

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



Livestream of Worship now at 9:00 A.M.

To keep everyone safer during the dramatic rise of CoViD cases in our area, Muddy Creek temporarily suspended in-person worship at the beginning of December. This will continue until further notice, with the CoVid Task Force constantly monitoring the situation and evaluating options.

Starting in January, there is now one livestreaming of the worship service, at 9:00 a.m., accessible through the church website (www.mclchurch.org) and the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube channel. Soon afterward, the service is then posted to the website, the YouTube channel and FaceBook. In this manner, we hope that you will be able to join us together in worship on Sundays!

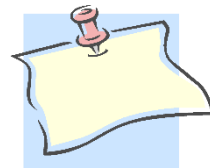
Results of the December 13th Congregational Meeting

Thank you so much to everyone who made a special effort on December 13th to join the Congregational Meeting online (and several came in-person as well) to help us achieve our quorum of 60 people and hold the meeting! The attendance was 79.

The final voting results were:

- The 2021 Budget was approved 68-0.
- The motion on funding and constructing the Elevator was approved 66-2.
- The following individuals were elected to 3-year terms on Church Council: Nancy Beck, Walter Buohl, Terri Meckley.
- The following individuals were elected to 1-year terms on Church Council: Audrey Noll and Will Wood.
- Cemetery Board: Ray Sweigart was elected to a 4-year term, and Will Wood was elected to a 1-year term.

Thanks again to all!



News and Notes

2021 Annual Congregational Meeting

The Church Council will be meeting on January 13 to make plans for the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 31. You will be notified immediately thereafter about the plan.

Online Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Received Well

Although we were disappointed not to be able to hold in-person worship for Christmas Eve, the special online Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was received well. We had 206 online views of the service, and many were able to light candles at home to follow along with the Candlelight portion of the service.

Thank you to Greg Gehman for the wonderful organ music, to Gail Bare for her solo of “O Holy Night”, and to Judy Nichol, Gail Bare and Pastor Nancy (coming out of retirement) for helping to lead the congregational hymns. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped deliver candles to as many people as possible.

Giving Options During This CoVid Time

Your continuing financial support is very much appreciated even as we cannot worship in-person at this time due to CoVid. Here are different giving options for you:

1. Mailing in your Offering envelopes to the church at Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, 11 S. Muddy Creek Road, Denver, PA 17517.

Most of the 2021 envelopes were delivered to houses. Please contact Pastor Peter (peter@mclchurch.org) if you did not receive your envelopes, or contact Nedra Bearinger (nlbear@ptd.net) if you would like to request envelopes for the first time. Please be sure to write your designations for your offering on the outside of each envelope:

Current: general operating expenses

Benevolence: mission dollars for the work of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and ELCA

Building/Improvement: building and improvement projects at Muddy Creek

Other: Special needs designated by your choice such as Altar flowers, Bulletins, Elevator Fund, 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 Lower Susquehanna Synod and ELCA unless it is designated otherwise.

2. Other Giving Options: Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. You may use Bill Pay from your bank (many Muddy Creek contributors do this), pay online using the button on Muddy Creek’s website (mclchurch.org) or use the Simply Giving Program. Simply Giving is an option whereby you can have your contributions electronically deducted from your bank account. You will still receive envelopes in case you want to use them for special offerings, or if you would like to place an empty offering envelope in the plate on Sunday morning with SG written on the check # line at the top right corner. Please contact Nedra Bearinger (nlbear@ptd.net) if you would like to register for Simply Giving.



Peter’s Porch Collection

As a way of combatting increased hunger and need during this CoVid time, the Social Ministry Committee is continuing to ask you to bring in canned, bagged and boxed items for the Peter’s

Porch drive-thru food distribution located at our sister congregation, Faith United Lutheran Church in Denver. Items can be brought to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church and placed any time during the week in the blue collection located outside the downstairs entrance under the carport.

Here is a complete list of other items requested by Peter's Porch -

Cans and Jars: fruits, vegetables, fish, chicken, poultry, beans, soup, spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, salsa, broth boxes (chicken, vegetable, beef).

Pasta, rice, tortillas, taco shells.

Cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix.

Snacks, crackers, popcorn.

Monetary Donations

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.

Resources for Economic Help During CoVid

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought hardship to hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians, including many who have never been unemployed before and don't know where to turn for help with housing, food, utilities and other human service needs. The United Way of Pennsylvania's 211 program is an excellent tool for Pennsylvanians who need to locate their local food bank, shelter program, or other support service. To quickly search resources by ZIP code through the United Way of Pennsylvania's 211 Program, visit pa211.org. Pennsylvanians can also dial 211 or text their ZIP code to 898-211 to connect to a resource specialist for free to get information about programs in their community and receive the emergency assistance they need.

Additionally, applications to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Service for help with utility bills, financial assistance, healthcare, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Medicaid can be submitted online at any time through the www.compass.state.pa.us website. Those who prefer to submit paper documentation can print from the website or request an application by phone at 1-800-692-7462. Pennsylvanians who need health insurance who do not qualify for Medicaid can explore coverage options through Pennie, the commonwealth's health insurance exchange. Open enrollment for 2021 plans continues through January 15, 2021. Pennsylvanians can learn more at www.pennie.com.

Devotional Booklets Update

We are still waiting for the January Devotional Booklets to arrive. Our apologies. Due to a problem at the printers and then the December back-up at the post office, the delivery was considerably delayed. We will send out an email as soon as they arrive, so that you can pick them up from the blue outdoor bin under the carport.

Thank You Notes

I wish to thank all those people who kindly me condolence notes at the passing of my mother. Your sympathy was very much appreciated. As well, a special thank you to the Muddy Creek Congregation and Church Council for the very generous monetary gift on the occasion of our 35th anniversary of ordination, and of Pastor Nancy's retirement. – Pastor Peter and Peter Nancy

A special thank you to all who helped decorate and set up the church for Christmas, and also to

those who helped take the decorations down. Thanks to Jim Weber for donating the beautiful Christmas tree, to those who decorated it and set up the window candles, to those who set up the pew candles and Walter Buohl for coordinating the crew, to Jane Wenger and the Altar Guild members who coordinated set up and takedown of decorations, to Jeanette Leid for the beautiful homemade altar poinsettia arrangement, and to Jack Peters, Joyce Litzenberger and Judy Nichol for setting up the outdoor Nativity Set.

Condolences

Our heartfelt and sincerest condolences and sympathy to:

- Lynn Merring and family at the sudden death of her husband Ken Merring on November 30. Service was held through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Pearl River, NY on December 11.
- The family of Rebecca Quenzer who died of CoVid on December 7. Graveside service was on December 11.
- Tim and Tammy Aungst and family at the accidental death of their son Travis Aungst on December 28 of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Attendance

Indoor Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
November 22, 8 a.m. – 23, 10:15 a.m. - 29	41 (includes livestream)
November 29, 8 a.m. – 14, 10:15 a.m. - 37	N/A
December 6 (indoor worship suspended)	206 (includes livestream)
December 13	181 (includes livestream)
December 20	136 (includes livestream)
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	206 (includes livestream)
December 27	N/A
January 3	85 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 63 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 157 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in December: \$11,155.00

Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of November: \$184,259.01 (includes \$30,000 CARES PPP Loan which was forgiven).

Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of November: \$168,603.30

Elevator Fund total as of December 31: \$193,317.05