

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at Muddy Creek



You, your family, and your neighbors are all invited to come Christmas Eve Candlelight services at Muddy Creek on Saturday, Dec. 24. The first service is at 4:30 p.m. and will include carols, a children's message, a sermon, children's bells, and a 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 earlier.

The second service is at 10:30 p.m. and will include carols, a sermon, communion, and a 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!

On Christmas morning, Sunday, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Jan. 1, there will be one service at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Lawn Signs

Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Christmas Eve services! Beginning Dec. 4, the Evangelism Committee will make yard signs available which list the times of Christmas Eve services at Muddy Creek. Pick up one near the church mailboxes and put it up on your lawn! Questions, contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886.



Community Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek – Dec. 11

Everyone from our community is invited to a Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m., hosted jointly by Muddy Creek, Peace U.C.C., St. Paul's Lutheran in Adamstown, and St. John Center, East Earl. Carol hymn requests may be made in advance on the clipboard under the mailboxes. Deadline for hymn requests is Sunday, Dec. 4. (We may not be able to sing all requests). Come out and celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season with our church neighbors! Friends are welcome and invited!

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 4

The Congregational Meeting to approve the 2023 Budget and elect people to serve on Church Council and the Cemetery Board will be held on Sunday, December 4, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please come out so that we may have a quorum of 60 people! There is no Budget Hearing beforehand this year. If you have any questions about the budget prior to the meeting, please contact Treasurer Scott Strickland. Copies of the budget are available under the church mailboxes.

Historic Communion With 1700's Pewter Set on Dec. 4

As our final celebration of our 290th Anniversary year, we will celebrate communion with Muddy Creek's historic pewter communion set, dating from the 1700's. Pieces will also be on display, and historical notes about the manufacture of the pewter pieces will be made available.

The Deadline to Order Photos of Muddy Creek is Sunday, Dec. 4th

If you would like to order professional photos of Muddy Creek Lutheran Church to keep or to give as Christmas presents, please sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes. The photos are reprints of the stunning photograph that professional photographer Don Reese took of the church last Christmas Eve while services were going on inside. This is not a fundraiser, and Don is graciously providing the prints at cost only (6X9 \$2.90, 8X12 \$5.55, 12X18 \$18.25, 16X24 \$32.05). Please give the money directly to Pastor Peter or mail it in. Checks may be made out to Muddy Creek. Deadline to order is Dec. 4. Ordered photos will be available on Dec. 11.





Volunteers Needed to Load Wreaths and Tie Bows for Veterans' Graves in the Cemetery – Dec. 2 and 3

This year, the Muddy Creek Cemetery Board is once again placing Christmas wreaths on the graves of all the veterans in the church cemetery. If you can help unload wreaths and tie bows on them, please come to our Fellowship Hall **at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 2**. And/or, if you can help load the wreaths onto trailers for a local Boy Scout Troop to place them on the veterans' graves, please come to the Fellowship Hall **at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3**. Following this, the wreaths will be dedicated at a ceremony at the Cemetery Flag Pole. All are invited. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Nichol, 717-484-1447.

Donations to help cover the costs of the wreaths can be made out to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church (please note: Cemetery Veterans Wreaths) and put in the offering boxes.

Caring Tree Collection for Good Samaritan Shelter

This year for the Christmas Caring Tree, we are collecting items for women and their children who are at the Good Samaritan Women's Shelter in Ephrata. The Caring Tree will be in place by the mailboxes beginning Sunday, November 27. We are collecting laundry detergent, Swiffer WetJet all purpose multi-surface floor cleaner pads, Swiffer Sweeper wet mopping pads refills, Swiffer WetJet multi-purpose floor cleaner solution, disinfectant wipes, multi-purpose surface cleaner, Scrubbing Bubbles bathroom cleaner, diapers (size 5 and 6), baby wipes, paper towels, facial tissue, 13 gallon drawstring trash bags, cotton swab sticks, twin bedsheets, new pillows for beds, comforters for twin beds, new bath towels, . We are also collecting gift cards from Ephrata businesses such as Roma Pizza and Scratch Bakes, and also gift cards for Walmart and Weis Grocery stores. Unwrapped Christmas gifts for children are also welcome, such as plush toys, liquid motion bubbler sensory toys, expandable magic balls, plush knot pillows, kid's floor cushions, reading pillows, and activity busy boards. An online Amazon order list of these is available from Pastor Peter, if that is helpful. **Please bring in your items by Sunday, Dec. 18th.** Make Christmas "merry" for some women and children!



Adult Forum on Sun. Dec. 11 – New Poetry from Dave Sensenig

Muddy Creek member David Sensenig will be presenting some of the recent poetry he wrote at the Adult Forum on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9 a.m. in the side of the sanctuary (note location change). Some of the poetry will have Christmas themes. Everyone is invited to come!



Peter's Porch, and Reverse Advent Calendar

The Food Collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, Dec. 4, which is the first Sunday of the month. Food donations can be placed in the bins in the sanctuary entrances. (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.)

