

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

www.mclchurch.org

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FROM THE PASTORS

“I Can See Clearly Now” - 2020

Happy New Year! As the old Johnny Nash song goes, “I can see clearly now!”. Since the new year is 2020, no doubt we will get a lot of references to seeing clearly, as in 20/20 vision.

As we look into the mists of the future of another year, it is not always easy to see things so clearly in advance. Indeed, 20/20 vision is most commonly linked to hindsight, not foresight, as in “20/20 hindsight”. The Bible acknowledges this reality in the words of 1 Corinthians 13:12, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

Going into the future, seeing things only as if in a dim mirror, requires a lot of courage. To forge ahead when you can not see clearly requires faith. To stride forward when you are unable to see 20/20 requires trust.

As Christians, we place our faith and trust in God to lead us. As 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, “We walk by faith, not by sight.” Walking by faith means that we rely on God to guide us, not only on our own vision. And walking by faith indeed gives us the courage to forge ahead confidently into the new year.

One of my favorite prayers, from Morning Prayer in the old LBW hymnal goes, “Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

It is also my prayer for each of you in this coming year that you might walk by faith. We may not always be able to see clearly, but we do know that God’s hand is leading us and God’s love is supporting us. In this coming year, 2020, may we see clearly that God is always guiding us. And one day, we will see all things with holy clarity, as we see God face to face.

May you have a blessed new year!



January Worship

Jan. 5—Worship at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m., Sunday School resumes 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 12—Worship at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m.

Jan. 19—Worship at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m.

Jan. 26—Worship at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. The Annual Congregational Meeting and Elevator Project final vote will take place at 11:15 a.m. immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service. This is followed by the Congregational Luncheon for everyone.

January 2020

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Special points of interest:

- *New Member Month*
- *Congregational Luncheon*
- *Annual Meeting and Elevator Project Vote*
- *Family Ministry Planning Meeting*
- *“Soup-er Bowl” of Caring*
- *Blanket Making Project for Lutheran World Relief*
- *Youth Lock-In*
- *Disaster Relief Trip Planning Meeting - p.4*
- *Worship Helper Schedule*

Upcoming Events



Annual Congregational Meeting and Final Vote on Elevator Project Sunday, January 26, 11:15 a.m.

Everyone is encouraged to please come out (we need a quorum!) for the Annual Meeting following the 10:15 a.m. worship service. We will also be having the final vote on the Elevator Project to authorize the remainder of the funds for the complete project to commence. The booklet of reports and agenda will be available by the mailboxes beginning January 12.

There will be two worship service on January 26, at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.



Congregational Luncheon Sunday January 26, following the Annual Meeting

Everyone is invited and welcome to the Congregational Luncheon immediately following the Annual Meeting on January 26. The Parish Life Committee is sponsoring the event.

Save the Date: Spring Fling

Sat., April 18th at the Reamstown Fire Hall

Altar Flower Sign-Ups

If you would like to donate flowers for use on the altar during Sunday worship, please sign up in the notebook on the table in the upstairs hallway.



Flowers are \$30 per Sunday for a standard arrangement and can be given in honor or memory of someone, or give a special arrangement.

Questions: call Brenda Hinden, 717-733-1857



January is New Member Month

It is a new year, and anyone interested in joining Muddy Creek Lutheran Church is invited to speak to Pastor Peter. We will work with you and your schedule on joining during worship on any date in January that suits you, at either worship service.

All are welcome!



Prayer Shawl Knitters

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

6:30 p.m.

New knitters are invited to come and be a part of this rewarding ministry. Prayer shawls from Muddy Creek have been a blessing to so many people. Please consider joining this dedicated and caring group of knitters.

Meetings are at Yvonne Weaver's home. Contact Yvonne at ypweaver@dejazzd.com, 717-336-3120.

Upcoming Events

**Blanket
Project**
Sunday morn-
ing, January 12



Come and help make fleece tied blankets to give to Lutheran World Relief! This serving project is for all ages and no experience is necessary. Join us in the annex in the church, before and after the worship services. We will be cutting fringes on fleece fabric and tying knots to create blankets that will go to refugees around the world. Thank you to Thrivent for the money to buy the materials.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Family Ministry Planning Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 19, 9:45—10 a.m.

All parents of children and youth are invited to come to the nursery at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 19 for a brief meeting to plan upcoming Children, Youth and Family Events for 2020.

