

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

www.mclchurch.org

717-336-2770



From the Pastors

Poetry as an Expression of Faith

*“One morning I woke with a dream in my head
And a message from God—this is what He said:
I formed the stars and the galaxies
I placed them all just where I want them to be
The oceans below and the mountains above
Are signs of the depth and the height of My love
I have a purpose and I have a plan
And I hold it all in the palm of My hand.”*

- excerpt from the poem, “The Palm of His Hand”, by David Sensenig

POETRY

November 2019

Inside this issue:

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Special points of interest:

- Community Thanksgiving Hymn Sing
- Fall Clean-up Day
- Winter Youth Retreat
- Poinsettia Orders
- Help Serve Community Meal
- Stockings for Soldiers
- Adult Forum on Poetry as an Expression of Faith
- Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Worship Helper Schedule

On Sunday, November 24 at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, we will have a special Adult Forum entitled “Poetry as an Expression of Faith”. It will feature the poetry of Dave Sensenig, a Muddy Creek member and poet. Pastor Peter will also speak about the ways poetry is used to convey faith.

Poetry has always been a special and emotional way to share feelings and insights from the honest depths of one’s soul, using the power of language in beautiful, creative and often surprising ways. The Bible is filled with poetry, including the entire book of Psalms, the Song of Solomon, passages in Isaiah and other prophets, and poems contained within the letters of Paul. Every hymn we sing in church, or any song, really, is simply poetry set to music. The poetry of famous poets such as George Herbert, Gerard Manley Hopkins, John Donne, Mary Evans and Henry Vaughan, are filled with moving expressions of faith. In the same manner has the faith of countless people, such as Dave Sensenig, been expressed through poetry for countless centuries.

We hope that you can make it to this special Adult Forum.

I want to close with a poem brought to light after the recent death of U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings, whose parents were Baptist pastors. In his very first speech on the floor of the U.S. Capitol 23 years ago, Mr. Cummings recited the poem “God’s Minute” by Dr. Benjamin Hays. It goes, “*I only have a minute. Sixty seconds in it. Forced upon me, I did not choose it, But I know that I must use it. Give account, if I abuse it. Suffer, if I lose it. Only a tiny minute, But eternity is in it.*”

Does poetry ever speak to the honest depth of your soul? See you on the 24th!

Upcoming Worship Notes

*Sunday, Nov. 3 - All Saints’ Day : An opportunity to light candles and remember those who have died during the last year since last All Saints’ Day.

From Muddy Creek we will remember:

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Brenda Lausch | Nov. 29, 2018 | Clayton Lausch | Apr. 27, 2019 |
| Christopher Riggie | Dec. 4, 2018 | Catherine (Cassie) Kochel | Apr. 30, 2019 |
| John Weaver | Jan. 25, 2019 | Ralph Bearinger | May 3, 2019 |
| Donald Busser | Jan. 29, 2019 | Mary DeFrees | May 25, 2019 |
| James Kuhlman | Feb. 23, 2019 | Minetta (Mickey) Jones | July 22, 2019 |
| Mary Beck | Mar. 30, 2019 | Joanne Schenskie | Sept. 30, 2019 |

*Sunday, Nov. 24, 3 p.m. - Community Thanksgiving Service and Hymn Sing at Peace U.C.C. Church, 37 E. Swartzville Rd., Denver. Choirs from Muddy Creek, Peace, and St. Paul will be singing joint anthems as well.

Upcoming Events



Community Thanksgiving Service and Hymn Sing

Sun. November 24, 3:00 p.m.

You are invited to our joint Community Thanksgiving Service and Hymn Sing on Sunday, November 24 at 3 p.m. at Peace U.C.C. Church, 37 East Swartzville Rd., Denver. A joint choir from Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church and Peace U.C.C. will perform, and everyone from these congregations as well as the entire community is invited to come out to celebrate Thanksgiving. This event is replacing the joint Thanksgiving Eve service which the three congregations had celebrated in the past. The Hymn Sing is wonderful way to give thanks for all of our blessings!

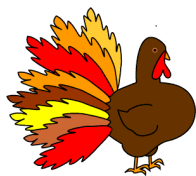


All Saints Day Sunday, Nov. 3 at both services

Everyone is invited to the yearly All Saints Sunday on Nov. 3. At both services, we will toll the bell as we remember those from our congregation who have died since last November. Family members are especially invited. We will also offer the opportunity for everyone who has ever lost a loved one or friend, to come forward and light a candle in their memory as we say their name.

