

MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770



All Saints Day - November 6th, 2022

On All Saints Sunday, November 6th, you are invited to come to either the 8:00 a.m. or 10:15 a.m. worship service (or follow the livestream). As is our tradition each All Saints Day, we will be having a special remembrance of all who have passed away since last All Saints Day. As well, we will remember all departed loved ones from any year with the lighting of small individual candles at our place in the pews. Additionally, we will be celebrating Holy Communion. Hope to see you then for this moving and special Sunday of remembrance! Don't forget: this is the Sunday clocks move back one hour as Daylight Savings Time ends.

There will special remembrances for the people who died on following dates:

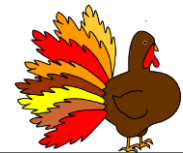
John Schutter – November 11, 2021,	Warren Burkhart – November 15, 2021,
Margaret Kuhlman – December 6, 2021,	Jeffrey Leid, Sr. – Feb. 4, 2022,
John Bordner – March 30, 2022,	Dale Witmer – May 12, 2022
Ella Sensenig – August 5, 2022	Kirt Weinhold – August 17, 2022
Gerald Wingenroth – September 20, 2022	Walter Buohl – September 21, 2022
Millie Shoer – October 9, 2022	

Poinsettias Deadline Nov. 27



The deadline for ordering red or white poinsettias (5 blooms each) to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season is Sunday, November 27. The cost is \$7.00 each and they may be given in honor or in memory of someone. Forms are available on the last page of this newsletter or in the bulletin, or you may call the office to place your order.

Free Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner



There is once again a free Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner available to anyone on Thursday, November 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ephrata Business Center, 400 W. Main St. Ephrata. No reservations are necessary for this sit-down dinner.

If you would like to make and drop off a cooked turkey or any desserts, donations can be brought to the business center on Wed. Nov. 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You may also volunteer to help carve turkeys at that time. To volunteer to help serve the meal, come to the Ephrata Business Center anytime between 7:30 a.m and 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24.



Stockings for Soldiers - Prayer Squares, Cards Deadline Nov. 6

*The deadline to complete and return prayer squares, cards or donations is Sunday, Nov. 6. The prayer squares will be dedicated at the church services on Sunday, Nov. 13.

*If you are able to help, please pick up a bag of 100 prayers squares and tags from under the mailboxes, tie the laminated prayers on, and return them so that we can send them to deployed Pennsylvania military personnel through the Stockings for Soldiers program. Please see Judy Dengler if you have any questions. In the past five years, our congregation has made and sent nearly 20,000 prayer squares! (continued on next page)

*Please pick up Christmas cards to write a note on and sign for a soldier, and return the cards back to the church. Please do not seal the envelopes.

*Pictures of stockings are available for kids to color and return.

*Monetary donations to cover the cost of shipping: You may purchase a die-cut stocking for \$5 to write a note on for a soldier, or you may write a check to: Keystone Military Families (include in note section: Stockings for Soldiers). You may put your check or donation in an envelope labeled "c/o Judy Dengler" and put it in her church mailbox.

Helping With Cemetery Veterans Wreath Project – Friday, Dec. 2



This year, the Cemetery Board is once again placing Christmas wreaths on the graves of all the veterans in the Muddy Creek Cemetery. Help is needed on Friday, Dec. 2 to assemble the wreaths. Meet on the morning of Dec. 2 (exact time TBA) in the Fellowship Hall. A local Boy Scout troop is placing the wreaths on Dec. 3. If you would like to help or have questions, contact Judy Nichol, 717-484-1447. Donations to help cover the costs of the wreaths can be made out to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church (please note: Cemetery Veterans Wreaths).

Adult Forum on "The Book of James" – Sun. Nov. 13, 9 a.m.

On Sunday, November 13 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Pastor Peter will lead an Adult Forum on "The Book of James". All are invited.

On Sunday, December 11 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, David Sensenig will present some of his new poetry, including poems with Christmas themes. We look forward to Dave's poetry!

Choir in November, Honoring Retired Choir Members on Nov. 13

All are invited to come sing in the Choir! Choir rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. In November, the choir will practice on Nov. 6 and later in November (TBA). The choir will sing in church on Nov. 6th (All Saints Day), Nov. 13th (in honor of all retired choir members) and on Nov. 27th. Please talk to our Director of Music, Greg Gehman, if you have any questions.

Pack and Take for Muddy Creek Shut-Ins, Older Members – Nov. 13



Following both services on Sunday, Nov. 13, everyone is invited to pack loaves of pumpkin bread and an apple into gifts bags, decorate the bags, and then take one or several bags to deliver to shut-ins and older members from Muddy Creek (address provided) to make their Thanksgiving season a little more special!

Upcoming Disaster Response Mission Trip Meeting and Fundraiser

We are putting together a team from Muddy Creek to join in the upcoming Disaster Response Mission Trip in April of next year. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Peter (who will be going). There is also an information and planning meeting on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz, hosted by Pastor Glenn Beard. The expected cost for participants is \$150. Scholarships are also available from Muddy Creek.

