

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



Cluster Lenten Services for 2023

The theme this year for our Lutheran Cluster Lenten Services is “Turning Toward God’s Abundance”. All services are at 7 p.m., and they will also be available online. The offering will go to the conference Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Houston, Texas, April 16-22. Checks may be made out to North Lancaster Conference Dean’s Fund).

Wed. March 1, 7 p.m.: Pastor Jim Goodyear will be preaching at Faith United, Denver. Theme: Faithfulness – Luke 15:11-23 (The Temptation of Jesus). Faith United will also stream the service on their YouTube channel (youtube.com, faithunitedevangelicalluth3864).

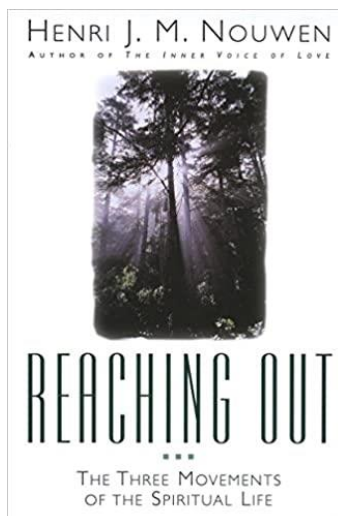
Wed. March 8, 7 p.m.: Pastor Marissa Becklin will be preaching at St. Paul’s, Adamstown. Theme: Mercy – Luke 13:31-35 (Lament over Jerusalem). St. Paul’s will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - St. Paul’s Lutheran, Adamstown, PA).

Wed. March 15, 7 p.m.: Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry will be preaching at Bergstrasse, Ephrata. Theme: Compassion – Luke 13:1-9 (The Barren Fig Tree). Bergstrasse will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - Bergstrasse Lutheran Church).

Wed. March 22, 7 p.m.: Pastor Scott Brubaker will be preaching at Muddy Creek, Denver. Theme: Forgiveness – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (The Prodigal Son). We will also stream the service on our YouTube channel (youtube.com, muddycreeklutherande4004).

Wed. March 29, 7 p.m.: Pastor Sandy Gideon will be preaching at Mellingers, Schoeneck. Theme: Love – John 12:1-8 (Mary Anoints Jesus). Mellingers will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church).

Thurs. May 18, 7 p.m., Ascension Day: Pastor Tim Craven will be preaching at Swamp, Reinholds for the Cluster Ascension Service.



Muddy Creek’s Lenten Book Study – “Reaching Out” by Henri Nouwen

Our Lenten Book Study this year is on Reaching Out: The Three Movements of Spiritual Life by Henri Nouwen. It will be on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The dates are: March 5 (Reaching Out to our Innermost Self – Chapters 1-3), March 12 (Reaching Out to our Fellow Human Beings – Chapters 4-6) and March 26 (Reaching Out to our God – Chapters 7-9). Free copies of the book are available already for the first 20 people who sign up. Other free copies will be ordered for people who sign up after that. You may also read the book on your own, if you wish. Sign up on the clipboard by the mailboxes, or email peter@mclchurch.org.

Community Easter Egg Hunt at Muddy Creek Returns on April 2! Now Gratefully Collecting Easter Egg Hunt Donations!

After not being able to be held for several years due to CoVid, Muddy Creek's Community Easter Egg Hunt will return to our Grove on Palm Sunday, April 2 at 11:30 a.m.! Any donations of empty plastic eggs and small wrapped candy that can be used to fill plastic eggs would be greatly appreciated! Starting Feb. 26, donations can be brought to church and placed in the tub near the mailboxes. The deadline to bring in the donations is March 26. Let your friends and neighbors know about the Egg Hunt!



Easter Flowers – Order Deadline is March 26

Beginning Sunday, March 5th, Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary (and take home after the Easter services) can be ordered with the form in the newsletter or bulletin, by contacting the church office (office@mcchurch.org, 717-336-2770), or by contacting Jane Wenger (717-471-0556). The cost for lilies (white, 3-4 blooms) is \$8.00, daffodils (6.5 inch pot) is \$6.00, and tulips (6 inch pot) is \$6.00. Checks can be made out to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, with "Easter Flowers" written on the notation. The deadline to order is Sunday March 26th.

