MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

READINGS

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

PSALM 145:8-14

ROMANS 7:15-25A

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

✢ WELCOME TO WORSHIP ✢

Visitors
Please use the yellow card in your pew if you would like a prayer or would like to tell us more about yourself.

Bulletin Information
This bulletin is used for both the 8:30am liturgical service and the 9:30am service with music. The musical symbol - ♫ - is used to denote the music or songs that are only used in the 2nd service.

Children
Children's activity boxes are in the rear of the sanctuary.

Communion Sundays -1st Sundays of the Month
All are invited to participate in the Sacrament of Communion. We offer gluten-free wafers and juice as alternatives to bread and wine. Parents/ guardians choose whether youth will receive communion or a blessing.

Connect, Watch, Follow
Follow us on Facebook and YouTube. Our 9:30am service is livestreamed and posted on our website and YouTube channel.

Fellowship
After the second service, please stay for light refreshments and an opportunity to connect with one another. See you in the annex!

Offering
To give: use this QR Code or place your gift in the offering boxes at the entrance tables. Thanks for supporting our ministries.

Restrooms
Restrooms are in the hallway closest to the altar.

www.mclchurch.org 717-336-2770 office@mclchurch.org
11 S. Muddy Creek Road, Denver, PA 17517
AED: Located just outside the doors to the left of the altar.

✢ GATHERING ✢

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome
Announcements

♫ **Prelude** "When Morning Guilds the Skies" ..... arr. R. Haan

Peace
P: The Peace of the Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness
Please remain standing as you are able.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✢ and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen**.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: **Amen**.

P: Let us confess our sins, in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,
C: **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart;**
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, ✢ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
C: **Amen**

♫ **Gathering Hymn:** "When Morning Gilds the Skies" ..... #853

1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

2 When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
has none that can compare
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"

3 No lovelier antiphon
in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard:
oh, Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Let all of human-kind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

5 Sing, sun and stars of space,
sing, ye that see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **And also, with you.**

♫ **Kyrie** ..... pg. 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, For the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, Gracious Lord. **Amen**.

♫ **Canticle of Praise** ..... pg. 140

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.
You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.
Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: **Amen**.

Please be seated.

Young People's Message

✢ WORD ✢

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

In alignment with God's covenant, this text promises the people of that the coming Messianic king will bring an era of disarmament and success.

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
10 He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.
L: The word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 145:8-14

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

8 The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.
9 **Lord, you are | good to all,**
and your compassion is over | all your works.
10 All your works shall praise | you, O Lord,
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.
11 **They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom**
and speak | of your power,
12 that all people may know | of your power
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

13 **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;**
your dominion endures through- | out all ages.
You, Lord, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in | all your works.
14 The Lord upholds all | those who fall
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a
Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from the bondage of sin.
15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.
21 So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.
22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25a Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
L: The word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

♫ **Gospel Acclamation** .....pg. 142

Please stand as you are able.

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

In response to people who find fault with his ministry and that of John the Baptist, Jesus reminds listeners that what God offers is free to all.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] 16 "To what will I compare this
generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to
one another,
17 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'
18 "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a
demon'; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look,
a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet
wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."
25 At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and
earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the
intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was
your gracious will.
27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows
the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for
I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

♫ **Hymn of the Day**: “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty” ..... #777

Please stand as you are able.

1 “Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;
Drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer,
You would come to me and live.”

Refrain: Jesus, Ever flowing fountain,
Give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
There is joy no tongue can tell.

2 “Come to me, all trav’lers weary;
Come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer;
At this table be my guest.”

Refrain

3 “Come to me, believers burdened;
Find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer,
Turn to me and seek my face.”

Refrain

4 “Come to me, repentant sinners;
Leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion,
Turn to me, I call your name.”

Refrain

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend."

Refrain

6 “Come to me, abandoned, orphaned,
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home.”

Refrain

Apostles' Creed

Please stand/remain standing as you are able.

P: Together, let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostle's Creed,

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Offering

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

♫ Hymn of Reflection

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world. *A brief silence is held for reflection.*

God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our freedom, you bring peace. As we mark the nation's 250th anniversary, remind us that we are to be peacekeepers now and for the future, leading as Jesus taught us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Together aloud, we pray…) **God our comfort, liberate those who are ill, isolated, or are captive to fear. Provide for all who are in need as we also pray for Russell Beck, Larry Shober and Josh Weinhold. Be with those we lift silently or aloud before you now…**Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest, we thank you for the gifts of life together.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

✢ EUCHARIST ✢

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface and Sanctus

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection, open to us the way of everlasting life.

