

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



Annual Congregational Meeting, Luncheon – February 4, 2024

Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting, 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.

Committee Reports for the Bulletin of Reports are due to Pastor Peter by January 7.

Upcoming Worship Services

December 31 - One service at 9 a.m. Also, there is no Christian Education on this Sunday.

January 7 – Regular worship schedule resumes with services at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Christian Education resume at 9 a.m.

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!



Next Adult Forum is in February

There will be no adult forum in January. The Adult Forum will resume on Sun. Feb. 18 at 9 am.

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup, Sun. Jan. 14 at 9 AM in the Nursery



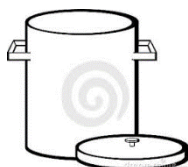
“Praise Parade”

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!

Upcoming: Sunday, Feb. 11 at 9 a.m.: “Jesus Loves You”

Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Port Charlotte, FL, April 28 - May 4 Next Planning Meeting is Sun. Jan. 7, 2 PM at Luther Acres

Interested in participating in the upcoming Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Port Charlotte (Ft. Myers area), Florida on April 28 - May 4, 2024? This area was devastated by Hurricane Ian in September of 2022, and our mission trip participants will be fixing houses that were flooded. A group from local Lutheran congregations, including Muddy Creek, will be flying down to Fort Myers with mission trip organizer Pastor Glenn Beard. The participants will be staying in two bunkhouses at Wintergarden Presbyterian Church in Port Charlotte. Because of the sleeping accommodations, the group will be limited in size to 16 women and 16 men. So sign up early if you are interested! The roster will be finalized in early February. If you are interested in going on the trip, email Pastor Beard at GBeard@luthercare.org to get forms to register. And come to the next planning meeting on January 7th at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz.



“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!

Lenten Services begin in February

Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service at Muddy Creek on Wednesday, Feb. 14 (also known as Valentine's Day) at 7:00 p.m.

Our cluster Lenten Services, following the theme of "Open My Life, Lord" 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 21, 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.

Planning for Future Committee Will Be Making Recommendations

The Planning for the Future Committee is having its concluding meetings in early January, and will be presenting a summary and recommendations to the Church Council at the Council's January 10th meeting. The Council will then discuss the summary and recommendations in depth at the Church Council meeting on February 7th. The presentation to the congregation will take place at a forum on a Sunday morning in March. Thank you, committee, for all your hard work!



Peter's Porch Collection

The Food Collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, Jan. 7, 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 2024 Offering Envelopes 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 2024 envelopes. Reminder: Your mailbox is below your name.

Thank You Notes

Thank you Muddy Creek Congregation for the cards, prayers and for the home visit from Pastor Peter during my recent knee surgery in November. - Jim Weber

Thank you, Muddy Creek congregation, for the cards, prayers and the goodie bag delivered by Pastor Peter filled with ice cream and snacks during my outpatient surgery in September. - Cole Dimitris

Many thanks to those from Peace and Muddy Creek churches who helped with the Veteran's Wreath project, including financial contributions, hands-on volunteering, providing use of equipment, and cleaning up. Fourteen people arrived early Saturday morning Dec. 9 to tie red ribbons on 245 wreaths and place them on a trailer to take to the cemetery. The task of wiring the ribbons on the bows was completed in a record time of 1/2 hour! The Adamstown Troop 61 Boy Scouts and Cub Pack boys and their participating parents retired the old flag and placed a new flag on the cemetery flag pole. After a brief ceremony, the wreaths were placed on the veterans' graves by the scouts. - Judy Nichol

Thank you to all who brought gifts and items in for our Christmas Caring Tree Project. The gifts were brought to women and children at the Good Samaritan Shelter in Ephrata.

Thank you to all who helped set up and decorate the church for Advent and Christmas! Thank you to Jane Wenger for coordinating the effort, to Tim Fritz for organizing the putting up of the pew candles and for filling the candles with oil, to Jim Weber for donating the Christmas trees again this year, to all who donated poinsettias to make the church look lovely for Christmas, and to all who helped take down the decorations. Many thanks!

On behalf of Good Samaritan Services and the individuals and families we serve, I would like to thank you for your recent donation of a TV and wall mount. - Mandy Ramos, Director of Community Engagement, Good Samaritan Services

Condolences

Our condolences to the family of Bob Stork (father-in-law of our church administrative assistant, Linda Mohn). Bob passed away on Dec. 4, and his funeral service was on Dec. 15.

Attendance

| Worship Attendance | Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook | |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| November 19, 8 a.m. – 15, 10:15 a.m. - 64 | 51 | (includes livestream) |
| November 26, 8 a.m. – 19, 10:15 a.m. - 46 | 25 | (includes livestream) |
| December 3, 8 a.m. – 29, 10:15 a.m. - 49 | 41 | (includes livestream) |
| December 10, 8 a.m. – 19, 10:15 a.m. - 60 | 24 | (includes livestream) |
| December 17, 8 a.m. – 24, 10:15 a.m. - 57 | 39 | (includes livestream) |
| December 24, 8 a.m. - 20, 10:15 a.m. - 62 | 40 | (includes livestream) |
| December 24, Christmas Eve: 4:30 p.m. - 117, 10:30 p.m. - 79, | 72 | (includes livestream) |

(There are currently 90 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 205 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in November: \$19,600.88
 Expenses to General Fund in November: \$20,735.81
 Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of November: \$160,956.40
 Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of November: \$188,716.29

Worship Helpers in January

- Jan. 7, 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
 10:15 am Acolyte and Communion Assistant – Mason Sheaffer
 10:15 am Lay Reader – Brad Rauch
 10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper
 10:15 am Money Counters - Brenda Berger, Judy Nichol, Audrey Noll
 Bread Baker - Marliese Smith
- Jan. 14, 10:15 am Acolyte -
 10:15 am Lay Reader - Fred Hainley
 10:15 am Cantor - Pastor Peter
 10:15 am Money Counters - Ray and Susan Sweigart
- Jan. 21, 10:15 am Acolyte -
 10:15 am Lay Reader -
 10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig
 10:15 am Money Counters - Linda Gerhart, Hollie Kemper
- Jan. 28, 10:15 am Acolyte - Jack Lammey
 10:15 am Lay Reader -
 10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare
 10:15 am Money Counters - June and Neal Leid