On Saturday, Oct. 29, at Swamp Lutheran Church (275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds) from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., all are invited to a Disaster Response Breakfast Buffet Fundraiser to raise money help pay for the trip and defray the cost for volunteers. The All-You-Can-Eat Buffet features eggs, home fries, creamed chipped beef, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, ham, coffee, tea, pastries, and fruit. Admission by free-will donation.

Joint Carol Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek – Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 P.M.

Muddy Creek, Peace U.C.C., St. Paul's Lutheran in Adamstown, and St. John Center, East Earl are holding a joint Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at Muddy Creek on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. Hymn requests may be in advance on the clipboard under the mailboxes. Deadline for hymn requests is Sunday, Dec. 4. Come out and celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season with our church neighbors! Friends are welcome and invited!

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup - Sunday Nov. 20: "Thanksgiving, Food"

On Sunday, Nov. 20 at 9 a.m. in the nursery, all infants/toddlers/preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to come for a Thanksgiving-themed Jesus 'n Me Playgroup, "Thanksgiving: Thank You God for Food". We will read a great "lift the flap" book entitled "What do you eat?". Our little ones will explore with their fingers some of the fun foods God has given and then make a collage of their favorites.

In December, the Playgroup will meet on December 18 for "A Christmas Celebration".

Sunday School is 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 Opportunities for Youth

*All youth grades 3-9 are invited to the Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Kirchenwald, Jan. 6-8. The retreat includes great indoor and outdoor activities, including broom hockey on a frozen pond, sledding and snow soccer, depending on the weather. Count on creative Bible study and inspired worship. Friends welcome. Contact Pastor Peter if you are interested. Scholarships are available from the church to help defray the cost, which is \$150.00

*For all area Lutheran youth and friends, Swamp Lutheran is hosting a Snow Tubing Event at Iron Mountain on January 29. Please talk to Pastor Peter if you are interested.

Confirmation Gatherings Schedule

Confirmation Gatherings are online via Zoom twice month on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 - Parent and Youth Joint Gathering

Nov. 17 - Youth Gathering

Dec. 1 - Parent and Youth Joint Gathering

Dec. 15 - Youth Gathering



Caring Tree Collection for Good Samaritan Shelter

This year for the Christmas Caring Tree, we are collecting items for women and their children who are at the Good Samaritan Women's Shelter in Ephrata. The Caring Tree will be in place by the mailboxes beginning Sunday, November 27. We are collecting laundry detergent, Swiffer Wetjet all purpose multi-surface floor cleaner pads, Swiffer Sweeper wet mopping pads refills, Swiffer Wetjet multi-purpose floor cleaner solution, disinfectant wipes, multi-purpose surface cleaner, Scrubbing Bubbles bathroom cleaner, diapers (size 5 and 6), baby wipes, paper towels, facial tissue, 13 gallon drawstring trash bags, cotton swab sticks, twin bedsheet sets, new pillows for beds, comforters for twin beds, new bath towels, . We are also collecting gift cards from Ephrata businesses such as Roma Pizza and Scratch Bakes, and also gift cards for Walmart and Weis Grocery stores. Unwrapped Christmas gifts for children are also welcome, such as plush toys, liquid motion bubbler sensory toys, expandable magic balls, plush knot pillows, kid's floor cushions, reading pillows, and activity busy boards. An online Amazon order list of these is available from Pastor Peter, if that is helpful. Please bring in your items by Sunday, Dec. 18th. Make Christmas "merry" for some local women and children!



Christmas Eve Services Lawn Signs

Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Christmas Eve services! Beginning Dec. 4, 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.

Volunteers Needed to Help Decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas – Sat. Morning, Nov. 26

If you can volunteer to help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas, please come on Saturday morning, Nov, 26 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Shopping for Christmas – Amazon Smile, Redners

When shopping online with Amazon during this holiday season (or anytime), please consider using Amazon Smile and listing “Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, Denver, PA” as the beneficiary. In this way, Amazon gives Muddy Creek a portion of each purchase. We appreciate it! As well, keep bringing in your sales slips from Redner’s Market and put them in the box in the entryway, because we also receive money from Redner’s when you do that.

Christmas Gift Idea: Order a Photo of Muddy Creek Church on Christmas Eve!



Donald Reese took this stunning photo of Muddy Creek Church on Christmas Eve last year (2021) while Christmas Eve services are going on inside. Several people said they would like copies, and so we asked Don if we could order prints from him. He is graciously willing to sell copies at no extra cost (only the cost of the actual print). Sizes are 6x9, 8x12, 12x18, 18x24. If you would like to order one or more (costs will be listed), please sign up on the clipboard under the mailboxes. Orders are due by Sunday, Dec. 4. They will be available for pick-up at the church by Sunday, Dec. 11. Get photos for yourself or to give as Christmas gifts!

Offering Envelope and Year End Giving Statement Information

* Giving Statements for 2022: 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, 2023 in order to receive one.

*2023 Envelopes: These will be available in your mailbox in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 6th. Please be sure to write your designations for your offering on the outside of each envelope: Current, Benevolence (mission to Synod and ELCA), Building/Improvement, Other (such as altar flowers, bulletins, 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 Synod and ELCA unless it is designated otherwise.

