Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 2025

Newsletter

Greetings, Muddy Creek Family,

November is a month of giving thanks. We open the month with remembrance of our loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant, and near the end of the month, we often gather with family and friends to celebrate and give thanks for the blessings God has bestowed on us. During this month dedicated to remembrance and thanks, let's think about all the things we are thankful for and what the Bible tells us about giving thanks.

Some "thankful" scriptures:

Psalm 107:1 - O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
Philemon 1:4 - I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers
Colossians 3:15 - And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

These verses remind me that we are to always thank God first – for his faithfulness and steadfast love; we should thank God for others – those who are with us and those who have passed away; and we should thank God for the peace of Christ that we find in fellowship with the body of believers. As we celebrate those who have passed, we should be intentional what we will pass along to future generations. In this and all seasons, share peace, show love, celebrate Christ.

I am thankful to God for the opportunity to accompany Muddy Creek; I thank God for you in my prayers; and I am thankful for the peace of Christ found in serving this congregation.

In Christ's+ Love,
Pastor Chavis

Church Council Corner

Updates from Muddy Creek
Church Council President Audrey Noll

PROJECTS

Muddy Creek Church Council and Committees have been busy over the past month.

- The new AED has arrived and is scheduled to be installed in the very near future.
- The HR subcommittee has conducted interviews for the Administrative Assistant position. We hope to have someone in the position soon.
- Council Members and the Property Chair met with Cocalico Fire and Safety professionals to understand how we might improve practices for hospitality and security.
- Council and Property are working to form a Task Force to update procedures, and share our learnings, and address outstanding issues in and around the building. More to come!

THANKS

Sending a special Thank You to Lauren Gallager for heading the Safety Project initiative. She has prepared a draft Safety program to aid the work of the new Task Force.

MEETING INFORMATION

Mark your calendars! On **December 14th.** Immediately following the combined service, we will have a **Congregational Meeting**, during which we will hold elections for the Church Council and the Cemetery Board, and will vote on the budget.

We'd Love to Hear From You!
(717) 336-2770 office@mclchurch.org
11 South Muddy Creek Road Denver, PA 7517

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

[1] Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. [2] Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
[3] Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
[4] Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.
*[5] For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations. (*Psalm 100:1-5)

Upcoming Events and Activities

Poinsettia Time!

This year, we will again order poinsettias for the congregation and loved ones. You can order from November 9th through November 30th($7.50 each). They will be delivered to the church on December 20th.

Annual Wreath Laying for Muddy Creek Cemetery

During November containers will be provided by the Muddy Creek Cemetery Board for donations to the Veteran's wreath fund for those who would like to contribute. Make checks payable Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, with "Cemetery Veteran's Wreaths" in the memo field. As in the past we will be tying bows on wreaths. Boy scouts will place wreaths in the cemetery on **Saturday, December 6, 2025**. To help with tying bows on the wreaths, please plan to meet on that day at **9:30am** in the social hall. Check weekly bulletins for more details.

Brenda & Friends Tours

For more information, contact Brenda Berger: (717) 336-6886 or bergerb@dejazzd.com

- **Nov. 29, 2025** (Saturday) - Our annual trip to Lewisburg to Purity Candy & The Street of Shops.
- **Dec. 4, 2025** (Thursday) - Christmas at the Playhouse" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
- **Dec. 6, 2025** (Saturday) - Dickens of a Christmas in Wellsboro
- **Dec. 13, 2025** (Saturday) - TBD
- **Dec. 27, 2025** (Saturday) - The Christmas Candy Caper at Bird-in-Hand (Pending)
- **Dec. 30, 2025** (Tuesday) - "Magic & Wonder: Winter Wonderland" at Magic & Wonder Dinner Theatre

Property Committee Praises

Many thanks to the individuals and families who volunteered to plant flowers in May and from June through September, took turns keeping them watered and the flower beds free of weeds. The flowers not only help to beautify the Muddy Creek Church property, but provide a pleasant visual experience for passersby.

Looking for Ways to Give? Consider Thrivent!

The Thrivent Choice Dollars® donated to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church last year helped fund a number of programs. Please consider directing your Choice Dollars® to Muddy Creek to support next year's goals. Log in to your Thrivent account or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836. Thank you for all your support!

Giving Statements—If you have not received giving statements in the past and would like one for 2025, please contact Joe Sanchez at 717-917-2490 before January 1, 2026 in order to receive one.
2026 Envelopes will be available in your mailbox in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 7th.

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.), or Special Envelopes (Communion, Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas)—money goes to Benevolence unless it is designated otherwise.

Four other ways to give besides envelopes: Simply Giving Program (an automatic deduction from your bank account - talk to Joe Sanchez if you are interested), Bill Pay from your bank, clicking on the "Give Online" button on the church website, mclchurch.org, or scanning the QR code in your bulletin.
We appreciate your generosity!

Reflections for a Thankful Month

A friend is one who comes in, when the whole world has gone out.
If you see someone without a smile, give him one of yours.
Luck is where opportunity meets preparation.
A smile always adds to your face value.
A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
Man's way leads to a hopeless end, God's way leads to an endless hope.