

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



2022 – Muddy Creek Celebrates Our 290th Anniversary This Year!

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church was founded in 1732 by a group of dedicated and faithful Lutheran Christians. That was 44 years before the United States became a country! As German immigrants settled Pennsylvania and pushed inland from Philadelphia, they followed the rivers and creeks toward new land on which to build houses and farms. One such creek was Muddy Creek, known in the Pennsylvania Dutch tongue as “Mode Krick”. It was near a branch of it, now known as Little Muddy Creek, on the main road between Lancaster and Reading, that German Lutherans and Reformed together built a union church.

We are delighted this year to celebrate the 290th anniversary of our historic congregation. It is amazing to think that the faithful witness of Jesus Christ through our church to the community has continued in this location for 290 years and 12 generations!

During that time, Muddy Creek Lutheran congregation worshiped in four different buildings, alternating Sunday worship with Muddy Creek Reformed Church (now Peace United Church of Christ) until 1967. The first baptism was recorded already in 1730. The oldest building in 1732 was a log cabin, now long since gone, located on the site of our present lower church parking lot. It had a dirt floor, and fires were built inside on the ground to keep warm in winter. In 1744, the congregation purchased 9 and a half acres from two sons of William Penn and this land became the site of all the present church property, including the grove and cemetery. In 1748, a second church was built of stone with a tile floor. The third church building was the “Old Stone Church”, built of sandstone on the site of our current upper parking lot. It featured a wrap-around balcony for the men and a lower level for the women, all centered on a magnificently tall pulpit with an ascending staircase, two pot-belly stoves, and an organ that had to be pumped by hand. Horses and buggies were parked in sheds across the road on the site of our grove. After 90 years, the Lutheran and Reformed congregations had outgrown the building and a new one was built.

To much fanfare in 1939 near the end of the Depression, the fourth and present church building was dedicated. The congregants of Muddy Creek Lutheran and Reformed Church streamed in and were awestruck by the magnificent stained glass windows, in particular the “Transfiguration” window above the altar. The building cost \$59,000, and was built in a Gothic style with a native red sandstone base and a red brick superstructure trimmed with Indiana cast stone. The 1850 bell from the Old Stone Church, in great condition, was transferred to this new building, where it is still in use every Sunday, tolling during the Lord’s Prayer in each worship service.

We rejoice this year as we are planning activities to celebrate our anniversary. We are grateful to God for the continued ministry of our congregation, and look forward to as many more years of faithful service as the grace of God permits.



Annual Congregational Meeting – January 30, 2022

Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service on January 30! Please come out to help us get our quorum of 40 people for the meeting to discuss the work of our congregation.

Worship Services in January

January 2 - One service at 9 a.m. Pastor Peter will preach via a video sermon. The Communion normally held on this Sunday of the month will instead be held on Jan. 9. Also, there is no Christian Education on this Sunday.

January 9 – Regular worship schedule returns with services at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Christian Education resume at 9 a.m.

January 16, 23 and 30– Services at 9 a.m and 10:15 a.m., Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Jan. 9 - Special Adult Forum about the History of Muddy Creek

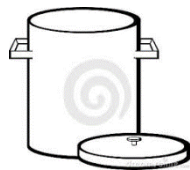
On January 9th at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary, Pastor Peter will have a special presentation about the history of Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, kicking off our 290th anniversary year of celebration.

Confirmation Gathering Schedule in January

January 2 – No Gathering (note this change in the schedule)

January 16 – Joint Parent and Youth Gathering (note this change in the schedule to include parents)

January 30 – Youth only Gathering (note this added date to the schedule)



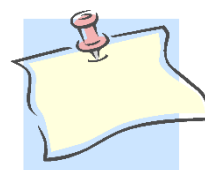
“Soup-er Bowl” of Caring – Feb. 13

Mark your calendars for Feb. 13th, 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!

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup Returns on Jan. 23 with "Praise Parade"



You and your little ones are invited to the Jesus 'n Me Playgroup on Sunday, January 23, at 9 a.m. in the nursery. The theme is "Praise Parade". Everyone loves a parade, especially when it is in celebration of our wonderful God. Little ones will make noisemakers with which to praise God. Add some singing, and stories, and it makes for a lively morning!



News and Notes

Elevator Project Dedicated, Congregational Meeting held on Dec. 12

On December 12th at our Congregational Meeting, we officially celebrated the completion of our Elevator Project and dedicated our new Elevator. Council President Audrey Noll and Project Supervisor Gail Bare cut the ribbon to congregational applause (see photo below), and people rode on the new elevator down to the Fellowship Hall to celebrate with whoopie pies!

