

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



December 13 - Elevator Project Vote and Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, December 13 immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service (there will be no 8:00 a.m. service this day), you are encouraged to come to the Congregational Meeting. We will be voting on the following recommendation from the Church Council to proceed with the Elevator Project: “Council recommends that we approve the proposal from Horst Construction received on November 9, 2020 for the construction and installation of an elevator and the upgrades to the electrical system at a total project cost of \$386,209. Funds will be taken from the balance in the Elevator Fund, the Improvement Fund (\$95,000) and the Bequest Fund (\$75,000). Any shortfall will be drawn from the Bequest Fund.”

Additionally, we will be voting on the 2021 Congregational Budget as well as elected Church Council Members and Cemetery Board Members. Packets with information about both the Elevator Project and the 2021 Budget are available on the entrance tables and are being emailed out as well.

An Open Hearing about both the Elevator Project and the 2021 Budget will be held on Sunday, December 6 immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service (there is an 8:00 a.m. service on this day). Feel free to ask any questions for discussion.

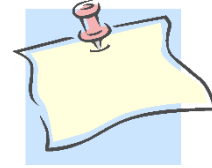
Please come out on December 13 to help us attain our necessary quorum!

Two Indoor Service Schedule Continues

We are continuing with our two indoor service schedule, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. (with the exception of Dec. 13 when there will be no 8:00 a.m. service). A big thank you to everyone for properly wearing masks over your nose and mouth and for observing 6 feet of distance during conversation. We really appreciate your helpfulness in keeping us all safe! Thank you also to those who have been making a special effort to come to the 8:00 a.m. service to spread out our attendance to improve safety and distancing during this CoVid time. This effort has been extremely successful as the two services have been nearly identical in attendance. The CoVid Task Force is continuing to closely monitor the CoVid situation and will let you know promptly of any changes that may be necessary.

Within the sanctuary, it is perfectly okay to walk to your mailbox, to any of the collection bins or to the restroom as needed. We simply ask that people do not cluster for conversations.

Both worship services are being livestreamed. To connect, go to the church website, mclchurch.org, or go directly to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube channel. An edited version of the service is also posted online each Sunday to our website, our YouTube Channel and the Muddy Creek Lutheran Facebook. Also, you may sit downstairs in the Social Hall if you wish (this is also our overflow) with the sound of the service being piped in for both services. A note: we were unfortunately unable to successfully install an FM transmitter to the parking lot, so this option will not be available.



News and Notes

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Schedule

You are invited to come to one of three Christmas Eve Candlelight Services – 4:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Thank you to everyone for completing the recent survey of service preference times. All three services will be identical and will be just over half an hour in length. They will feature Christmas carols (no singing), a message, and Candle Lighting. Communion will not be offered at any of the services this year. Also, we are not having poinsettias. The services will be livestreamed, so that if you cannot attend, you can still participate remotely. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, wherever and however you are worshipping this year! (Note: We are also doing yard signs this year)



Caring Corner Collection for Gift Baskets for Local Teachers and Staff

During December, we are collecting snack items for a gift basket to give to teachers and staff at Reamstown Elementary School and Adamstown Elementary School as a way of saying thank you to them for their hard work in educating our local children during this stressful CoVid time.

This year, we are not having our usual “Caring Tree”, but in its place we are having a “Caring Corner” in the tree’s usual location by the mailboxes. Located there is a bin in which you may place your donated items. The Social Ministry Committee is asking you to bring in any of the following individually pre-packaged snack items: cookies, chocolates, crackers, chips, popcorn, rice krispy squares, baked goods, etc.



Peter’s Porch Collection

As a way of combatting increased hunger and need during this CoVid time, the Social Ministry Committee is asking you to 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 brought to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church and placed in the collection bins inside the entrances on Sunday mornings, as well as at any time during the week in the bin located outside the downstairs entrance.

In December, we are specifically asking for canned fruit, as well as baking supplies for the

holiday season. Baking supplies include instant nonfat dry milk, flour, sugar, cornstarch, cornmeal, baking soda, baking powder, salt, black pepper.

In addition, 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.

Giving, Envelopes and Giving Statements

Giving Statements for 2020: 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, 2021 in order to receive one.

2021 Envelopes: These will be available in your mailbox in the sanctuary beginning Sun. Dec. 6. 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.

Other Giving Options: Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. You may use Bill Pay from your bank, pay on line using the button on Muddy Creek's website (mclchurch.org) or use the Simply Giving Program: Simply Giving 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. Getting started is easy and can be done by using forms available in the money counting room following worship each Sunday.

