

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



From the Pastor: What is Your Faith Statement?

After hearing the Confirmands movingly share their Faith Statements with us when they were confirmed on May 23, I suggested in my sermon the following week that any of us could go home and try our hand at writing our own “Faith Statement”. It would be an interesting exercise, I offered, for any of us to put down on paper how we have experienced God in our lives.

Dave Sensenig from our congregation did so, and he recently graciously shared his Faith Statement with me and is allowing me to share it with you. So here is Dave’s Faith Statement. I hope that it inspires faith in you as you experience God on your own spiritual journey during life. Thank you, Dave!

My Creed by David Sensenig

The most important thing in life is to love God and others. I think of God as the perfect parent. God’s laws are meant to instruct us. They are goals to which we should aspire. They point out our sins. If we follow God’s laws, we will be blessed, for we will be doing what is best for us.

Be thankful and grateful at all times for everything God has given us. We are all selfish by nature. We must first admit this is true and then strive to become unselfish. We cannot do this apart from God. Our example is Jesus.

No one is perfect. We all stand in need of forgiveness. We all need to forgive. God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, forgives all who believe. We do not have the authority to judge others; that authority belongs to God.

God has given us all unique abilities. If we discover those abilities, develop them, and use them for God and others, we will find our purpose. God has given us all freedom of choice. Do not abuse that freedom; use it wisely. Choose life.

Regular Worship Format Returns starting July 4th, Masks Optional

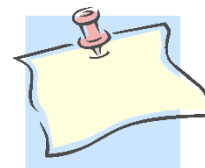
Beginning Sunday, July 4th, our regular worship format resumes. The 8:00 a.m. service will be a shorter, spoken service with no singing. This service is also suitable for anyone at increased risk of CoVid since there is no singing. The 9:00 a.m. service will use the liturgy, have singing and pipe organ music. The red hymnals are also returning to the pew racks.

Anyone can feel free to wear a mask at either service, but masks will no longer be required, as per the Governor’s lifting of most mask restrictions.

On the first Sunday of the month, we will be having communion at two stations in the front of the sanctuary, with a “reduced contact” method, receiving a wafer at one station, and then taking a glass of wine (already filled) from the tray at the next station. Communion will be brought over to anyone wishing to remain in their pews due to restricted mobility. If, for CoVid safety reasons, you wish to communion in your pew using the pre-filled wafer-and-grape juice communion sets that we have used for the last few months, that option is also available. This method is also an option for those who prefer grape juice for any reason.

Worship will continue to be livestreamed at 9 a.m. and posted on our church website and Muddy Creek YouTube Channel.

News and Notes



Elevator Project Update

The work on the Elevator Project is continuing furiously, and the elevator may possibly be operational by the end of July! Work on the entire project will continue in August, with the construction of a ramp for the new Fellowship Hall door, an awning over the ramp, door security installation, and stonework finishing on the elevator addition.

Donations to the Elevator Fund are still greatly appreciated with these extra expenses coming in. A huge **thank you** to all those in the congregation who have given so generously to the Elevator Fund, donating over \$220,000 to date to make the project possible!

Synod Assembly Update

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly was held recently on June 4th and 5th. It was held online virtually due to CoVid, and Will Wood and Pastor Peter were the voting delegates from our congregation. The Lower Susquehanna Synod consists of 239 Lutheran congregations from 9 counties in Central Pennsylvania, including the areas near Harrisburg, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Carlisle, Chambersburg and Gettysburg. It is one of the largest of 65 synods of our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Here are the highlights from the recent Synod Assembly.

*Bishop James Dunlop gave opening remarks addressing the decline in membership, attendance and giving across our synod and denomination. He urged congregations to think creatively, especially in the area of social ministry and cooperation between congregations.

*Elected Jennifer Lau of York as the Synod Vice-President (who is the chairperson of the Synod Council) and re-elected Joseph Stepansky as Synod Treasurer.

*Passed many amendments to the Synod constitution and bylaws.

*Elected many people to Synod Committees, and elected many others to represent our synod at the upcoming ELCA national assembly in August of 2022 in Columbus, Ohio.

Daily Devotional Books Available in Inside Racks

Free copies of the “Christ in our Home” daily devotional books (large-print and regular print) are available and are now located in the racks in the entrances to the sanctuary. The booklets for June through August are available. Help yourself to the latest copy.



Peter's Porch Collection

Thank you to all who continue 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 placed in the collection bins at the sanctuary entrances.

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, peanut butter. Monetary donations also appreciated.

Altar Flower Sign-Ups Have Resumed

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.

Thank You's

Thanks to everyone that took the time to send a card or letter to my mother, Betty Ramsey for her 94th birthday! She thoroughly enjoyed reading each and every one! I personally can't thank you enough for how much this means to her and our family to see the joy on her face when she reads and re-reads the cards from her friends at Muddy Creek. God Bless you all! Many Thanks!
Julie Ramsey Emrhein.

New Members

Welcome to our newest members, Patricia and Severin Yerger, who joined Muddy Creek on June 27th. Pat and Sev moved from Lititz to the Adamstown area three years ago, and we are delighted that they are now fellow members. Welcome Sev and Pat!

Attendance

Worship Attendance	8 a.m.	9 a.m.	Views on YouTube and Facebook
May 30	21	47	41 (includes livestream)
June 6	29	49	19 (includes livestream)
June 13	20	60	17 (includes livestream)
June 20	25	65	18 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 73 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 166 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page)

Offering

Received in General Fund in May: \$14,011.57, Expenses to General Fund in May: \$15,131.56

Income to General Fund year to date through May: \$62,127.06

Expenses to General Fund year to date through May: \$73,085.04

Received in Elevator Fund as of June 20: \$220,053.79 (Donations to the Elevator Fund are still being gratefully accepted, since additional expenses will be coming)

Money Counter Schedule (all other Worship Helpers resume Sept. 12)

July 4 – Linda Gerhart, Gloria Aseli

July 11 – Lesia and Matthew Aungst, Kim Eshleman

July 18 – June and Neal Leid,

July 25 – David and June Sloat