Don't miss this special Sunday as we remember and give thanks for all the saints whom we still carry in our hearts.

Muddy Creek Serves Community Thanksgiving Meal in Denver



On Thursday, November 14 at 5:00 p.m, Muddy Creek Lutheran Church's Social Ministry Committee will serve the Community Thanksgiving Meal at Trinity United Methodist Church, 420 Main St., Denver. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Nancy Beck at 717-475-3234 or nancybeck120@gmail.com.



Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

On Thurs. Nov. 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. a free community Thanksgiving Meal will be offered to all at the Ephrata Business Center, 400 W. Main St. No reservations necessary. Take out meals offered beginning at 11:30 a.m. This meal is sponsored by local churches and businesses. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, call 717-336-2512.

Stockings for Soldiers Collection Until Sunday, November 10

We are taking up a collection for the Stocking for Soldiers Program through the Keystone Military Families. Our Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring the collection. Items may be dropped off at the church until Nov. 10.

Items needed are Monetary Donations to cover shipping (make checks payable to Keystone Military Families and indicate "Stockings for Soldiers shipping"), power bars, cereal bars, trail mix, energy drinks, candy canes, current releases of CD's and DVD's, ground or instant coffee, hot chocolate or hot cider, sunflower seeds, nuts, individual snack packets of crackers and cookies, small plastic jars of peanut butter or jelly, small sewing kits, manicure kits, sunscreen and insect repellent, lip balm with sunscreen, travel size of deodorant, small packages of aspirin or Tylenol and cold medicine, vitamins, Odor Eaters for boots, Dr. Scholl's foot pads and blister pads for boots, men's and women's socks (calf-high, black or white), hand and foot warmers, thermal gloves, and glove liners.

Additionally, you are invited to a Christmas Card Signing event at the Ephrata Rec Center on Sun. Nov. 3rd from 12-3 p.m. Please come for fellowship and the signing of Christmas cards to be sent with the stockings. You can bring your own cards or just sign the provided cards. Please do not seal the envelopes as all cards must be checked before sending to our military.

Also, our Prayer Shawl Knitting Group has been busy since the beginning of summer knitting prayer squares to be included with the stockings. Thank you to them and to all from the congregation who have been volunteering to tie on the tags. The Prayer Squares will be dedicated at our services on Nov. 10.

Questions, please contact Judy Dengler, denglerj@ptd.net, 717-484-2082.

Upcoming Events



Fall Property Clean Up Saturday November 23 8 a.m. to noon

Your help is needed to clean up the leaves from the grove and outside of our church property on Sat. November 23, beginning at 8 a.m. or whenever you can make it. Children, youth and adults are all invited to come and help. Trailers are very much needed. Lunch will be served at noon. Please bring your own rake or leaf blower.

If you cannot make the date but are willing to fill up bags with leaves on your own schedule (and put them under the pavilion), please contact Walter Buohl. 717-445-6060, and we will give you free trash bags.

Confirmation Gatherings



Youth in grades 5-8 are invited to attend mid-week gatherings at the church. Friends always welcome!

This month's Wednesday Gatherings, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

- Wed. November 6—Confirmation Gathering
- Wed. November 20—Confirmation Gathering

Confirmation Parent's Class

- Sun. November 3, 9:00 am

Jesus 'n Me Parent/Child Group Monthly Sunday Mornings 9:00 am 0—4 year olds

Come join the fun in this interactive experience for parents and children (grandparents, or other adults are welcome with their little ones too!). Pastor Peter will lead everyone in simple songs, stories, activities, parachute play, puppets, and more.



November meeting: November 17

Theme: "Thanksgiving: Thank you God for Food"



Winter Youth Retreat- Jan. 3-5 at Camp Kirchenwald

All youth in the Confirmation Program are invited to sign up by the deadline of Sunday, Dec. 1st for the Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Kirchenwald on Jan. 3-5. The cost is only \$95 (Muddy Creek will be subsidizing the other \$50 of the cost). The retreat is being run by the Kirchenwald staff. Please contact Pastor Peter for any questions.

Congregational Budget Meeting Sunday, December 8, 11:15 a.m.

