

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770

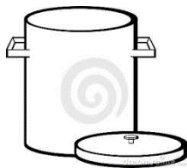
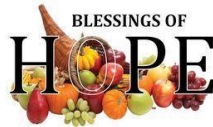


Annual Congregational Meeting, Luncheon – February 4, 2024

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service on February 4. Please come out to help us get our quorum of 40 people for the meeting to discuss the work of our congregation. We will also have a Congregational Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the meeting. Please sign up for the luncheon on the clipboard under the mailboxes, and if you are able to contribute a side dish or dessert please indicate that. Everyone is invited!

Sign Up to Repackage Food at Blessings of Hope on Sat. Feb. 24!

Muddy Creek's Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a volunteer opportunity on Sat. Feb. 24 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. We will repackage food at the Blessings of Hope warehouse, 500 Becker Rd, Leola (actually Brownstown/Oregon). If you are interested, please contact Pastor Peter or sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes. Every volunteer will also get a coupon to shop for 60 cents a pound at the Blessings of Hope store, 515 N. Franklin St., Lancaster. We will meet at Muddy Creek to carpool, leaving at 8 am, or else you may meet us at 500 Becker Rd at 8:15 am. Our group size is limited to 20 volunteers, so please sign up now!



“Soup-er Bowl” of Caring, Lions Club Visiting – Feb. 11

Mark your calendars for Feb. 11th, Super Bowl Sunday. We'll 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! We will also be welcoming the East Cocalico Lions Club at Muddy Creek on this day!

Ash Wednesday Service - Feb. 14, 7:00 p.m.

Come out for the moving Ash Wednesday service at Muddy Creek on Wednesday, Feb. 14 (also known as Valentine's Day) at 7:00 p.m. We will have communion and will be offering the receiving of ashes for all who want them.



Cluster Lenten Services begin in February

All are invited to Lenten services, held together with other local Lutheran churches in our cluster. Following this year's theme of "Open My Life, Lord", the schedule will be as follows:

*Wed. Feb. 21, 7 p.m. at Faith United Lutheran Church, Denver. Pastor Scott Brubaker from Swamp Lutheran will preach on "Open My Eyes, Lord".

*Wed. Feb. 28, 7 p.m. at Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, Ephrata. Pastor Marissa Becklin from Faith United Lutheran will preach on "Open My Hands, Lord".

*Wed. March 6, 7 p.m. here at Muddy Creek. Pastor Jim Goodyear from Bergstrasse Lutheran will preach on "Open My Ears, Lord".

*Wed. March 13, 7 p.m. at Mellingers Lutheran Church, Schoeneck. Pastor Sandy Gideon from St. Paul Lutheran will preach on "Open My Heart, Lord".

*Wed. March 20, 7 p.m. at St. John Center Lutheran Church, East Earl. Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry from Muddy Creek will preach on "Open My Life, Lord".

*Thurs. May 9, 7 p.m. at Swamp Lutheran Church, Reinholds. Pastor Tim Craven from Mellingers Lutheran will preach at the cluster Ascension Day service.

The offering will go to support this year's Disaster Relief Mission Trip which will be in Port Charlotte, Florida. April 28 - May 4. Checks may be made out to: "Disaster Relief Trip, North Lancaster Conference Dean's Fund"

Congregational Forum About the "Planning for the Future" Report Sunday, March 3 at 9:00 A.M.

The Planning for the Future Committee submitted its report and recommendations to the Church Council on Jan. 10. The Council will be discussing and considering the report at its meeting on Feb. 7. Then, everybody from the congregation is invited to a special forum on the report and recommendations which will be held on Sunday, March 3 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there as we talk together about the future of Muddy Creek! Thank you to the Committee members for all their hard work!

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup, Sun. Feb. 11 at 9 AM in the Nursery



“Jesus Loves You”

All toddlers, babies and preschoolers and their parents (and friends) are invited to come to the Jesus 'n Me Playgroup on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. in the nursery. We'll celebrate Valentine's Day with the theme “Jesus Loves You”. We'll have a bean bag toss, make “Jesus loves you hearts”, and have fun songs and stories to remind the little ones how much God loves them!



**Food
Collection**

Peter's Porch Collection

The Food Collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, Feb. 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.)

The Offering Envelopes and Giving Statements are in the Church Mailboxes

For those who use offering envelopes to contribute to Muddy Creek, don't forget to check your church mailboxes for your 2023 Giving Statements and your 2024 Offering Envelopes.

Reminder: Your mailbox is below your name. If you did not receive either of these but would like them, please contact Nedra Bearinger, one of our two Financial Secretaries at Muddy Creek.

You may also give offering to Muddy Creek through Bill Pay from your bank, through the “Simply Giving” automatic deduction program in which we participate, or through the “Give Online” button on our church website (mclchurch.org).