Snack Item Collection for College Students and Military Members Begins March 5th, Ends March 26th

Beginning Sunday March 5th, we will be collecting snack items to send to college students and military service members from our congregation. Snack items may include cookies, chips, candies or crackers. Donations can be placed in the marked bins at any of the entrances. If you know of any student or service member to add to our list, please contact Jane Wenger (717-471-0556). The deadline to contribute is March 26th. Thanks!



Easter Yard Signs

The Evangelism Committee has prepared yard signs advertising Easter services at Muddy Creek. Please consider using these in your lawn as a way to let the community know about our Easter Services and invite them to attend. Signs may be picked up from the church beginning Sunday, March 5. Thank you for your help in spreading the news about services!



Peter's Porch Collection

The next food collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, March 5, 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.)

Prayer Shawl Dedication – March 12

We will be dedicating Prayer Shawls at both services on Sunday, March 12. Come and pick up a shawl for anyone you know who is going through a difficult time and might be able to benefit from our prayers and the warm embrace of God as they are wrapped in a shawl knitted by our Muddy Creek's Prayer Shawl knitters. We will have a Dedication of Prayer Shawls every month in 2023, and shawls will be available then or on any Sunday (just ask Pastor Peter for help to get one for someone).

The Prayer Shawl Knitters from Muddy Creek meet twice a month at 6:30 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Yvonne Weaver's house. Upcoming dates are Mar. 14 and 28. Please contact Yvonne Weaver at 717-371-6453 if you are interested in knitting.



Help Make Blankets for Lutheran World Relief – March 26th

On Sunday, March 26 after both services, you are invited to help make blankets to send to Lutheran World Relief. We will tie two pieces of fleece together to make each blanket, which will then be sent to people in need in the developing world, to Ukrainian refugees or to those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Come help put the love of God into action!



Upcoming Holy Week and Easter Services and Events

- *Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday Services at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., followed by the Community Easter Egg Hunt in our Grove at 11:30 a.m.
- *Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7 p.m.
- *Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.
- *Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunrise Service outdoors at 6:30 a.m. in the Cemetery
 - Easter Communion Services at 7:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
 - Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup March 19: Jesus is Alive

Celebrate the Easter theme with the story of Jesus' resurrection, and an Easter parade, on Sunday, March 19 at 9 a.m. in the nursery. All families with little ones are invited! Friends, too!

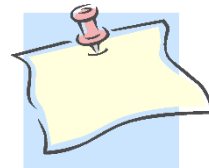
Upcoming: Sunday, April 2 at 11:30 a.m. in our Church Grove - Community Easter Egg Hunt
There will be a special area for toddlers and preschoolers.

Sunday School on Sunday Mornings at 9 a.m.

All Sunday School children are invited to come to Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the Sunday School rooms.

Upcoming Confirmation Zoom Gatherings

- March 2 – Confirmation Zoom Gathering
- March 16 – Confirmation Zoom Gathering
- March 30 – Final Confirmation Zoom Gathering
- Sunday, May 14 at both services – Confirmation Day