Amazon Smile, Redners

When shopping online with Amazon during this holiday season (or anytime), please consider using Amazon Smile and listing "Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, Denver, PA" as the beneficiary. In this way, Amazon gives Muddy Creek a portion of each purchase. We appreciate it! As well, keep bringing in your sales slips from Redner's Market and put them in the box in the entry way, because we also receive money from Redner's when you do that.

Devotional Booklets, Newsletters Available

Copies of the “Christ in our Home” Devotional Book (large print or regular) are available in the bin located outside the downstairs door by the carport and can be picked up anytime at your convenience. The newest ones will contain daily devotions for Jan., Feb. and March. Paper copies of the newsletter are also available in the bin, as well as online at the church website, mclchurch.org, under “What’s Happening: Newsletters”.

Thank You Notes

Dear Muddy Creek Knitting Ministry and Congregation, this year has brought our church family many challenges. Thanks to Pastor Peter, Church Council, COVID Task Force and the entire congregation for not losing sight of the importance of embracing God’s word during these difficult times. This year has also proven to be a challenge in our efforts to support the Stockings for Soldiers project through Keystone Military Families. Although we were not able to gather together to make prayer squares, sign Christmas Cards or collect needed items to send abroad this Christmas season, the Muddy Creek Knitters were able to make over 1,700 prayer squares and 7 prayer shawls for our Pennsylvania military. Our congregation signed hundreds of Christmas cards with messages of gratitude, praise, and hope. Monetary donations to help purchase items and ship the stockings were all generously given by our congregation. My heartfelt thank you and sincere appreciation for all you continue doing to support our soldiers. May you all have a joyous Christmas! - Judy Dengler

I want to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls and all other acts of kindness received when my husband C.J. (Shorty) Weinhold passed away. The support from others meant so much. Thank you, Marian Weinhold

Thank you to everyone for your support and prayers during my recent hospitalizations. - Sharon Frankhouser

Council Notes

At its November meeting, the Council approved the 2021 budget and will recommend it to the congregation at the Dec. 13th Congregational Meeting. Additionally, the Council voted to formally propose the completion of the Elevator Project, and will likewise recommend it for a vote at the same meeting.

The Church Council welcomed Terri Meckley, appointed to fill an unexpired term on Council. Also, the Council reviewed how indoor worship was going as we attempt to keep everyone safe during this CoVid time.

Attendance

Indoor Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel	Viewed on Facebook
October 25, 9 a.m. - 74	41 (includes livestream)	10
November 1, 8 a.m. – 52, 10:15 a.m. - 52	27 (includes livestream)	14
November 8, 8 a.m. – 34, 10:15 a.m. - 35	32 (includes livestream)	11
November 15, 8 a.m. – 31, 10:15 a.m. – 37	43 (includes livestream)	24

(There are currently 48 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 148 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in October: \$20,726.23
 Expenses to General Fund in October: \$15,143.88
 Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of October: \$171,081.62 (includes \$30,000 CARES PPP Loan which can be forgiven).
 Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of October: \$154,129.81
 Elevator Fund total as of November 15: \$191,602.05

December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our “Over 80” Members with December Birthdays:

Dec. 11 – Ella Sensenig, 90
 Dec. 14 – Fern Lausch, 92
 Dec. 24 – Mary Ann Fritz, 89

December Birthdays

Dec.1 – Scott Youndt, Andrew Rutt, John Lutz-Kulp
 Dec. 3 – Andrew Numbers
 Dec. 4 – Haley Leed
 Dec. 5 – Cynthia Czarnecki, Stephen Ramsey
 Dec. 6 – Timothy Leed
 Dec. 8 – Kendra Seidel
 Dec. 10 – JoAnne Loose, Mark Brier, Travis Gerhart, Lydian Leed
 Dec. 11 – Ella Sensenig, Cannon Youndt
 Dec. 12 – Wade Nixon, Robin Schnader
 Dec. 13 – Mikayla Eshleman
 Dec. 14 – Fern Lausch, Heather Colabove
 Dec. 15 – Kash Weaver
 Dec. 16 – John Muscavage
 Dec. 17 – Anne Nuss, Amanda Dittmer, Avery Rideout
 Dec. 18 – Robert Rutt, Jerry Beck, Karen Schnader, Nicole Snader
 Dec. 19 – Carter Greene
 Dec. 20 – Shelby Stuck
 Dec. 21 – Alexander Stuck
 Dec. 23 – Carissa Witmer
 Dec. 24 – Mary Ann Fritz
 Dec. 26 – Mary Jo Wummer, Michael Bordner
 Dec. 28 – Sandra Schutter, Todd Schweitzer, Hunter Heist
 Dec. 29 – Betsy Klink, Jennifer Schweitzer, Holly Schnader
 Dec. 30 – Jack Lammey, Emmett Weaver
 Dec. 31 – Cole Brooks, Claire Brier

