

# MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

[www.mclchurch.org](http://www.mclchurch.org), 717-336-2770



## **An Interview With Greg Gehman, Director of Music and Organist at Muddy Creek**

Pastor Peter: Greg, you are the Dean of the Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Can you please tell us about the American Guild of Organists and about the Lancaster Chapter?

Greg: The AGO (acronym for American Guild of Organists) was founded in 1896 around the time of two other organizations which provided organists a means to get together and "talk shop" about all things related to organs, music, playing, and choirs. The headquarters is located in New York City. The Lancaster Chapter was organized in December 1947, making this our 75th Anniversary. There are around 200 Chapters (or groups) across the US and 90+ members in our Chapter, of which about 20 are "young organists." We are governed by a local Board of which I am Dean (or in common terms, President). It also includes a Sub-Dean (Vice-President), Secretary, Treasurer, four Members at Large, and two Auditors. Our mission is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. Our vision is to engage, support, and uplift all organists.

Pastor Peter: What do you like best about the Lancaster Chapter?

Greg: What I like best is rubbing elbows with the other members as we work together in administrating the functions of our Chapter, planning recitals, seminars, organ crawls and raising funds for our scholarship programs.

Pastor Peter: What do you do as Dean of the Chapter?

Greg: Prior to becoming Dean, I served two years, a prerequisite, as Sub-Dean. That office includes the role of chair of the Programming Committee who plans the monthly events. This sets you up so, as Dean, you will better understand the ins and outs of the Chapter and be a better Dean. I have also served previously as a Member-at-Large and Newsletter Editor. I've been involved with the AGO since the middle 1990s.

As Dean, I am responsible for creating the agenda and leading the monthly Board meetings. I am to emcee at all public events. I oversee the operation and activities on behalf of the Board while subject to their control. I nominate/organize the make-up of the Scholarship, Nominating, and Programming Committees and any other as needed. I am a part of all other committees, although I do not need to attend all their meetings. I enter into contracts on behalf of the Board. I must see that actions are carried out as directed by the Board. I plan and run the Summer Arts Festival (organ recital) that takes place on a Thursday in early June.

Yes, there is a lot that I am responsible for, but the folks on the Board and all committees do work together as a team. My two-year term ends this June 30 and it's been my pleasure to serve our Chapter in this way.

Pastor Peter: What is your favorite part about being Dean?

Greg: My favorite part about being Dean is the interaction I have with the members of the Board and Chapter. Over the years, I developed some good friendships with a wide-spread group of people. It is also inspirational as we do not look at music as a means to end, but to bring honor to the Lord in what we do. It has been an encouragement to me in my Christian faith as well.

Pastor Peter: How did you learn to play the pipe organ and how long have you been playing it?

Greg: When the organist at my home church retired in 1982, I was asked if I would consider playing, to which I said "yes." Previously, I had only played piano, but was always fascinated by the organ. So, I took lessons locally which led to studies at Lancaster Bible College which led to studies as a music teacher at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music (IL) with organ as my instrument major.

Pastor Peter: How long have you been at Muddy Creek as Director of Music here?

Greg: I began my work at Muddy Creek in November of 2009.

Pastor Peter: What are some things you really enjoy doing at Muddy Creek, both in your position as Director of Music, and as a participant in the life of Muddy Creek?

Greg: I really do enjoy playing for the services and working with the choir. What I probably enjoy more is being with and interacting with the "Muddy Creekers" in doing other things for the Church as well. Here is where I feel very much "at home."

Pastor Peter: As you look to the future of pipe organ playing in churches, what do you see and what do you hope for?

Greg: I don't see the organ going away. There are still many folks, and young ones, too, who love organ music. We have quite a number of young people in our Chapter who are studying organ, although they are not enough to fill all the open positions. Churches are still buying, building, and renovating organs. It's a sound that as a solo instrument and in its role of accompanying congregations and choirs, is unmatched. Over the last several years, our Chapter has presented hymn-sings and recitals where the response and attendance was overwhelming. So, I'm hopeful for the future, but we must find ways to make and keep the organ accessible to the public.

## Lenten Services for 2023

The theme this year for our Lutheran Cluster Lenten Services is “Turning Toward God’s Abundance”. All services are at 7 p.m., and they will also be available online. The offering will go to the conference Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Houston, Texas, April 16-22. Checks may be made out to North Lancaster Conference Dean’s Fund).

**Wed. March 1, 7 p.m.:** Pastor Jim Goodyear will be preaching at Faith United, Denver. Theme: Faithfulness – Luke 15:11-23 (The Temptation of Jesus). Faith United will also stream the service on their YouTube channel ([youtube.com/@faithunitedevangelicalluth3864](https://youtube.com/@faithunitedevangelicalluth3864)).