The Congregational Meeting to vote on the 2020 budget and to elect Church Council members and Cemetery Board members will be on Sunday, December 8, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. There will be a budget hearing for anyone with questions about the budget on Sun. Dec. 1 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



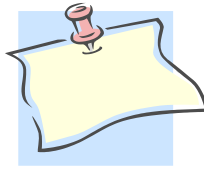
Poinsettias

The deadline for ordering red or white poinsettias (5 buds each) to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season is Sunday, December 1. The cost is \$6.65 each and they may be given in honor or in memory of someone. Forms are available at the church, or you may call the office to place your order.

Christmas Eve Lawn Signs



Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Christmas Eve services! Beginning Dec. 1, the Evangelism Committee will be handing out yard signs which list the times of Christmas Eve services at Muddy Creek. All are invited to take one to put up on your lawn. Questions, contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886 or bergerb@dejazzd.com.



News and Notes

I want to thank Pastor Peter for visiting me while I was in the hospital, and also for the congregation's cards and kind thoughts. They meant so much to me.—Susan Seigel

Thank you for the prayers, calls and cards during my recent surgery. God is good and has been by my side. And he will continue to do so. Again, many thanks.—Peggy Leid

Thanks to the Muddy Creek Shawl Gang for the beautiful shawl. Sam loved the color blue. In fact, it was our favorite color. A lot of work, love and time must have gone into making this shawl. Thanks so much for your kindness. Love and prayers, Dory Hainley.

Our sympathy to the family of Joanne Schenskie, who died on September 30th. Funeral was October 7.

Congratulations to Michelle Dengler and Jay Tarkentin, who were married in the Grove on October 13th.

Congratulations to Pastor Bob Kramer, who celebrates the 15th Anniversary of his Ordination on November 7th.

News: We are now collecting pop tabs to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities. Thrivent is sponsoring this challenge. Tabs can be placed in the boxes at the entrances to the sanctuary. Questions, please contact Carolyn Kramer

Offering Envelope and Year End Giving Statement Information

Giving Statements for 2019: Anyone wishing to receive a giving statement who did not receive one in the past should contact Nedra Bearinger at 717-336-7444 before January 1, 2020 in order to receive one.

2020 Envelopes: These will be available in your mailbox in the annex beginning Sunday, Dec. 1st. 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.

Simply Giving Program: This is an option, used by a number of households at Muddy Creek, 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 in the top right corner. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy and can be done by using forms available in the money counting room following worship each Sunday.

Bill Pay From Your Bank: Please also consider using your bank's online bill pay option to give offering.

Council and Committee Highlights

Church Council

- The council reviewed the proposed 2020 congregational budget as presented by the Finance Committee. The council also discussed the size of church council. Both of these items will receive final review at the November council meeting.

Social Ministry

- Thank you to everyone who gave food items and helped pack up for Harvest Home Sunday, and to Jeanette Lied for designing and creating the beautiful display. The food went to Peter's Porch.

Property

- The repair of the water leak in the bell tower was successfully completed. The church doors are now due to be installed the week of Nov. 11th.

November Birthdays

A Special Happy Birthday to our "Over 80" Members

| | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Charles Frantz | 17 | Charles Leid | |
| 2 | Joanne Saylor | | John Bearinger | November 1, Charles Frantz, 81 |
| | Sara Frazer | | Brenda Hinden Shreiner | P.O. Box 91 |
| 4 | Chris Killian | 18 | Pat Brendle | Terre Hill, PA 17581 |
| | Peyton Rideout | | Daniel Witmer | |
| 5 | Beth Witmer | | Collin Engle | November 2, Sara Frazer, 86 |
| | Brad Rauch | 19 | Natalie Frankfort | Keystone Villas at Ephrata |
| 7 | Rory Hassler | | Chris Steinman | Apt. 105, 100 N. State Street |
| 8 | Sharon Roth | 20 | Phil Webber | Ephrata, PA 17522 |
| | Alyson Becker | | Adrienne Becker | November 15, Larry Shober, 80 |
| 9 | Bradley Fry | | Geoff Bentz | 9 Debra Circle |
| | Caryn Pirolo | 21 | Stephanie Spangler | Ephrata, PA 17522 |
| | Scott Moyer | 22 | Doug Haines | |
| 10 | Earl Nussbaum | | Gracie Bentz | November 16, Charmaine Wenrich, 88 |
| | Katie Brooks | 23 | Teresa Fritz | 235 Vera Cruz Road |
| 11 | Chris Steinman | 25 | Joan Shimp | Reinholds, PA 17569 |
| 12 | Edwin Blatt | 26 | Harold Weinhold | November 17, Charles Leid, 81 |
| | Adler Eshleman | | Barbara Ruth | 12 Jason Ave |
| | Stephen Staudt | | Michael Lausch | Denver, PA 17517 |
| 13 | Jeanette Bubbenmoyer | 27 | Richard Shober | November 20, Philip Weber, 81 |
| | Jolene Weaver | | Tara Wert | 100 San Lino Circle, #133 |
| 14 | Brandi Brinton | | Kayla Gehman | Venice, FL 34292 |
| 15 | Larry Shober | 29 | Ryan Hassler | |
| | Ruth Brossman | 30 | Tim Fritz | November 26, Harold Weinhold, 85 |
| | Vicki Moyer | | Kim Walmer | 503 W. Willow Dr. |
| 16 | Charmaine Wenrich | | | Manheim, PA 17545 |
| | Ausma Buffenmyer | | | |
| | Meghan Shober | | | |
| | Hayden Rideout | | | |