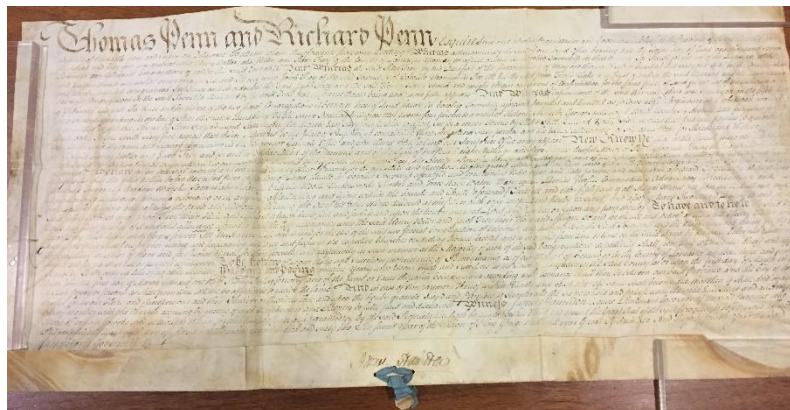


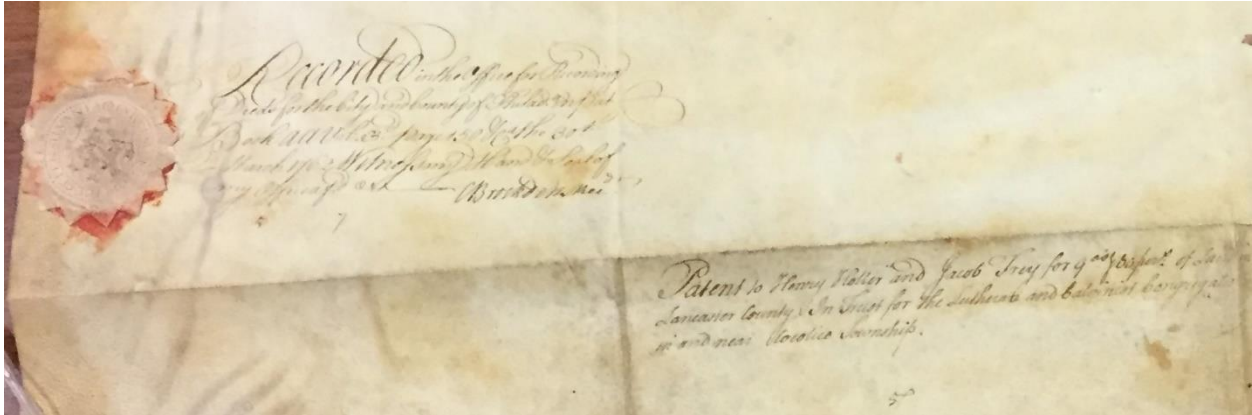
News and Notes

Muddy Creek's Historic 1744 Deed from the Sons of William Penn

In 1744, Muddy Creek Church officially bought the nine and a half acres which became the grounds for the church, the cemetery and the grove. Muddy Creek purchased and was deeded the site from the two sons of William Penn, Thomas and Richard Penn, for the sum of one pound, eight shillings, and eleven pence. Jacob Fry of the Lutheran congregation and Henry Haller of the Reformed congregation signed the deed. Even though the land was bought in 1744, the deed was not actually recorded and delivered until March 30, 1762 - 18 years later. The dates of both the deeding and the recording exist on the actual deed.

Below are two pictures of the parchment deed photographed by Pastor Peter at Lancaster History when he recently went there. (The purpose of that visit was also to deliver, on behalf of the congregation, our historic church record book which had previously been kept in our safety deposit box. That church ledger was begun in 1733 by the very first pastor of Muddy Creek, Johann Stoever, in his own handwriting.) Here are the pictures of the deed (see our website also):





Please Help with Grove and Outdoor Clean Up on March 25!



To prepare for the Community Easter Egg Hunt in our Grove on Palm Sunday, we will be having a clean up of all the fallen wood and leaves in the Grove on Saturday, March 25 from 8-11 a.m. We will also clean up around the outside of the church. Please come for some or all of the time, we could really use your help! Bring your own rake. We especially need vehicles with trailers to help haul the debris over to the yard waste recycling center. For questions, please contact Tim Fritz at 717-335-0776.

Thank You Notes

I want to thank everyone for your thoughts and your prayers. Thank you also for bringing me food and taking me to appointments. I really appreciate it. Fondly, Gloria Aseli



This note and picture was received in response to the Stockings for Soldiers gifts and prayer squares which we sent out last November: "Good Morning from Niger. Thank you for the gifts. We appreciate the support! As you can see in the picture, we have enjoyed your gift by displaying it and reminding us of home. Sincerely, Lt. Col. Michael Curtis, USAF Commander, stationed in the country of Niger, Africa"

Card Shower for Dorothy Beam

On April 10th, Dorothy Beam will be turning 89. Her friends would like to have a “card shower” for her. Birthday cards may be sent to Dorothy Beam, 406 Spring Drive, Millersville, PA 17551.