**Wed. March 8, 7 p.m.:** Pastor Marissa Becklin will be preaching at St. Paul’s, Adamstown. Theme: Mercy – Luke 13:31-35 (Lament over Jerusalem). St. Paul’s will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - St. Paul’s Lutheran, Adamstown, PA).

**Wed. March 15, 7 p.m.:** Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry will be preaching at Bergstrasse, Ephrata. Theme: Compassion – Luke 13:1-9 (The Barren Fig Tree). Bergstrasse will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - Bergstrasse Lutheran Church).

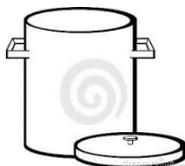
**Wed. March 22, 7 p.m.:** Pastor Scott Brubaker will be preaching at Muddy Creek, Denver. Theme: Forgiveness – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (The Prodigal Son). We will also stream the service on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/@muddycreeklutherande4004](https://youtube.com/@muddycreeklutherande4004)).

**Wed. March 29, 7 p.m.:** Pastor Sandy Gideon will be preaching at Mellingers, Schoeneck. Theme: Love – John 12:1-8 (Mary Anoints Jesus). Mellingers will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church).

**Thurs. May 18, 7 p.m., Ascension Day:** Pastor Tim Craven will be preaching at Swamp, Reinholds for the Cluster Ascension Service.

## Soup-er Bowl of Caring, Sunday, Feb. 12

Mark your calendars for Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, Super Bowl Sunday. You can celebrate in church by wearing your favorite sports jerseys (any team of any sport), and by collecting loose change from the congregation to give to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Even as we celebrate the Super Bowl with snacks and feasting, we remember all in this world who are hungry or who have to rely on soup kitchens for food! Come out for the fun!



## Feb. 12 - Adult Forum on Ecclesiastes

On Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary, Pastor Peter will lead an Adult Forum on the book of Ecclesiastes, a fascinating book in the Old Testament. All are invited!

## Jesus 'n Me Playgroup Feb. 19 – Fishin' with God



You and your little ones are invited on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 9 a.m. in the nursery for the Jesus 'n Me Playgroup. The theme is “Fishin’ with God”. You won’t want to miss the chance to hear “fishing” stories from the Bible. We will make “crumpled fish”, and sing the all-time favorite “One little, two little, three little fishies.”

Upcoming Playgroups: Sun., March 19 “**Jesus is Alive....an Easter Celebration**” Celebrate the Easter theme with the story of Jesus’ resurrection, and an Easter parade.

Sunday, April 2 at 11:30 a.m., Community Easter Egg Hunt at Muddy Creek. There will be a special area for toddlers and preschoolers.

## Sunday School 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. Sunday School resumes on Jan. 8, following the Christmas break.

## Upcoming Confirmation Zoom Gatherings

February 2 – Confirmation Zoom Gathering – Begin New Testament

February 16 – Confirmation Zoom Gathering

March 2 – Confirmation Zoom Gathering

## Upcoming Opportunities for Youth



For all area Lutheran youth and friends, Swamp Lutheran is hosting a Laser Tag trip on Sunday, February 5 to The Laser Mill, 1109 Bern Road, Wyomissing (next to The Works). Pizza lunch at 11:15 at Swamp Lutheran Church, 275 Swamp Church Rd, Reinholds. Leave for the Laser Mill at noon. The cost is \$30. Return to Swamp by 3 pm. RSVP to Kristin Gockley, 717-330-0628.

## Prayer Shawl Dedication – Feb. 19

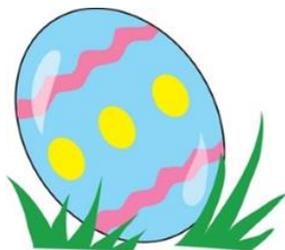
We will be dedicating Prayer Shawls at both services on Sunday, Feb. 19. Come and pick up a shawl for anyone you know who is going through a difficult time and might be able to benefit from our prayers and the warm embrace of God as they are wrapped in a shawl knitted by our Muddy Creek’s Prayer Shawl knitters. We will have a Dedication of Prayer Shawls every month in 2023, and shawls will be available then or on any Sunday (just ask Pastor Peter for help to get one for someone).

The Prayer Shawl Knitters from Muddy Creek meet twice a month at 6:30 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Yvonne Weaver’s house, resuming in March. Upcoming dates are Mar. 14 and 28. Please contact Yvonne Weaver at 717-371-6453 if you are interested in knitting.