Brenda & Friends Tours

November 2, 2019—Fall at the Bronx Zoo - wait list

November 9, 2019—"The Three Stooges" Christmas Show at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - wait list

November 30, 2019—Maryland Christmas Show—seven buildings of arts, crafts, pottery, furniture, jewelry, clothing, wreaths, garlands, toys and Christmas ornaments

December 7, 2019—Christmas Tour to be announced

December 14, 2019—Mifflinburg Christkindl Market and more

For more info contact Brenda at 717-336-6886, bergerb@dejazzd.com. More info also on hallway table outside church office.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 10, 2019

Worship Helpers

Coffee Ministry

November

- 3 Charles Leid, Greg Gehman, Nedra Bearinger
 10 Millie Shober, Kathleen Ebling
 17 Pat Brendle, Brenda Berger, Leroy Berger
 24 needed

December

- 1 needed
 8 needed
 15 needed
 22 N/A
 29 (9 a.m.) needed

Money Counters

November

- 3 Connie Hoover, Diane Leed
 10 Jere and Joan Shimp
 19 Marie and Walter Buohl, John Schutter
 24 Gloria Aseli, Brenda Berger, Audrey Noll

December

- 1 Sara and Ken Frazer, Pat Brendle
 8 Linda Gerhart, Hollie Kemper, Jim Weber
 15 Lesia and Matt Aungst, Kim Eshleman
 22 June and Neal Leid
 29 (9 a.m.) Dean Lutz, David and June Sloat

Ushers

November

Nov. 3 - Jane Wenger, Julie Emrhein, Terri Meckley, Linda Gerhart, Craig Brossman

Nov. 10, 17, 24 - Walter Buohl, Roy Becker, Will Wood, Laura Vedder, Lilly Garrison, Brenda Hinden

December

Dec. 1 - Mike Leid, Connie Harding, Brad Rauch, Doris Rauch, Diet Aseli

Dec. 8, 15, 22, 24 (4:30 p.m.) - Church Council

Dec. 24 (10:30 p.m.) - Jane Wenger, Julie Emrhein, Terri Meckley, Linda Gerhart, Craig Brossman

Dec. 29 (9:00 a.m) - Church Council



Bulletin and Newsletter Folders

(Thursday unless noted)

November

- 7 Marian and Shorty Weinhold, Joyce Keith
 14 Linda Berger, Nancy Beck
 21 Kathleen Ebling, Brenda Hinden, Sandra Bassett
 27 (Wed) Charles and Janet Frantz

December

- 5 June and Neil Leid
 12 Joyce Litzenberger, Judy Nichol, Betty McMahan
 19 Kathleen Ebling, Charmaine Wenrich, Denise Burkhart
 23 (Mon) Judy Dengler, June Leid, Sandra Bassett

Lay Readers

November

- 3 William Wood
 10 Lynn Breidenstein
 17 Mike Leid
 24 Brenda Berger

December

- 1 Lynn Breidenstein
 7 needed
 15 N/A
 22 Brad Rauch
 29 (9:00 a.m.) Haley Leed

