MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2026
Newsletter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy, he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Happy April, Muddy Creek!

I am grateful for our participation in the Cocalico Area Lenten Ministries shared services. Muddy Creek's midday Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services were well attended and received positive feedback. Thanks to everyone who assisted, attended, and/or invited others. I look forward to exploring the myriad ways we can increase service opportunities.

During our Lenten journey toward the cross, we traveled with the disciples and Jesus in a posture of repentance and reflection. Now, as we walk with the disciples to Ascension and to Pentecost, we walk humbly in the salvation found in the cross. In living into the miracle and joy of Christ's Resurrection, we should be able to rest in the hope that a living God brings. How can we dwell in our "living hope?" We must intentionally be open to being changed and renewed.

For April devotions, let's consider these scriptures:

- Rom 8:24 - For by hope we were saved.- Are you ready to allow your faith and hope to set you free from worry and stress?- How is your "living hope" reflected in the way you deal with tough situations?
- Rom 12:12 - Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.- Is your hope fueled by prayer?- How do your "living hope" prayers show that you practice patience?
- Rom 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.- Are you allowing space for the God of Hope and the Holy Spirit to direct your steps?-How has belief in "living hope" helped you discuss hope with others?

In our Thanksgiving for Baptism, we confess knowing that "because we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life." Knowing and believing this, we can walk humbly in our imperishable, undefiled, unfading inheritance and proudly proclaim the Good News to all.

In this season, I pray that we are intentionally open to being changed and renewed!

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In Christ's ✠ Love,

Pastor Chavis

We'd Love to Hear From You!

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11 South Muddy Creek Road Denver, PA 17517

Reflection:

Romans 8 reminds us that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is still at work. Resurrection is not only something we wait for someday. It is something God is doing even now—bringing life where the world expects only death.

Prayer:

God of life and hope,
When the world feels filled with conflict, remind us that your Spirit still moves among us. Where there is fear, breathe courage. Where there is division, plant understanding. Where there is violence, raise up people who seek peace. Help us follow Jesus, who wept with the grieving and called new life out of the tomb. Teach us to build bridges, seek justice, and trust that your Spirit is still breathing life into this world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COUNCIL CORNER

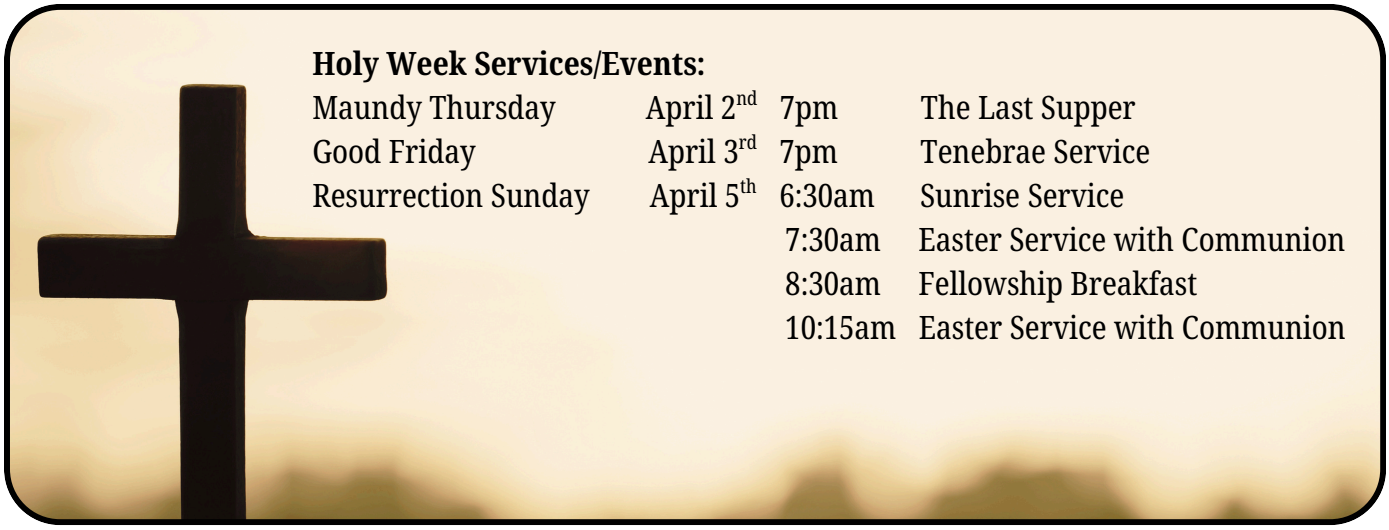
We're excited to come together in joyful fellowship at our upcoming Easter Breakfast! Thank you to everyone who so generously shares their time and delicious contributions—your kindness and spirit help make this celebration truly special and blessed.