## **Community Easter Egg Hunt at Muddy Creek Returns on April 2! Easter Egg Hunt Donations Needed**

After not being able to be held for several years due to CoVid, Muddy Creek's Community Easter Egg Hunt will return to our Grove on Palm Sunday, April 2 at 11:30 a.m.! Any donations of empty plastic eggs and small wrapped candy that can be used to fill plastic eggs would be greatly appreciated! Starting Feb. 26, donations can be brought to church and placed in the tub near the mailboxes. The deadline to bring in the donations is March 26. Let your friends and neighbors know!



### **Easter Yard Signs**

The Evangelism Committee has prepared yard signs advertising Easter services at Muddy Creek. Please consider using these in your lawn as a way to let the community know about our Easter Services and invite them to attend. Signs may be picked up from the church beginning Sunday, March 5. Thank you for your help in spreading the news about services.

### **Snack Item Collection for College Students and Military Members**

Beginning March 5, we will be collecting snack items to send to college students and military service members from our congregation. Snack items may include cookies, chips, candies or crackers. Donations can be placed in the marked boxes at any of the entrances. If you know of any student or service member to add to our list, please contact Jane Wenger (717-471-0556). The deadline to contribute is March 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!



### **Peter's Porch Collection**

The next food collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, Feb. 5, 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.)

## **Choir Practices in February**

Thursday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m. (singing in church on Sunday, Feb. 12)

Ash Wednesday Feb. 22 (the choir will sing on both Ash Wednesday and on Sunday, Feb. 26).

All are invited to come sing in the choir!

## **Grief Support Group Beginning at Real Life**

Anyone interested is invited to a new Grief Support Group, called Grief Share, that is being organized by Mohn's Hill E.C. Church and which will be located at Real Life Community Services, 239 Main Street, Denver. The first meeting is Sunday, Feb. 5 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at Real Life. For any questions, you may contact Mohn's Hill E.C. Church at 610-775-3667.

## **Thank You Notes**

We wanted to thank you for letting us use your church. We appreciate having a safe place to come for our meetings. Thank you for all of your support. - The Sisters of Sobriety A.A. Group (which meets at Muddy Creek on Thursday evenings)

Our non-profit association wishes to thank you very much for allowing us to use your facilities for our good-will project of preparing patterns to donate to the UNTO organization. These patterns are then assembled into reusable feminine pads and are distributed to missionaries in impoverished countries where feminine supplies are not available. Sincerely, the Loyal Christian Benefit Association, Ephrata Branch 1557 (which meets at Muddy Creek on Wednesday mornings).

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to the family of Colin James Prudente, who was baptized at Muddy Creek on January 15. Colin is the son of Kati and Mike Prudente, and little brother of Dylan and Jordan.

Congratulations to Mackenzie and Ricky Uebberroth on the birth of their daughter Tierney Rose Ueberroth on Jan. 8. Tierney is also the granddaughter of Lee Anne Ueberroth and the little sister of Rennie. Congratulations!

## **Condolences**

Our condolences to Nora Busser upon the death of her brother, Paul Bauman.

## **Offering**

Income to General Fund in December: \$25,737.77

Expenses to General Fund in December: \$16,427.10

Income to General Fund through end of Dec.: \$175,869.60

Expenses to General Fund through end of Dec.: \$206,679.77

## Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
December 24, Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. – 79, 10:30 p.m. - 57	164 (includes livestream)
December 25, 9 a.m. – 38	62 (includes livestream)
January 1, 9 a.m. – 39	79 (includes livestream)
January 8, 8 a.m. – 18, 10:15 a.m. - 45	58 (includes livestream)
January 15, 8 a.m. – 19, 10:15 a.m. – 73	56 (includes livestream)
January 22, 8 a.m. – 16, 10:15 a.m. – 48	49 (includes livestream)
(There are currently 82 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 193 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)	

## Worship Helpers in February

- Feb. 5 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland  
 10:15 am Acolyte –  
 10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant -  
 10:15 am Lay Reader – Hollie Kemper  
 10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper  
 10:15 am Money Counters - Julie and Dave Emrhein, Kim Eshleman  
 Bread Baker - Marliese Smith
- Feb. 12 10:15 am Acolyte - Mason Sheaffer  
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Jill Youndt  
 10:15 am Cantor - Pastor Peter  
 10:15 am Money Counters - Jere and Joan Shimp
- Feb. 19, 10:15 am Acolyte - Grace Youndt  
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Joe Sanchez  
 10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig  
 10:15 am Money Counters - Linda and Tim Fritz
- Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday)  
 7:00 pm Acolyte – Sophia Dimitris  
 7:00 pm Communion Assistant - Sophia Dimitris  
 Bread Baker - Marliese Smith
- Feb. 26 10:15 am Acolyte - Cannon Youndt  
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Brad Rauch  
 10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare  
 10:15 am Money Counters - Gail and Ted Bare