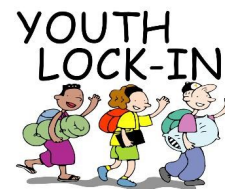
Sunday School Resumes January 5 with Upstairs Opening

We resume on January 5th with an Opening in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. Join us for singing and a brief opening, followed by going to classes for all ages.

Offering Update: As of Dec. 15, the Sunday School has already collected \$232.00 for the Elevator Fund!



Youth Lock-In Saturday, Feb. 1st, 7 p.m.



All Confirmation youth and older youth (and friends) are invited to a Lock-In at the church on Sat. Feb. 1st starting at 7 p.m. It will feature games, a movie, and the ever-popular “sardines”. Please bring a sleeping bag, pillow and a snack to share. Breakfast is provided. Contact Pastor Peter for any questions.

Jesus ‘n Me Parent/Child Group

Monthly Sunday Mornings, 9:00 am
0—4 year olds

Come join the fun in this interactive experience for parents and children (grandparents, or other adults are welcome with their little ones too!). Pastor Peter will lead everyone in simple songs, stories, activities, parachute play, puppets, and more.

Jan. 19 Theme: “Are Tigers Ticklish?
A Celebration of Creation”



Confirmation Gatherings

Youth in grades 5—8 are invited to attend mid-week gatherings at the church. Friends always welcome!

Upcoming Wednesday Gatherings 6:30—8:00 pm

- January 15 and 22, February 5

Upcoming Confirmation Parent Classes

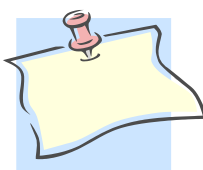
- January 5 and February 2, 9:00 a.m.

“Soup-er” Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, Feb. 2nd (Super Bowl Sunday), the children and youth of Muddy Creek will be collecting change from the congregation to give to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Start collecting your loose change now!



News and Notes



- ◇ My dear friends at Muddy Creek, It is with a heart filled with gratitude that I share my deep appreciation for all of your cards and prayers. It is with great fondness that I remember the brief time I shared ministry with you. How special it was to see the Buohl's as I was working hard on my therapy. Thank you for the lovely altar flowers that brightened my home. It was also so good to spend time with my high school classmate, Jane Wenger. With God's continued healing hand and the assistance of PT and OT in my home, my strength and endurance are increasing daily. - Sister Phyllis Enck
- ◇ Thank you to all who saved their pop tops for the Thrivent Pop Top Challenge. We collected 8 lbs. 9 oz. to benefit Ronald McDonald House. Even though the challenge has ended, we will continue to collect the tabs for Ronald McDonald House. The red containers are at the entrances. Ask your neighbors, friends and relatives to save them. Again, thank you for a job well done.—Carolyn Kramer
- ◇ Thank you to the choir and director/organist Greg Gehman for an inspiring musical cantata on Dec. 15! And thank you for the music you provide all year long as well.
- ◇ A word of thanks to outgoing church council members: John Schutter and Lee Zimmerman. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to leading ministry at Muddy Creek. And a special memorial of thanks to council member John Weaver who passed away last January.
- ◇ Thank you to the Anne Brossman Sweigart Charitable Foundation for a generous grant of \$5,000 towards the ministry at Muddy Creek. This grant is greatly appreciated.
- ◇ Thank you to everyone who so generously brought in gifts for the Caring Tree, which went to the Good Samaritan Shelter in Ephrata and to our Prayer Shawl Knitting Group.
- ◇ Thank you to the many people who decorated the church for Christmas and Advent!

Our Sympathy to:

The family of Gary Wenrich, who passed away on November 23, 2019.

The family of Arthur Mohn, who passed away on December 5, 2019. Funeral was on December 9.

News:

Disaster Relief Mission Trips

Please save the dates if you are interested in going along on this year's Disaster Relief Mission Trips with our Lutheran Conference. The trip to rebuild homes in West Virginia will be May 3-9, 2020. The first meeting for those interested is Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2 pm at Luther Acres Community Room in Lititz. The trip to rebuild homes in Puerto Rico will likely be November 8-14, 2020. The cost for either trip is \$150. Questions? Ask Pastor Peter



Council and Committee Highlights

Church Council

- Council thanked the out-going council members, who served Muddy Creek faithfully: John Schutter and Lee Zimmerman. Last October, we also lost John Weaver, who, sadly, passed away.
- The Council voted to reduce the council in a step-wise manner from its current membership of 12 down to 9 members, as provided for in the Constitution. In December of 2019, we will be electing 3 members instead of 5, to bring the council down to 10 members. In 2020, we will elect 3 members instead of 4 to bring the council down to 9 members, at which it will remain in all subsequent years.
- The Council approved the 2020 budget, to be presented to the congregation. It was also updated on the Elevator Project, and planned to have the final vote on Elevator Project expenses at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 26.