“Brenda and Friends” Bus Trip Schedule

March 1, 2024 – The Mahoney Brothers - Neil Diamond Tribute and Homage to Billy Joel at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

March 4, 2024 – The Philadelphia Flower Show and Asher's Chocolates

March 16, 2019 – “The Irish Cabaret” with Andy Cooney at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

April 9, 2024 - “Beehive the Musical” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

April 18-20, 2024 – Virginia International Tattoo and more in Norfolk, VA

May 7, 2024 – Boal Mansion and Columbus Chapel and more

May 12, 2024 – Gaither Concert in York, PA - Sunday Evening

May 21, 2024 - Mount Vernon and Boat Cruise on the Potomac River

June 1, 2019 – One Day Mystery Trip

June 11, 2024 – “Weekend Comedy” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

Fall Photos of Muddy Creek

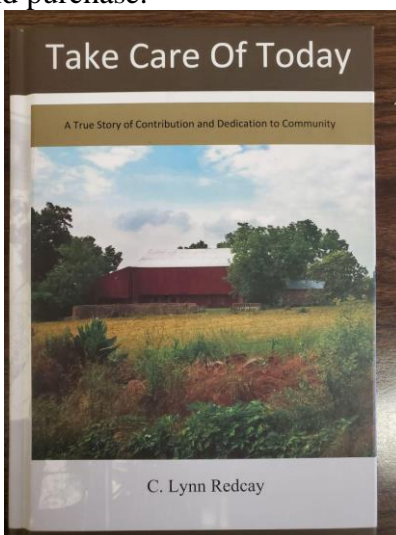
Below are two fall photos of Muddy Creek taken by professional photographer Donald Reese (you can see them on his blog, www.reesephoto.me). If you would like to see these photos in color, you can see them as well in digital form in the February newsletter on the church website, mclchurch.org, and click on the “What’s Happening/Newsletter” tab to see the February newsletter.

Also included is a photo of our church bell in the bell tower, taken in November when Pastor Peter went up in a lift to retie the broken bell rope, assisted by Greg Gehman, Will Wood and Moonlight Tree and Landscape. You can see the new knot on the left. The bell was cast in 1850 by T. I. Dyre of Philadelphia, and is one of only three remaining Dyre Bells in the United States. It was moved to the bell tower in our present church building in 1939 when Muddy Creek’s “Old Stone Church” building from 1847 was torn down on the site of our upper parking lot and replaced by the current building. The bell is rung every Sunday during the praying of the Lord’s Prayer following the ancient German tradition of ringing church bells during the Lord’s Prayer so that any people at home can hear the bell and pray simultaneously.



Feb. 18 - Adult Forum with Muddy Creek Author Lynn Redcay

Come out on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a special Adult Forum with Muddy Creek member Lynn Redcay. Lynn, a direct descendant of William Brossman, has written a book entitled, "Take Care of Today". It tells the story of the late William F. Brossman (a member of Muddy Creek) and his daughters Bertha Brossman Blair and Anne Brossman Sweigart and the Brossman family, who founded and operated the Denver and Ephrata Telephone and Telegraph Company, one of the largest independent telephone companies in the United States. Lynn and Pastor Peter will present about the book, and Lynn will have copies of her book available for signing and purchase.



Thank you's

We would like to thank everyone for all the cards we receive throughout the year for birthdays and holidays. We also want to thank the church for the Thanksgiving treat bag we received in November. - Sara and Ken Frazer

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers I received. - Colleen Oberholtzer

Thank you to MGS Inc., our neighboring trailer manufacturing business whose employees park in our church parking lot during the week. They are now generously doing the snow plowing in our two parking lots for free! Thank you MGS!

The Good Samaritan Women's and Children's Shelter in Ephrata wishes to thank Muddy Creek for your wonderful donations of gifts and items to us at Christmas!

Condolences

Our condolences to the family of Grace Schanz who passed away on Jan. 2. The funeral was on Jan. 7th.

Attendance

Worship Attendance

Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook

December 31, 9 a.m. – 55 41 (includes livestream)
 January 7, 8 a.m. – 11, 10:15 a.m. - 32 52 (includes livestream)
 January 14, 8 a.m. – 20, 10:15 a.m. - 43 26 (includes livestream)
 (There are currently 91 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 205 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in December: \$27,086.64
 Expenses to General Fund in December: \$16,229.43
 Income to General Fund Year End at end of December :\$182,759.35
 Expenses to General Fund Year End at end of December: \$199,662.03
 (The year-end deficit in the General Fund was \$16,902.68, less than half the projected deficit.)

Worship Helpers in February

Feb. 4 Bread Baker - Marliese Smith 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
 10:15 am Communion Assistant and Acolyte -
 10:15 am Lay Reader –
 10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman
 10:15 am Money Counters - David and June Sloat

Feb. 11, 10:15 am Acolyte -
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Lynn Breidenstein
 10:15 am Cantor - Pastor Peter
 10:15 am Money Counters - Jere and Joan Shimp

Feb. 14 (Ash Wednesday)
 7:00 pm Communion Assistant and Acolyte -
 Bread Baker - Marliese Smith

Feb. 18, 10:15 am Acolyte - Mason Sheaffer
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Brenda Berger
 10:15 am Cantor - Pastor Peter
 10:15 am Money Counters - Michelle Dimitris, Jim Weber, Jane Wenger

Feb. 25 10:15 am Acolyte -
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Nancy Beck
 10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig
 10:15 am Money Counters - Julie and Dave Emrhein, Kim Eshleman