At the Congregational Meeting preceding the Dedication, we elected Audrey Noll, Will Wood and Pat Brendle to three-year terms on Church Council, and Judy Nichol to a four-year term on the Cemetery Board. Someone will be appointed by the Church Council to fill the open two-year term on Church Council. As well, the congregation approved the 2022 Budget, and ratified three Constitutional Amendments dealing with decreasing the Congregational Meeting quorum from 60 down to 40, increasing the amount of non-budgetary discretionary spending allowed for the Church Council to \$5000, and appointing rather than electing members to the Audit Committee.



Elevator Fund Officially Closed, Air Conditioning Fund Open

The Elevator Fund is now officially closed! A sincere thank you to all who contributed generously to it, giving \$226,845.79 to make this project a reality! The final expense total for the elevator, new Fellowship Hall entryway, and electrical system upgrades was \$444,280.16. The entire project was fully funded with money from the Elevator Fund, the Improvement Fund (including money from the sale of the chapel), and the Bequest Fund.

And now on to the next Improvement Project! The **Air Conditioning Fund** is now open and gratefully receiving donations! Thank you to all for your generous support!



Peter's Porch Collection

As a way of combating increased hunger and need during this CoVid time, the Social Ministry Committee is asking 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 in the collection bins inside the entrances on Sunday mornings, as well as at any time during the week in the bin located outside the downstairs entrance.

In December, we are specifically asking for canned fruit, as well as baking supplies for the holiday season. Baking supplies include instant nonfat dry milk, flour, sugar, cornstarch, cornmeal, baking soda, baking powder, salt, black pepper.

In addition, 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.

Volunteers Needed For Property Tasks

If you can help with any of the following property tasks, please contact Walter Buohl at 717-445-6060. We will provide the materials, and you may do it at your convenience. Thank you!

- Paint the railing along the steps at the front of the church
- Paint the aluminum window sills on the outside of the Fellowship Hall
- Power-wash the church's equipment shed

Thank You Notes

The Schutter Family wishes to thank everyone for the kindness, prayers, flowers and cards given to us in this difficult time. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Peter for the beautiful service he had for John.

Many thanks to those from both Peace and Muddy Creek churches who helped with the Veteran's Wreath project in the Muddy Creek Cemetery. Thanks to Margaret Harting, Robin Hunter, Mardel Lausch, Joyce Litzenberger, Mindy Stoner, Ray Sweigart, Vicki Sweigart and Helen Youndt who tied bows on wreaths. Thank you to Walter Buohl for setting up extra tables and Pastor Peter who assisted with arrangements for working space and set up. Many thanks also to Adamstown Troop 61 Boy Scouts and Cub Pack boys and participating parents for placing the wreaths. Bob Hinkley, Scout Master, was instrumental in helping see this project through to completion. Bob's wife, Sheila along with Tim and Kristine Butz of the scouting organization provided additional hands-on-deck. Special thanks to Vicki Sweigart, a member of the Cemetery Committee, whose help was significant in arranging many details of this project.

Thank you. - Judy Nichol

Thank you for the ministry of prayers and cards. It is deeply appreciated.

With gratitude, Dorothy Beam

Thank you to all who came out to set up the trees and decorate the church for Advent and Christmas, and to those who set up the poinsettias! The church looked beautiful for Christmas!

Condolences

Our condolences to the family of John Schutter, who passed away on November 22. The funeral was held on December 1.

Our condolences to the family of Margaret Kuhlman, who passed away on December 6. The funeral was held on December 10.

Our condolences to Kathleen Ebling on the death of her daughter, Maria Harter, on December 13. Maria was also the niece of David Sloat. Our sincerest sympathy to the family.

Also, a memorial service was held on December 3 for Susan Steele, sister of Pat Yerger. Susan had passed away on January 30, 2020. Our condolences to Pat and her family.

Money Counter Helpers

Jan. 2 – Connie Hoover, Diane Leed

Jan. 9 – Brad and Doris Rauch

Jan. 16 – Marie and Walter Buohl

Jan. 23 – Gloria Aseli, Brenda Berger, Audrey Noll

Jan. 30 – Ray and Susan Sweigart

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 new elevator to come to the 2nd floor!

Altar Flower Sign-Ups

If you wish to sponsor altar flowers or bulletins (you may make them in honor of or in memory of someone if you wish), please sign up in the binder located outside Pastor Peter's office. Cost is \$30 to sponsor altar flowers or \$15 to sponsor bulletins. Call the church office at 717-336-2770 if you have any questions.

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
November 21, 8 a.m. – 27, 10:15 a.m. - 29	32 (includes livestream)
November 28, 8 a.m. – 20, 10:15 a.m. - 42	not available
December 5, 8 a.m. – 30, 10:15 a.m. - 40	14 (includes livestream)
December 12, 8 a.m. – 17, 10:15 a.m. - 74	not available
December 19, 8 a.m. – 36, 10:15 a.m. – 40	26

(There are currently 71 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 176 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in November: \$14,323.77

Expenses to General Fund in November: \$13,674.64

Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of November: \$149,525.12

Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of November: \$173,697.74

Air Conditioning Fund Total as of December 19: \$76.00