Speaking of donating food, here is a "Reverse Advent Calendar" idea that was submitted by Pat Brendle. Every day, during Advent, add one of the following food items to a box, and then bring it in to the church after Christmas and we will give it to Peter's Porch.

Dec. 1 – A box of cereal, Dec. 2 – Peanut butter, Dec. 3 – Stuffing mix, Dec. 4 – Boxed potatoes, Dec. 5 – Macaroni and cheese, Dec. 6 – Canned fruit, Dec. 7 – Canned tomatoes, Dec. 8 – Canned tuna, Dec. 9 – Brownie mix, Dec. 10 – A jar of applesauce, Dec. 11 – Canned sweet potatoes, Dec. 12 – Cranberry sauce, Dec. 13 – Canned beans, Dec. 14 – A box of crackers, Dec. 15 – Package of rice, Dec. 16 – Package of oatmeal, Dec. 17 – Package of pasta, Dec. 18 – Spaghetti sauce, Dec. 19 – Can of chicken noodle soup, Dec. 20 – Can of tomato soup, Dec. 21 – Canned corn, Dec. 22 – Can of mixed vegetables, Dec. 23 – Canned carrots, Dec. 24 – Canned green beans or peas

Isn't that a great idea for a "Reverse Advent Calendar" – giving something each day during Advent!

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup - Sunday Dec. 18: "A Christmas Celebration"

On Sunday, Dec. 18 at 9 a.m. in the nursery, all infants/toddlers/preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to come for a Christmas-themed Jesus 'n Me Playgroup, "A Christmas Celebration!". Come on out and have fun!

Sunday School is on Sunday Mornings at 9 a.m.

All Sunday School children are invited to come to Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the Sunday School rooms.



Upcoming Opportunities for Youth

*All youth grades 3-9 are invited to the Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Kirchenwald, Jan. 6-8. The retreat includes great indoor and outdoor activities, including broom hockey on a frozen pond, sledding and snow soccer, depending on the weather. Count on creative Bible study and inspired worship. Friends welcome. Contact Pastor Peter if you are interested. Scholarships are available from the church to help defray the cost, which is \$150.00

*For all area Lutheran youth and friends, Swamp Lutheran is hosting a Snow Tubing Event at Iron Mountain on January 29. Please talk to Pastor Peter if you are interested.

Confirmation Gatherings Schedule

Confirmation Gatherings are online via Zoom twice month on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.
 Dec. 1 - Parent and Youth Joint Gathering
 Dec. 15 - Youth Gathering

Offering Envelope and Year End Giving Statement Information

* Giving Statements for 2022: 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, 2023 in order to receive one.

*2023 Envelopes: These will be available in your mailbox in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 4th. Please be sure to write your designations for your offering on the outside of each envelope: Current, Benevolence (mission to Synod and ELCA), Building/Improvement, Other (such as altar flowers, bulletins, 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 Synod and ELCA unless it is designated otherwise.

*Other ways to give besides envelopes: Simply Giving Program (an automatic deduction from your bank account - talk to Nedra Bearinger if you are interested), Bill Pay from your bank, or clicking on the "Give Online" button on the church website, mclchurch.org.

Shopping for Christmas – 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. Thanks!

REDNER'S SAVE A TAPE: As well, keep bringing in your sales slips from Redner's Market and put them in the box in the entryway, because we also receive money from Redner's when you do that. When shopping at the Quick shops please use your Redner's Reward Card especially when pre-paying gas. Also use the card even if it is for a sandwich etc. This will add cash rewards for our Good Samaritan Fund. We appreciate it!

Church Directories Available Upon Request

Church directories, listing the addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of all Muddy Creek participants are available upon request to the church office, 717-336-2770, office@mclchurch.org.

Following the Service Online

- *The 10:15 a.m. service is livestreamed online on our Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube channel.
- *The service is then posted on our YouTube Channel, our church website, and our Facebook page.
- *To follow along, a special online edition (including words of the hymns and liturgy) of the 10:15 a.m. bulletin is now available on the home page of the church website, mclchurch.org. Past and present bulletins can also be found under the “Bulletins” tab on the website.
- *Offering may be given online with the “Give Online” button on our website homepage.
- *To obtain home communion sets of grape juice and wafers that you may use to receive communion as you follow along with any communion service, please contact Pastor Peter.

Choir Practices in December

Choir practices are on the Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the choir loft as follows:
 Thursday, Dec. 8 (singing in church on Sunday, Dec. 11)
 Thursday, Dec. 22 (singing in church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)

Choir Recognition Sunday was Celebrated on Nov. 13

At the church service on Nov. 13, we celebrated Choir Recognition Sunday. We thanked the current choir members: Gail Bare, Brenda Berger, Marie Buehl, Kathleen Ebling, Tim Fritz, Judy Nichol, Audrey Noll, David Sensenig, Susan Siegel, Darlene Weidman, Jane Wenger and Pastor Peter. As well, we gave a huge thank you to our Director of Music and Organist, Greg Gehman.

