”, we are collecting household items and toys (see the list on page 2 of this newsletter) for the women and kids.

Homelessness is a serious problem in our county, and Ephrata Area Social Services says that the problem is

increasing. As Christians who care for our fellow human beings in need, we extend the compassion of Christ to these women and kids in a vulnerable situation. And we also work to increase affordable housing in our county, such as through our support of Declaration House and REAL Community Services in Denver.

Homelessness has many causes, but



one of the main causes for women is that of domestic violence. Many women, along with their children, are forced to flee abusers and unfortunately end up homeless in the process.

The Good Samaritan Shelter fills the need for emergency housing for any homeless women, including those fleeing domestic violence.

This Christmas, we are once again concerned for the “least of these sisters and brothers” as Jesus taught us. Join us in providing comfort to those who are homeless for Christmas.

December 2019

Advent and Christmas Worship

December 1—First Sunday of Advent, Communion at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

December 8—Second Sunday of Advent, Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Congregational Budget Meeting and Elections immediately following 10:15 a.m. service.

December 15—One Service, Christmas Cantata at 10:15 a.m.

December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent, Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

December 24—Christmas Eve Services

4:30 p.m.—Candlelight Service with carols, readings, children’s message, sermon, special music. The children’s bells will perform.

10:30 p.m.—Candlelight Service with carols, readings, sermon, Muddy Creek Choir, and communion.

December 29—One Service at 9:00 a.m.

Special points of interest:

- *Christmas Eve*
- *Congregational and Family Caroling to Shut-Ins*
- *Caring Tree*
- *Choir Cantata*
- *Lawn Signs*

Upcoming Opportunities

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services



You are invited to come to Christmas Eve worship services on Tuesday, Dec. 24. The first service is at 4:30 p.m. and will include carols, a children's message, a sermon, special music, children's bells, and candle lighting. This may be a good option for those who

have other evening celebrations with family, prefer not to drive late at night, or who have family members who go to bed at an earlier hour.

The second service is at 10:30 p.m. and will include carols, sermon, music from the choir, communion, and candle lighting. This is an excellent traditional option for those who wish to worship late in the evening and greet Christmas Day at midnight.

We hope to see you on Christmas Eve!

Christmas Eve Lawn Signs



Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Christmas Eve services! Beginning Dec. 1, the Evangelism Committee will be handing out yard signs which list the times of Christmas Eve services at Muddy Creek. All are invited to take one to put up on your lawn.

Questions, contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886 or bergerb@dejazzd.com.



Poinsettias

The deadline for ordering red or white poinsettias (5 buds each) to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season is Sunday, December 1. The cost is \$6.65 each and they may be given in honor or in memory of someone. Forms are available at the church, or you may call the office to place your order.



Choir Cantata 10:15 a.m. Sunday, December 15

You won't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy this special Sunday where there will be congregational carol singing as well as the choir cantata! Why not invite a friend to join you as we celebrate the season!



Caring Tree

Beginning December 1st, you are invited to support our holiday "Caring Tree" project by bringing in items for the women and children in the Good Samaritan Women's Shelter in Ephrata. The Caring Tree will be located over by the mailboxes. Items needed: paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, paper napkins, tall kitchen pull-string trash bags, Lysol wipes, wet Swiffer pads, all-purpose cleaners, dish soap, laundry detergent, diapers (size newborn to 3), coloring books, crafts books, baby dolls, children's toys (eg. Mr. Potato Head, etc.)

We are also collecting A.C. Moore or Michael's gift cards for the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Thank you for helping to make Christmas more happy for families in need, and for supporting these projects of the Social Ministry Committee at Muddy Creek.

Help with Refreshments

Volunteer Opportunity: You are invited to help provide light refreshments and prepare coffee for the fellowship time after the 10:15 a.m. service on any Sunday morning by signing up on the clipboard on the refreshment table. Cookies, pretzels, drink - whatever you are comfortable bringing - it doesn't have to be lavish. The church supplies all plates, napkins, cups, forks, spoons, etc. - these items are restocked each week. The coffee pot and coffee are in the kitchen area and Audrey Noll is available for any questions on how much coffee to use, or for any questions you may have about the coffee and refreshment ministry, at 717-336-3592 or aan7@ptd.net.

Upcoming Opportunities



Congregational Christmas Caroling (Cookies too!)

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come and sing carols to some special people near the church and then enjoy a few homemade Christmas cookies! Jingle bells and Santa hats appreciated! Sign up near the mailboxes.



Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 8

The Congregational Meeting to approve the 2020 Budget and elect Church Council members and Cemetery Board members will be on Sunday, Dec. 8, following the 10:15 a.m. service. There will be an 8 a.m. service. Copies of the proposed budget are available on the table under the mailboxes. Also on that table is an information sheet about the planned reduction of the number of members on Church Council.

Also, a Budget Hearing will be held on Sunday Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to come with any questions, or to learn more about the budget.



Interested in Membership?

If you are interested in becoming a member of Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, or get more information, please contact Pastor Peter.

Jesus 'n Me Parent/Child Group Monthly Sunday Mornings 9:00 am 0—4 year olds

Come join the fun in this interactive experience for parents and children (grandparents, or other adults are welcome with their little ones too!). Pastor Peter will lead everyone in simple songs, stories, activities, parachute play, puppets, and more.

The next playgroup is Dec. 22, with the theme "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Come and celebrate the Christmas story of Jesus' birth with a special craft, Christmas songs, Christmas fingerplays and stories. We will sing Happy Birthday to Jesus too!



Confirmation Gatherings

Youth in grades 6—9 are invited to attend mid-week gatherings at the church. Friends always welcome!

Upcoming Wednesday Gatherings 6:30—8:00 pm

- Dec. 4
- Dec.18 Family/Congregation Christmas Caroling
- Jan. 15

Upcoming Parent Classes: Dec. 8, Jan. 5

Wanted: Decorator Helpers, Readers, Altar Guild, Folders

*On Saturday, Nov. 30 at 8:30 a.m., volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season.

*If you can help in any way with the Altar Guild in 2020, please speak to Jane Wenger, Chairperson.

*If you can help be a lesson reader on some Sunday mornings, please talk to Pastor Peter.

*Also, bulletin folders are needed for occasional folding on a Thursday morning at church. If you have any availability to help out, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Linda Mohn, at 717-336-2770 or office@mclchurch.org.

News and Notes

Our sincerest thank you to the congregation, for the beautiful cards, flowers, prayers and healing thoughts for my wife Lesia and her mother Valentina Lavrenchuk. It certainly is comforting to the girls and myself. - Matt Aungst

I wish to express my deep appreciation to Nancy Beck and Audrey Noll of our Social Ministry Committee. The funeral luncheon provided my family and friends relaxation from the stress of my father's passing.—John C. Schutter

I would like to thank all those in the congregation that donated cards, items, monetary donations and time in making this year's Stockings for Soldiers project another success. Special thanks to our Knitting Ministry for the beautiful prayer squares and to all those that graciously took squares to tie on the prayers. Thanks also to Pastor Peter. We had 5,508 Prayer Squares to stuff in stockings for our Pennsylvania Military overseas. - Judy Dengler

We welcome through baptism our new brother in Christ Jordan Prudente, son of Katie and Mike Prudente, baptized on Nov. 24, 2019. Proud big brother is Dylan.

Congratulations to Lauren and Mark Gallagher on the birth of their son Christopher on Nov. 16th.

Congratulations to Kristin and Bryan Kunkle on the birth of their daughter Madeleine on Oct. 31.

Our sympathies to John C. Schutter on the death of his father John N. Schutter on Oct. 18, and to Brad Rauch on the death of his father, Pete Rauch, on Nov. 12.

The 18th Annual Christmas Vesper Service of St. Daniel Lutheran Church and the Reading Pops Orchestra will be on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. at the Conrad Weiser High School Auditorium, 44 Big Spring Rd, Robesonia. Handbell performance at 3:40 pm. Free will offering.

Offering Envelope and Year End Giving Statement Information

Giving Statements for 2019: Anyone wishing to receive a giving statement who did not receive one in the past should contact Nedra Bearinger at 717-336-7444 before January 1, 2020 in order to receive one.

2020 Envelopes: These will be available in your mailbox in the annex beginning Sunday, Dec. 1st.

Please be sure to write your designations for your offering on the outside of each envelope:

Current: general operating expenses

Benevolence: mission dollars for the work of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and ELCA

Building/Improvement: building and improvement projects at Muddy Creek

Other: special needs designated by your choice such as Altar Flowers, Bulletins, Elevator Fund, World Hunger, Good Samaritan Fund, Ephrata Area Social Services, etc.

Special Envelopes: (Communion, Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) money goes to the mission of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and ELCA unless it is designated otherwise.

Simply Giving Program: This is an option, used by a number of households at Muddy Creek, whereby you can have your contributions electronically deducted from your bank account. You will still receive envelopes in case you want to use them for special offerings, or if you would like to place an empty offering envelope in the plate on Sunday morning with SG written on the Check # line at the top right corner. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy and can be done by using forms available in the money counting room following worship each Sunday.