December 8th Congregational Meeting

- The 2020 budget was passed as presented. The budget is a deficit budget, with projected income expected to fall somewhat short of projected expenses.
- Mike Leid and Tim Fritz were re-elected to 3-year terms on church council. Gail Bare was elected to a first 3 year term. Matthew Aungst was re-elected to serve on the cemetery board. Matthew will serve as the Cemetery Board's President, and Will Wood from our congregation will serve as its Secretary-Treasurer.

January Birthdays

1	Kenneth Adair	20	Joe Dietrich	A Special Happy Birthday to our “Over-Eighty” Members!!	January 1	Kenneth Adair, 96 300 St. Mark Ave, Apt. 622 Luther Acres Lititz, PA 17543
	Patrick Shober		Benjamin Fritz			
	Chastity Heist		Kati Prudente			
	Sam Beichner		Martin Rauch			
5	Barbara Fink	21	A Rebecca Quenzer	January 21	Becky Quenzer, 83 The Gardens at Stevens 400 Lancaster Ave Stevens, PA 17575	
7	Gregory Adair	23	James Geissel Jr			
8	Denise Burkhart	24	Angela Rutt	January 27	Margaret Kuhlman, 89 Columbia Cottage, Room 7 3121 State Hill Road Wyomissing, PA 19610	
	Debbi Fetter	25	George Wentzel III			
9	Yvonne Zimmerman		Leroy Berger			
	Michael Prudente		Patti Weaver	January 29	Lois Quinter, 90 1295 Harvest Drive Denver, PA 17517	
10	Joseph Becker II	26	Lewis Killian Jr			
11	Scott Burkhart	27	Margaret Kuhlman			
	Cindy Lewis		Dylan Brossman			
	Jordan Weaver		Mason Price			
12	Elaine Sensenig	29	Lois Quinter			
	Gail Bare		Zachary Sheaffer			
	Scott Dimitris	30	Dinah Nolt			
13	Mary Ann Weber		Patti Nixon			
	Tammy Aungst	31	Rachel Loose			
	Will Meckley		Tony Rowley			
	Charles Breidenstein		Harrison Schnader			
16	Judy Nichol		Ellie Wise			
	Linda Gerhart					
17	Ronald Buohl					
	Ella Grant					



Brenda & Friends Tours

February 15, 2020 – “We’ve Only Just Begun – Carpenters Remembered” starring Michelle Berting Brett at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
 March 2, 2020 - Philadelphia Flower Show and Asher’s Chocolate with lunch at Cracker Barrel

March 14, 2020 - "The Irish Cabaret" starring Andy Cooney at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

May 30, 2020 – “I Left My Dignity in My Other Purse” starring Joyce DeWitt at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

June 6, 2020 – 1-Day Mystery Trip

June 17-21, and again, June 27 -July 1, 2020 - The Inn at Crumpin-Fox, Bernardston, MA, Kringle Candle, The D. L. Moody Center, Cruise on Lady Bea, Rockefeller Mansion, Billings Farm, Saint-Gaudens Historic Site, Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge, Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Hancock Shaker Village, Bridge of Flowers at Shelburne Falls, Richardson Candy Kitchen, Yankee Candle, 4 Nights at the Inn at Crumpin-Fox, 13 meals, Tour Guide and Evening Entertainment

For more info contact Brenda at 717-336-6886 or bergerb@dejazzd.com.

More info also on hallway table outside church office

Worship Helpers

Coffee Ministry

January 2020

- 5 Audrey and Roger Noll, Gloria Aseli
- 12 Pat Brendle, Brenda Berger
- 19 Needed
- 26 Congregational Luncheon

Coffee ministry volunteers are always needed and appreciated. To volunteer, please sign up on the clipboard on the coffee table.



Volunteers Needed: There are many ways in which you can be part of helping support worship and fellowship at Muddy Creek. If you would like to be an usher, acolyte, communion assistant, lay reader, coffee host, bulletin folder, or would like to help but aren't sure where, please contact the church office or one of the pastors. We have opportunities to fit every interest and availability. Everyone is needed and appreciated!