Money Collected on Super Bowl Sunday for World Hunger

On Super Bowl Sunday, the congregation collected \$309.83 for World Hunger. This is part of the “Soup-er Bowl of Caring”, and the collected money was sent to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you to all who contributed!!

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 \$45 to sponsor altar flowers or \$15 to sponsor bulletins. Call the church office at 717-336-2770 if you have any questions.

Offering

Received through end of January: \$13,799.20 Expenses through January: \$19,394.51

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
January 29, 8 a.m. – 23, 10:15 a.m. - 67	61 (includes livestream)
February 5, 8 a.m. – 18, 10:15 a.m. – 49	55 (includes livestream)
February 12, 8 a.m. – 25, 10:15 a.m. – 63	49 (includes livestream)
February 19, 8 a.m. – 20, 10:15 a.m. – 62	56 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 83 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 193 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Worship Helpers in March

March 5	8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland	Bread Baker - Marliese Smith
	10:15 am Acolyte and Communion Assistant – Zach Sheaffer	
	10:15 am Lay Reader – Lynn Breidenstein	10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman
	10:15 am Money Counters - Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle	
March 12	10:15 am Acolyte -	10:15 am Lay Reader - Will Wood
	10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper	10:15 am Money Counters - Jeanette and Mike Leid
March 19	10:15 am: Acolyte - Jack Lammey, Lay Reader - Doris Rauch, Cantor - Pastor Peter	
	10:15 am Money Counters - Marie Buohl, Connie Hoover, David Sensenig	
March 26	10:15 am Acolyte - Mason Sheaffer	10:15 am Lay Reader - Brenda Berger
	10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig	10:15 am Money Counters - Brad and Doris Rauch

Church Humor – Bulletin Bloopers

The following are mistakes in some church's bulletins (not ours, thankfully). These errors are colloquially called "Bulletin Bloopers":

The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Allen, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Belser.

The title of the sermon this morning is "Gossip – The Speaking of Evil".
The closing hymn is "I Love to Tell the Story".

Church Rummage Sale: This is a good opportunity to get rid of anything not worth keeping but too good to throw away. Don't forget your husband.

Reverend Merriweather spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

Barbara remains in the hospital. She is having trouble sleeping and has requested tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

The "Over-60's Choir" will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they can be seen in the church basement Friday afternoon.

Jean Thompson will be leading a Weight Management series on Wednesday nights. She has used the program herself and is growing like crazy!

This Sunday night's lesson is the seventh in Pastor William's series on the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not admit adultery".

The Church Dinner was like heaven. Many we expected were absent.

The Correspondence Committee will be mailing the newsletter and stapling the Annual Report to the members of the congregation.

Announcement for the National Prayer and Fasting Conference: "The cost of attending the Prayer and Fasting Conference includes all meals".

Ben Benson and Jessica Carter were married yesterday afternoon in the church sanctuary. Thus ends a friendship that began in their school years.

Easter Flowers

If you wish to order any flowers to decorate the church on Easter, please give the money and order form to Jane Wenger, or put the money and form in an envelope and place it in the offering box (or you may mail your order in to the church office with your check.) Lilies, Tulips and Daffodils are available. **Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 26.**



Cost is: \$6.00 per 6.5” pot of Daffodils
 \$6.00 per 6” pot (5-6 bulbs) of Tulips
 \$8.00 per pot of Lilies(white) (3-4 blooms per pot)

Checks are preferred (please note on check “Easter Flowers”) but, if you choose to use cash, exact amount of money is needed.

1 order per form, please

YOUR NAME: _____

Number and type of plants: #_____ Type _____

If you would like “in honor of” or “in memory of” included in the bulletin, please fill in the appropriate lines.

In honor of _____

by _____

(optional)

In memory of _____

by _____

(optional)

Do not include in bulletin _____

Any questions, please contact Jane Wenger @ jlwredjet@gmail.com or (717) 471-0556

****All flowers ordered can be picked up following the service.**

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