Altar Guild

November Gail and Ted Bare

December Brenda Hinden, Jane Wenger

Worship Helpers

Acolytes

November

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| Nov. 3 | Grace Youndt |
| Nov. 10 | Paige Walzl |
| Nov. 17 | Cole Dimitris |
| Nov. 24 | Brandon Walzl |

December

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Dec. 1 | Cannon Youndt |
| Dec. 8 | Zach Sheaffer |
| Dec. 15 | Sophia Dimitris |
| Dec. 22 | Mason Sheaffer |
| Dec. 24 (4:30 p.m.) | Grace Youndt |
| Dec. 24 (10:30 p.m.) | Paige Walzl |
| Dec. 29 (9:00 a.m.) | Cole Dimitris |

Communion Assistants

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| November 3 | Kelby Weaver |
| December 1 | Sada Aungst |
| December 24 (10:30p.m.) | Kelby Weaver |

Bread Baker

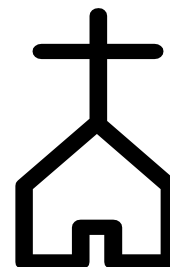
Marliese Smith

Greeters

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| November 3 | Millie Shober |
| December 1 | Phil Ramsey |

Upcoming Events

- December 1, Sunday—Poinsettia Order Deadline, Yards Signs given out, Budget Hearing, Deadline for Youth Retreat
- December 8, Sunday—Congregation Budget Meeting and Elections, St. Nicholas Day in Sunday School, Newsletter Deadline
- December 15, Sunday—Choir Cantata, One Service 10:15 a.m.
- December 18, Wednesday—Youth, Children, and Family Christmas Caroling
- December 24, Tuesday—Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 4:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
- December 29, Sunday—One Service, 9:00 a.m.



Attendance and Giving Report

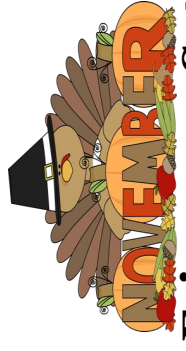
| | Worship | Sunday School |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| September 29 | 106 | |
| October 6 | 115 | |
| October 13 | 86 | 20 |
| October 20 | 88 | 18 |
| | Income | Actual Expenses |
| September | \$16,517.29 | \$14,853.07 |
| Year thru Sept. | \$123,978.94 | \$144,026.72 |
| Elevator Fund as of 10/20/19: | \$111,283.50 | |

November Office Hours

Church Office: Tues & Thurs 9:00 am—11:30 am
 Pastors: Tuesday 9:00 am—11:00 am
 Thursday 9:00 am– 11:00 am
 Additional hours by appointment and at various times throughout the week



November 2019



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Please write your upcoming events on the calendar in the hallway at the church

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|--|---|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 All Saints' Sunday Change Clocks Back 1 hr 8 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Parents | 4 | 5 | 6 6:30 p.m. Confirmation | 7 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:15 p.m. Cantata | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Newsletter D-line Prayer Shawls and Squares Dedication 8 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School | 11 | 12 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering at Yvonne's | 13 7 p.m. Church Council | 14 5:00 Community Meal 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:15 p.m. Cantata | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8 a.m. Worship 10:15 Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. Playgroup | 18 | 19 | 20 9:00 a.m. Pastors' Conference Meeting at Muddy Creek 6:30 p.m. Confirmation | 21 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:15 p.m. Cantata | 22 | 23 8 a.m. Fall Outdoor Clean-up Day w/Lunch served at Noon |
| 24 ----- 8 & 10:15 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. Poetry and Faith 3 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Hymn Sing | 25 | 26 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering at Yvonne's | 27 | 28 THANKSGIVING DAY (Church office closed) | 29 | 30 Note: The Sobriety Sisters meet every Thurs evening at the church. |

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, 11 South Muddy Creek Road, Denver, PA 17517, www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770—for urgent pastoral needs call pastors at 717-598-5095.

Office email: office@mclchurch.org Pastor's email: peter@mclchurch.org

Pastors: Peter Schwabe-Fry
Nancy Schwabe-Fry (on temporary leave)
Administrative Assistant: Linda Mohr
Director of Music: Greg Gehman
Sextons: Mark Saylor, Brenda Berger, Linda Berger

President: Michael Leid
Vice-President: Fred Hamley
Council Secretary: Audrey Noll
Treasurers: Scott Strickland, Gail Bare