The Council is also pleased to once again welcome everyone to the Congregational Meeting on April 19, where we will gather to strengthen our unity and share our mission and vision with the entire congregation. We also extend our appreciation to everyone who donated candy for the Egg Hunt and to those who helped fill the eggs, whether after service or at home—your efforts helped create a wonderful event for the children of our congregation and the wider community.

Looking ahead, the Evangelism Committee is planning the Annual Yard Sale in June in the grove; for more information, please contact Brenda Berger or Pat Brendle. Meanwhile, the Task Force for Safety and Security continues working with other committees to ensure Muddy Creek remains a safe and welcoming space for all. Training on the use of the new AED is being scheduled, and new directional signs have been posted to help you locate it—please refer to the bulletin for the training schedule.

Finally, many thanks to Greg and the choir for their dedication in preparing music for the Easter services, and to our Pastor for the extra time and care given to making these services meaningful. We warmly encourage everyone to attend these special services and share in this meaningful season together.

Audrey Noll, Council President



Holy Week Services/Events:

Maundy Thursday	April 2nd	7pm	The Last Supper
Good Friday	April 3rd	7pm	Tenebrae Service
Resurrection Sunday	April 5th	6:30am	Sunrise Service
		7:30am	Easter Service with Communion
		8:30am	Fellowship Breakfast
		10:15am	Easter Service with Communion

Source: https://blogs.elca.org/faithlens/march-22-2026-can-these-dry-bones-live-ezekiel-37-meaning/

PARTNER MINISTRY EVENTS

"Brenda and Friends" Bus Trips

April 16-18 (Thurs-Sat) "The International Tattoo," Norfolk, VA
Includes: Canal Cruise, Military Aviation Museum,Marvel Carriage Museum
Oceanfront Lodging-VA Beach, & Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

April 30th (Thursday) Some Enchanted Evening," Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
For more information, contact Brenda Berger (717) 336-6886 or berger@dejazzd.com

Swamp Lutheran Church Widowers Group Luncheon

Thursday, April 9th | 12pm Udder Choice Restaurant, Ephrata, PA

Join us to hear our guest speaker from Middle Creek Wildlife Management discuss habitat, migration, and the history of MCWM.
RSVP to the church office at (717) 336-2849 or secretary@swamplutheran.org

College/Military Goodie Boxes
Donate up to April 12th
We are collecting snack donations for our College and Military Goodie Boxes!
Donations may be placed in the designated collection boxes located at all church entrances.

AED Training -Sunday, April 12th
8:45am and 11:30am
Julie Emrhein will be training the members of our congregation on proper usage of the AED in the event of a cardiac emergency. For anyone interested, these will be held on April 12th after both services.

Redner's Save-A-Tape Program
Support the Muddy Creek Good Samaritan Fund by placing your entire (uncut) Redner's receipts in the Redner's containers at church entrances.
Thanks for your support!

Cemetery Board Opening
A volunteer is needed to fill a one-year term.
If you are interested in serving, please contact Council President Audrey Noll.

Church Office Hours will be posted each week in your bulletin.

Church office is **closed** for the holiday on Friday, April 3rd.

Thank you so much for your cards and prayers with the passing of my brother, David Sloat.
God be with you.

Love, Kathleen Ebling

NORTH LANCASTER / COCALICO CLUSTER ELCA 2026 LENTEN SERVICES

1 Corinthians 12: *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

DATE	HOST CHURCH	SERVICE TYPE	NOTES
Thu 4/2	**MAUNDY THURSDAY**		
7pm	Faith United, Denver	Traditional w/Footwashing	Eucharist, stripping of altar
	Bergstrasse, Ephrata	Dinner Church - 6 pm	Eucharist, stripping of altar
	Center St./ Paul @Mellingers	Institution of Communion	
	Muddy Creek, Denver	Maundy Service	Eucharist, stripping of altar
7:30pm	Swamp, Reinholds	Traditional w/Footwashing	Eucharist, stripping of altar
Fri 4/3	**GOOD FRIDAY**		
10:30am	Faith United	Denver Prayer Walk	
Noon	Adamstown Cemetery		
3pm	Center Cemetery		
7pm	Bergstrasse, Ephrata	Experiential, Interactive	Readings & pix from trip to Jerusalem
	Faith United, Denver	Trad. w/Candlelighting	
	Center/St Paul @Mellingers	Service of the Shadows	Seven Last Words from the Cross
	Muddy Creek, Denver	Tenenbrae	
8pm	Swamp, Reinholds	Service of Shadows	Seven Last words from the Cross
Thu 5/14	**ASCENSION DAY**		
7pm	Swamp, Reinholds	Traditional Svc w/Choir	Eucharist