Money Counters

January 2020

- 5 Lori and Mike Martin, Josephine Martin
- 12 Linda and Tim Fritz, David Sensenig
- 19 Gail and Ted Bare
- 26 Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle

February

- 2 Jeanette and Mike Leid
- 9 Jere and Joan Shimp
- 16 Connie Hoover, Diane Leed
- 23 Doris and Brad Rauch

Ushers

January

1/5 - Jane Wenger, Julie Emrhein, Terri Meckley, Linda Gerhart, Craig Brossman
 1/12, 19, 26 - Ray Sweigart, Scott Strickland, Wally Nuss, Matt Aungst

February

2/2, 2/26 (Ash Wed) - Michael Leid, Connie Hoover, Brad Rauch, Doris Rauch, Diet Aseli
 2/9, 16, 23 - David Sloat, June Sloat, Dean Lutz, Scott Dimitris, Jim Weber

Bulletin/Newsletter Folders

January

- 2 Brenda Hinden
- 9 Charles and Janet Frantz
- 16 June Leid, Betty McMahan
- 23 Sandra Bassett, Denise Burkhardt, Charmaine Wenrich
- 30 Russell and Nancy Beck, Linda Berger

Lay Readers

January

- 5 John Schutter
- 12 Nancy Beck
- 19 Doris Rauch
- 26 Mike Leid

February

- 2 Hollie Kemper
- 9 Lynn Breidenstein
- 16 Jill Youndt
- 23 Fred Hainley

Worship Helpers

Acolytes

January 2020

5	Brandon Walzl
12	Cannon Youndt
19	Zach Sheaffer
26	Sophia Dimitris

February

2	Grace Youndt
9	Paige Walzl
16	Mason Sheaffer
23	Jack Lammey
26 (Ash Wed)	Cole Dimitris

Communion Assistants

January 5	Sada Aungst
February 2	Kelby Weaver
February 26 (Ash Wed)	Sada Aungst

Attendance and Giving Report

	Worship	Sunday School
November 24	130	23
December 1	80	15
December 8	105	16
December 15	116	16

	Income	Actual Expenses
November	\$ 14,465.95	\$ 12,543.28
Year thru Nov	\$150,098.25	\$171,697.68

Elevator Fund as of 12/8/19: \$116,871.00
(Needed to reach goal: \$55,957.00)

Greeters

February 2—Millie Shober

Altar Guild

January -Walter & Marie Buohl

Bread Baker for Communion

Marliese Smith

Upcoming Events

January 26, Sunday —Annual Congregational Meeting
and Congregational Luncheon
February 1, Saturday—Youth Lock-In
February 2, Sunday—“Soup-er Bowl” of Caring

January Office Hours

Admin. Asst.: Tues. & Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Pastors: Tues, & Thurs. 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Additional hours by appointment and at
various times throughout the week

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 12, 2020



January 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7 p.m. Choir	3	4
5 Installation of Council 8 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School opening in pews 9 a.m. Conf. Parents Class	6	7	8 6 p.m. Evangelism 7 p.m. Church Council	9 7 p.m. Choir	10	11
12 Newsletter Deadline Blanket Making Sunday 8 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School	13	14 6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl	15 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	16 7 p.m. Choir	17	18
19 8 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. Playgroup 9:45 a.m. Family Min. Mtg	20 Martin Luther King Holiday	21 7 p.m. Finance Commit- tee	22 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	23 7 p.m. Choir	24	25
26 8 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship with Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon 2 p.m. WV Mission Trip Meeting at Luther Acres	27	28 6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl	29	30	31	Note: The Sobriety Sisters meet every Thurs evening at the church.

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, 11 South Muddy Creek Road, Denver, PA 17517, www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770—for urgent needs call pastors at 717-598-5095.

Office email: office@mclchurch.org Pastors' email: peter@mclchurch.org

Pastors: Peter Schwabe-Fry
Nancy Schwabe-Fry (on temporary leave)
Administrative Assistant: Linda Mohr
Director of Music: Greg Gehman
Sextons: Mark Saylor, Brenda Berger, Linda Berger

President: Michael Leid
Vice-President: Fred Hainley
Council Secretary: Audrey Noll
Treasurers: Scott Strickland, Gail Bare

