

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services



You, your family, and your neighbors are all invited to come to Christmas Eve Candlelight services at Muddy Creek on Sunday, 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.

Note: Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, we will have Sunday morning services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. on that day. While they are technically Advent services, we will be getting in the Christmas spirit because all the hymns at the 10:15 a.m. service will be Christmas carols.

Also, please note that on Sunday, Dec. 31, there will be only one service, at 9:00 a.m. We hope to see you on Christmas Eve!

Joint Carol Hymn Sing at Peace U.C.C. – Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 P.M.

Muddy Creek and Peace U.C.C. are holding a joint Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at Peace United Church of Christ, 37 E. Swartzville Rd, on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. Come out and celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season with our church neighbors! Friends are welcome and invited! You are also invited to bring along cookies for sharing in a time of fellowship afterward.



Christmas Eve Lawn Signs

Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Christmas Eve services! Beginning Nov. 26, 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 or bergerb@dejazzd.com.

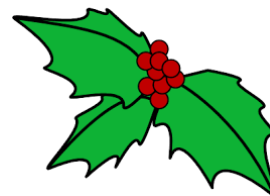
Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 3

The Congregational Meeting to approve the 2024 Budget and elect people to serve on Church Council and the Cemetery Board will be held on Sunday, December 3, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please come out so that we may have a quorum! 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.

Helping With Cemetery Veterans Wreath Project – Saturday, Dec. 9

Wreath laying for the veterans in the Muddy Creek Cemetery will take place on Saturday, December 9, 2023. This year we will be tying bows on the wreaths and having the Boy Scouts place them the same day. For those who would like to help with tying bows on the wreaths please mark your calendars for December 9 at 9:00 AM at Muddy Creek Church in the Fellowship Hall. Afterward, the Boy Scouts will arrive to take the wreaths from the church to the cemetery where they will lay the wreaths on veteran's graves. A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, December 10. Please contact Judy Nichol 717-484-1447, if you are able to help with this project.

Thank you to all who made monetary donations during November for this project!



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 26. 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 bedsheet sets, 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. 17th. Make Christmas "merry" for some local women and children!

Adult Forum on Sun. Dec. 17 – 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. 17 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. One of the poems will have a Christmas theme. Pastor Peter will also present some classic Christmas-themed poetry from renowned poets. Everyone is invited to come!

Poinsettias Deadline Nov. 26

The deadline for ordering red or white poinsettias (5 blooms each) to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season is Sunday, November 26. The cost is \$7.25 each and they may be given in honor or in memory of someone. Forms are available on the last page of this newsletter or in the bulletin, or you may call the office to place your order.



**Food
Collection**



Please Bring in Food Items for Peter's Porch on Sunday, Dec. 3

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, Dec. 3 and place them in the bins located in the sanctuary entrances. Thank you! (The January food collection will be on Sunday, Jan. 7th)

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup - Sunday Dec. 10: "A Christmas Celebration"

On Sunday, Dec. 10 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.

Planning for the Future Committee Update

Thank you to all who responded to the Congregational Survey. It was wonderful to get 70 responses! The Planning for the Future Committee has now completed all of its interviews, surveys and research, and is now currently working on its report and recommendations (3 year, 5 year, 10 years and beyond) to the Church Council, which will occur in January and February. The Council will then make a presentation to the congregation in March.

2024 Altar Flower Sign-Ups Now Available

The 2024 sign-up for altar flowers is now available in the binder located outside Pastor Peter's office. You may sign up to sponsor altar flowers or bulletins (you may make them in honor of or in memory of someone if you wish). Cost is \$45 to sponsor altar flowers or \$15 to sponsor bulletins. Call the church office at 717-336-2770 if you have any questions.

Bring in Your Redners Sales Slips

Bring in your sales slips from Redner's Market and put them in the marked boxes in the entryways. We receive money from Redner's when you do that. For example, in November we received \$131 for Redners! Gas purchases from Redner's are no longer eligible for donation, so you no longer need to bring in your gas receipts. Also, please make sure you bring in the entire receipt, including the bottom.

Offering Envelope and Year End Giving Statement Information

* Giving Statements for 2023: 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, 2024 in order to receive one.

*2024 Envelopes: These will be available in your mailbox in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 3rd. 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.), or 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.

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.

Upcoming Prayer Shawl Knitting Gatherings

The next Prayer Shawl Knitting Gathering at Yvonne Weaver's house is Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m. In December, the Gathering will be on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Thank You's

Fellow Muddy Creek participants - Thank you for making Christmas more meaningful to our deployed military from Pennsylvania through your support of the Keystone Military Stockings For Soldiers program. Muddy Creek Congregation was able to sign over 1,200 Christmas cards with thoughtful messages. Our \$400 monetary donations for shipping costs will send stockings to many of our local soldiers. We sincerely thank you for your continued support of these brave men and women. - Judy Dengler and Karen Oglesby

Thank you to everyone who came out on Nov. 25th 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 of Muddy Creek at the "Pack and Take" event on Nov. 12th.

Condolences

Our condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of Guyula Seifrit, who passed away on Nov. 2. Funeral was Nov. 10. A Memorial Fund has been established if you would like to make a contribution to Muddy Creek in memory of Guyula.

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!

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
October 29, 8 a.m. – 17, 10:15 a.m. - 48	31 (includes livestream)
November 5, 8 a.m. – 32, 10:15 a.m. - 57	31 (includes livestream)
November 13, 8 a.m. – 17, 10:15 a.m. - 59	24 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 90 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 204 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in October: \$13,113.06
 Expenses to General Fund in October: \$13,380.28
 Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of October: \$140,815.42
 Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of October: \$167,440.48

Worship Helpers Schedule

- Dec. 3 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
 10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant and Acolyte -
 10:15 am Lay Reader – Brenda Berger
 10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman
 10:15 am Money Counters - Gail and Ted Bare
 Bread Baker - Marliese Smith
- Dec. 10 10:15 am Acolyte - Jack Lammey
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Nancy Beck
 10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper
 10:15 am Money Counters - Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle
- Dec. 17 10:15 am Acolyte -
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Lynn Breidenstein
 10:15 am Cantor - Pastor Peter
 10:15 am Money Counters - Jeanette and Mike Leid
- Dec. 24 10:15 am Acolyte - Grace Youndt
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Jill Youndt
 10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig
 10:15 am Money Counters - Marie Buohl, Connie Hoover, David Sensenig
- Christmas Eve:
 4:30 pm Acolyte -
 10:30 pm Acolyte and Communion Assistant - Kelby Weaver
 Bread Baker: Marliese Smith
- Dec. 31 9 am Acolyte - Cannon Youndt
 9 am Lay Reader - Joe Sanchez
 9 am Cantor -
 9 am Money Counters - Brad and Doris Rauch



Place completed form, with money attached, in the marked box on the table under the mailboxes (if using a check, note: poinsettias.)

Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 26

Cost is \$7.25 (Red or White plant, 5 buds each)

I desire # of plants: Red _____ and/or White _____.

*Everyone is responsible to pick-up the plants they order.
Flowers can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services, or anytime following.*

Plants will be placed in the church by December 17.

If you would like your poinsettia “in honor of” or “in memory of” included in the bulletin, please list below (please print clearly). Please note: Please complete a separate form for each poinsettia purchased (for instance, Do not list “in Honor of” and “in Memory of” on the same form.)

Purchaser’s Name _____

In Honor of _____

By _____

(optional)

In Memory of _____

By _____

(optional)

If you wish to order poinsettias without your name being listed in the bulletin, check here _____