Bill Pay From Your Bank: Please also consider using your bank's online bill pay option to give offering.

Council and Committee Highlights

Church Council - The Church Council finalized the budget for presentation to the congregation at the upcoming Congregational Meeting on December 8th, made plans to reduce the number of council members from 12 to 9 as provided for in the constitution, and received an update on the Elevator Project.

Social Ministry, Christian Education - A Community Meal was served on Nov. 14. There will be no Sunday School Christmas program this year.

Property - The Property Committee wishes to thank the numerous wonderful volunteers who came out to rake leaves and help for the Outdoor Clean Up on Nov. 23. The installation of the new church doors is delayed by a couple of weeks.

Cemetery Board - At the Cemetery Board meeting on Nov. 14, Matt Aungst from Muddy Creek was elected President and Will Wood from Muddy Creek was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

December Birthdays

1	Andrew Rutt John Lutz-Kulp Scott Youndt	11	Ella Sensenig Cannon Youndt	18	Robert Rutt Karen Schnader Nicole Snader	28	Sandra Schutter Hunter Heist
3	Andrew Numbers	12	Wade Nixon Robin Schnader	19	Carter Greene	29	Betsy Klink Holly Schnader
4	Haley Leed	13	Mikayla Eshleman	20	Shelby Stuck	30	Emmett Weaver
5	Cynthia Czarnnecki Stephen Ramsey	14	Fern Lausch Heather Colabove	21	Alexander Stuck	31	Claire Brier Cole Brooks
6	Timothy Leed	15	Kash Weaver	23	Carissa Witmer		
10	JoAnn Loose Mark Brier Travis Gerhart Lydian Leed	17	Anne Nuss Avery Rideout	24	Mary Ann Fritz		
				26	Mary Jo Wummer Michael Bordner		



A Special Happy Birthday to our "Over 80" Members

December 11, Age 89

Ella Sensenig
Fairmount Home
33 Wheat Ridge Dr.
Ephrata, PA 17522

December 14, Age 91

Fern Lausch
68 St. John Circle
Lititz, PA 17543

December 24, Age 88

Mary Ann Fritz
7 Ray Drive
Denver, PA 17517

Brenda & Friends Tours

November 30, 2019 - Maryland Christmas Show - seven buildings of arts, crafts, pottery, furniture, jewelry, clothing, wreaths and garlands, toys and Christmas ornaments

December 7, 2019 - Christmas in Bethlehem – Trees of Historic Bethlehem Tour at the 1810 Goundie House, Moravian Museum of Bethlehem, Single Sisters' House, Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, Lunch at the Tavern at the Sun Inn, free time in the historic area, Christkindlmarkt, and a Bethlehem By Night Tour

December 14, 2019 – Mifflinburg's Christkindl Market & Guided Tour of Williamsport's Millionaire's Row and Rowley House Mansion Museum and buffet dinner at Country Cupboard

February 15, 2020 – "We've Only Just Begun – Carpenters Remembered" starring Michelle Berting Brett at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

March 2, 2020 - Philadelphia Flower Show and Asher's Chocolate with lunch at Cracker Barrel

March 14, 2020 - "The Irish Cabaret" starring Andy Cooney at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

May 30, 2020 – "I Left My Dignity in My Other Purse" starring Joyce DeWitt at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

June 6, 2020 – 1-Day Mystery Trip

June 17-21, 2020 - Massachusetts

June 27 - July 1, 2020 - Massachusetts

For more info contact Brenda at 717-336-6886 or bergerb@dejazzd.com.

More info also on hallway table outside church office

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE AND ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE: December 8, 2019

Worship Helpers

Coffee Ministry

December

- 1 Audrey and Roger Noll, Gloria Aseli
 8 Brenda Hinden, Michelle Walzl
 15 N/A
 22 needed
 29 needed
- (please sign up on the clipboard on coffee table to help)

Money Counters

December

- 1 Sara and Ken Frazer, Pat Brendle
 8 Linda Gerhart, Hollie Kemper, Jim Weber
 15 Lesia and Matt Aungst, Kim Eshleman
 22 June and Neal Leid
 29 (9 a.m.) Dean Lutz, David and June Sloat

January 2020

- 5 Lori and Mike Martin, Josephine Martin
 12 Linda and Tim Fritz, David Sensenig
 19 Gail and Ted Bare
 26 Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle

Ushers

December

- Dec. 1 - Mike Leid, Connie Hoover, Brad Rauch, Doris Rauch, Diet Aseli
 Dec. 8, 15, 22, 24 (4:30 p.m.) - Church Council
 Dec. 24 (10:30 p.m.) - Jane Wenger, Julie Emrhein, Terri Meckley, Linda Gerhart, Craig Brossman
 Dec. 29 (9:00 a.m.) - Church Council

January

- Jan. 5 - Jane Wenger, Julie Emrhein, Terri Meckley, Holly Kemper, Linda Gerhart, Craig Brossman
 Jan. 12, 19, 26 - Ray Sweigart, Scott Strickland, Leroy Berger, Wally Nuss, Matt Aungst



Bulletin Folders

(Thursday unless noted)

December

- 5 June and Neal Leid
 12 Joyce Litzenberger, Judy Nichol, Betty McMahan
 19 Kathleen Ebling, Charmaine Wenrich, Denise Burkhart
 23 (Mon) Judy Dengler, Betty McMahan

January

- 2 Brenda Hinden
 9 Charles and Janet Frantz
 16 June Leid, Betty McMahan
 23 Sandra Bassett, Denise Burkhart, Charmaine Wenrich
 30 Russell and Nancy Beck, Linda Berger

Lay Readers

December

- 1 Lynn Breidenstein
 8 Nancy Beck
 15 N/A
 22 Brad Rauch
 29 (9:00 a.m.) Haley Leed

Altar Guild

- December Brenda Hinden and Jane Wenger

Worship Helpers

Acolytes

December

Dec. 1	Cannon Youndt
Dec. 8	Zach Sheaffer
Dec. 15	Sophia Dimitris
Dec. 22	Mason Sheaffer
Dec. 24 (4:30 p.m.)	Grace Youndt
Dec. 24 (10:30 p.m.)	Paige Walzl
Dec. 29 (9:00 a.m.)	Cole Dimitris

January 2020

Jan. 5	Brandon Walzl
Jan. 12	Cannon Youndt
Jan. 19	Zach Sheaffer
Jan. 26	Sophia Dimitris

Communion Assistants

December 1	Sada Aungst
December 24	Kelby Weaver (10:30 p.m.)
January 5	Brandon Walzl

Bread Baker

Marliese Smith

Greeter

December 1 Phil Ramsey

Attendance and Giving Report

	Worship	Sunday School
October 27	73	16
November 3	119	21
November 10	123	17
November 17	103	31

	Income	Actual Expenses
October	\$11,315.00	
Year thru Oct.	\$142,045.11	\$165,568.40

Elevator Fund as of 11/17/19: \$112,981.50
(Needed to reach goal: \$59,846.50)

Upcoming Events

January 26, Sunday —Annual Congregational Meeting and Congregational Luncheon

February 26, Wednesday—Ash Wednesday Service

December Office Hours

Church Office: Tues & Thurs 9:00 am—11:30 am

Pastors: Tuesday 9:00 am—11:00 am

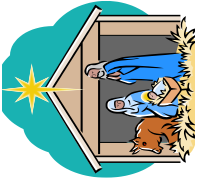
Thursday 9:00 am– 11:00 am

Additional hours by appointment and at various times throughout the week



December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Budget Hearing	2	3	4 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Gathering	5 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:15 p.m. Cantata	6	7
8 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Cong. Meeting	9	10 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering at Yvonne's	11 7 p.m. Church Council mtg.	12 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:17 p.m. Cantata	13	14
15— <u>One Service 10:15</u> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship – Choir Cantata	16	17	18 6:30 p.m. Congregational and Family Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins	19 7 p.m. Choir	20	21
22 8 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30 p.m. Candle light 10:30 p.m. Candle light and Communion	25 	26 7 p.m. Choir	27	28
29 - <u>One Service 9:00</u> 9 a.m. Worship	30	31		Note: The Sobriety Sisters meet every Thurs evening at the church.		

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, 11 South Muddy Creek Road, Denver, PA 17517, www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770—for urgent pastoral needs call pastors at 717-598-5095.

Office email: office@mclchurch.org Pastors' email: peter@mclchurch.org

Pastors: Peter Schwabe-Fry
Nancy Schwabe-Fry (on temporary leave)
Administrative Assistant: Linda Mohn
Director of Music: Greg Gehman
Sextons: Mark Saylor, Brenda Berger, Linda Berger

President: Michael Leid
Vice-President: Fred Hamley
Council Secretary: Audrey Noll
Treasurers: Scott Strickland, Gail Bare