*Other ways to give besides envelopes: Simply Giving Program (an automatic deduction from your bank account - talk to Nedra Bearinger if you are interested), Bill Pay from your bank, or clicking on the “Give Online” button on the church website, melchurch.org.

Congregational Meeting Will Be Sunday, Dec. 4

The Congregational Meeting to approve the 2023 Budget and elect people to serve on Church Council and the Cemetery Board will be held on Sunday, December 4, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please come out so that we may have a quorum. There is no Budget Hearing beforehand this year. If you have any questions about the budget prior to the meeting, please contact Scott Strickland. Copies of the budget will be made available under the church mailboxes.

Thank You's

*Dear Muddy Creek members and friends, I want to thank you all for your prayers, cards and visits at the funeral service for Walter Buohl. It was a great tribute to Walter to have you there and it meant a lot to me and my family. Thank you also to the church council for the beautiful flowers. Sincerely, Marie Buohl and family.

*Thank you to everybody for your cards and thoughts and prayers after my recent hospitalization. – Gloria Aseli

Congratulations

*Congratulations to LeAnne Ueberroth at the birth of her granddaughter Avery Jean Eberly, born on September 24. Parents are Katie and Tyler Eberly.

*Congratulations to Lauren and Mark Gallagher at the birth of their daughter, Hannah Claire Gallagher, on September 29. Proud big brother is Christopher.

*Congratulations to Kristin and Bryan Kunkle at the baptism of their daughter, Eloise Grace Kunkle on October 23. Proud big sister is Maddie.

*Congratulations to Nedra Bearinger, who was recently honored by Ephrata Area Social Services for nearly 20 years of service, including their Meals on Wheels program.

Condolences

Our condolences and deepest sympathy to the following for their losses:

*The family of Gerald Wingenroth, who passed away on September 20. Funeral was Oct. 23.

*Joyce Keith at the death of her brother Park Hirneisen on October 1.

*Joyce Litzenberger at the death of her cousin Bill Gehman on October 6.

*The family of Millie Shober, who passed away on October 9. Funeral was Oct. 13

Nov. 6th Food Collection for Peter's Porch

On All Saint's Sunday, Nov. 6th, which is the first Sunday of the month, we will collect food for our local food pantry, Peter's Porch. Donations can be placed in the bins in the sanctuary entrances.

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 \$35 to sponsor altar flowers or \$15 to sponsor bulletins. Call the church office at 717-336-2770 if you have any questions.

Attendance

<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook</u>
Sept. 25, 8 a.m. – 22, 10:15 a.m. – 39	n/a
Oct. 2, 8 a.m. – 27, 10:15 a.m. – 52	67 (includes livestream)
Oct. 9, 8 a.m. – 23, 10:15 a.m. – 57	77 (includes livestream)
Oct. 16, 8 a.m. – 21, 10:15 a.m. – 33	55 (includes livestream)
Oct. 23, 8 a.m. – 17, 10:15 a.m. – 62	38 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 81 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 191 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Received in General Fund in Sept.: \$19,351.17, Expenses to General Fund in Sept.: \$13,525.57
 Income to General Fund year to date through September: \$125,371.75
 Expenses to General Fund year to date through September: \$151,304.78
 Received in Air Conditioning Fund as of Oct. 23: \$9868.10
 (Donations to the Air Conditioning Fund are still being gratefully accepted)

Worship Helpers Schedule

Nov. 6, (All Saints, Clocks Change) Money Counters – Gail and Ted Bare
 Communion Assistant: 8:00 a.m. - Scott Strickland Bread Baker – Marliese Smith
 Communion Assistant: 10:15 a.m. – Kelby Weaver Acolyte: 10:15 a.m. – Zach Sheaffer
 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Will Wood 10:15 a.m. Cantor – Hollie Kemper

Nov. 13, Money Counters – Jere and Joan Shimp
 10:15 a.m. Acolyte – 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Doris Rauch
 10:15 a.m. Cantor – Pastor Peter

Nov. 20, Money Counters – Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle
 10:15 a.m. Acolyte – 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Brenda Berger
 10:15 a.m. Cantor – Gail Bare

Nov. 27, Money Counters – Jeanette and Mike Leid
 10:15 a.m. Acolyte – 10:15 a.m. Lay Reader – Nancy Beck
 10:15 a.m. Cantor – Greg Gehman



**Order Your
Poinsettias**

Please complete a form for each poinsettia purchased. Do not list, in Honor of, and, in Memory of, on the same form.

Place completed form, with money attached, in the marked box on the table under the mailboxes (if using a check, note: poinsettias.)

Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 27

Cost is \$7.00 (Red or White plant, 5 buds each)

I desire # of plants: Red _____ and/or White _____.

*Everyone is responsible to pick-up the plants they order.
Flowers can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services, or anytime following.*

Plants will be placed in the church by December 18.

If you would like your poinsettia “in honor of” or “in memory of” included in the bulletin, please list below (please print clearly):

Purchaser’s Name _____

In Honor of _____

By _____

(optional)

In Memory of _____

By _____

(optional)

If you wish to order poinsettias without your name being listed in the bulletin, check here _____