We also specially honored all former and recently retired choir members of the Muddy Creek Lutheran Church Choir, including Gloria Aseli, Nedra Bearinger, Russell Beck, Ken Frazer, Hazel Fry, Hollie Kemper, Charles Leid, Peggy Leid, Carl Schenskie, Becky Thunberg, Bud Thunberg, Mary Ann Weber, Rita Garner, Jeff and Donna Carvell, Greg and Terry and Will Meckley, Ann Nuss, Patti Weaver, Diane Leed, and Harold Weinhold. Thank you to all of these special people who have faithfully shared their gift of music with us for many years!

Prayer Shawls Donated to Ephrata Hospital and Hospice Upcoming Prayer Shawl Knitting Gatherings

Muddy Creek donated 20 prayer shawls to Community Home and Hospice, and also donated prayer shawls to Ephrata Community Hospital in memory of Walter Buehl. The shawls were really appreciated.

The next Prayer Shawl Knitting Gathering at Yvonne Weaver’s house is Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Thank You's

Dear Yvonne and the Muddy Creek Prayer Shawl Group, Thank you for the generous donation of prayer shawls from your church community to our center in memory of Walter Buehl. The prayer shawls are beautiful and I love the individual tags on each item. We give them to our patients who in cancer treatment here at Wellspan Ephrata Hospital Cancer Center. Thanks again, Helen Lawson

Thank you to everyone who helped with prayer squares and shawls that we sent from Muddy Creek to deployed Pennsylvania soldiers through the Stockings for Soldiers Program of the Keystone Military Families organization. In the five years since we first began this ministry, we have now sent out over 20,000 prayer squares and 91 prayer shawls/blankets! Thank you to the congregation for your tremendous support of this project, to the Muddy Creek Prayer Shawl Gang for knitting the prayer squares and shawls, to everyone in the congregation who helped tie on prayers, sign Christmas cards, and made monetary donations to help cover the cost of shipping. Thank you to Jeanette Leid for creating the display for the Nov. 13th dedication, and to Judy Dengler and Karen Oglesby for coordinating the project! All of you helped make Christmas meaningful for our overseas deployed military from Pennsylvania!

Thank you to everyone who came out on Nov. 26 to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Thank you also to Jim Weber for donating the two Christmas trees.

Thank you to all who helped deliver the Thanksgiving Gift Bags with pumpkin bread and apples to the shut-ins and older members of Muddy Creek at the "Pack and Take" event on Nov. 13th.

Baptism

Welcome to Hannah Claire Gallagher, daughter of Lauren and Mark Gallagher, and little sister of Christopher. Hannah was baptized at Muddy Creek on Nov. 20th

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 elevator to come to the 2nd floor!

Altar Flower Sign-Ups, Increase in Cost

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. The cost, starting in January, will be increasing due to the closing of our florist, Roxanne's flowers. We are currently working to obtain the lowest price possible. Call the church office at 717-336-2770 if you have any questions.

Worship Helpers Schedule

- Dec. 4, Money Counters – Connie Hoover, Diane Leed
 Communion Assistant: 8:00 a.m. - Scott Strickland Bread Baker – Marliese Smith
 Communion Assistant and Acolyte: 10:15 a.m. – Sophia Dimitris
 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Hollie Kemper 10:15 a.m. Cantor – Hollie Kemper
- Dec. 11, Money Counters – Brad and Doris Rauch
 10:15 a.m. Acolyte – Mason Sheaffer 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Jill Youndt
 10:15 a.m. Cantor – Pastor Peter
- Dec. 18, Money Counters – Marie Buohl
 10:15 a.m. Acolyte – 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Joe Sanchez
 10:15 a.m. Cantor – Gail Bare
- Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) – Bread Baker – Marliese Smith
 Communion Assistant and Acolyte: 4:30 p.m. -
 Communion Assistant and Acolyte: 10:30 p.m. – Kelby Weaver
- Dec. 25, Money Counters – Brenda Berger, Audrey Noll
 10:15 a.m. Acolyte – 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Brad Rauch
 10:15 a.m. Cantor – Greg Gehman

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
October 30, 8 a.m. – 26, 10:15 a.m. - 44	69 (includes livestream)
November 6, 8 a.m. – 26, 10:15 a.m. - 81	85 (includes livestream)
November 13, 8 a.m. – 16, 10:15 a.m. - 64	42 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 81 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 192 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in October: \$11,179.70
 Expenses to General Fund in October: \$15,562.38
 Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of October: \$137,132.98
 Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of October: \$167,426.16
 Elevator Fund total as of November 13: \$10,978.10 (donations still being gratefully accepted)

December Birthdays

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

Dec. 14 – Fern Lausch, 94, 68 St. John Circle, Lititz, PA 17543

Dec. 24 – Mary Ann Fritz, 91, 7 Ray Drive, Denver, PA 17517

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 – 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