♫ And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

♫ ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,***
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Holy, Holy, Holy, You are indeed Holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying; This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;

We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, oh God, father, son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**
P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **Amen.**

Please be seated. Kindly follow the direction of the ushers for communion.

Prayer after Communion

Please stand as you are able.

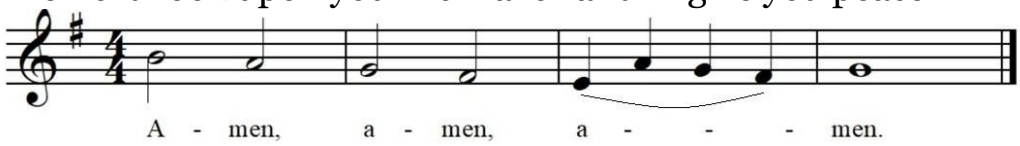
P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation, you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your spirit, that we may proclaim the redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: Amen

✢ SENDING ✢

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace



♫ **Sending Hymn**: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"..... #547

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended t
he fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve God and one another in faith.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

♫ **Postlude:** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" ..... A. Messiter

TODAY'S SERVICE

Supply Pastor — Rev. Newell Embley III
Music Director — Greg Gehman

Acolyte..... Russel Beck

Cantor..... Hollie Kemper

Communion Assistants..... 8:30am Karen Oglesby, Judy Dengler
9:30am Hollie Kemper, Audrey Noll

Counters..... Gail and Ted Bare

Lector ..... 8:30am Scott Strickland
9:30am Doris Rauch

Ushers ..... 8:30am Bill Lausch, Greg Gehman
9:30am Mike Leid, Jane Wenger

JULY 12th WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte..... Barb Yerger

Cantor..... David Sensenig

Counters..... Nedra Bearinger, Pat Brendle

Lector ..... 8:30am Lauren Gallagher
9:30am Nancy Beck

Ushers ..... 8:30am Jane Wenger, Stacy Aungst
9:30am Nick Duong, Tim Fritz

This Week's Office Hours

Monday	July 6th	8am-2pm
Wednesday	July 8th	8am-2pm
Friday	July 10th	8am-12pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Prayers - Thank you for your patience as we transition to a Prayer Ministry. We will still publish names of people and families seeking timely prayers and we will begin having intentional, communal prayer - likely in the form of morning and/or evening prayer call. In the interim, please keep Muddy Creek members and families, and our country in your prayers.

TODAY

- **Altar Flowers**
  Flowers are given by Audrey Noll in memory of Roger Noll.
- **Fellowship**
  Refreshments have been provided by Darlene & Audrey.

UPCOMING

- **Family & Friends Day - Sunday, August 9th**
  Bring a covered dish to share and enjoy time together in fellowship with friends and family.

ONGOING

- **Bulletin Recycling**
  If you are not keeping your bulletin, we recycle! Place it in a recycling container, helping Muddy Creek be a good steward of our resources.

PARTNER MINISTRY EVENTS

Brenda and Friends Bus Trips

Brenda Berger (717) 336-6886 or berger@dejazzd.com

- July 9, 2026 (Thursday) - "Joshua" at Sight & Sound Theatre –
  Enjoy a buffet meal at Hershey Farms Restaurant after the show.
- July 22, 2026 (Wednesday) - "Ned & Nancy See America" at
  Bird-in-Hand Stage- Includes a buffet meal & deluxe motorcoach.
- August 7, 2026 (Friday) - "Dear Soldier Boy" at Bird-in-Hand Stage Includes a buffet meal and deluxe motorcoach.
- August 12-15, 2025 (Wednesday-Saturday) - Islands of Ohio
  A day spent at Put-In-Bay, plus African Safari Wildlife Park,
  Merry-Go-Round Museum, Maritime Museum of Sandusky, and more.

This Week's Reflection

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus offers a yoke to listeners and tells them that a yoke will give them rest. The yoke as a means to rest was a strange idea for the disciples, and it ought to sound strange to us as well. Yokes are still a burden and a way of harnessing animals' hard work. The first ancient readers or hearers of Matthew also viewed a yoke as a symbol of obedience to God's law and wisdom. The gospel links humility to freedom.

Thoughts for the week:

While many say they believe in Jesus, we don't always "take his yoke" or follow in God's will. What things are you still holding on to?

Generally, our instinct is to resist yokes and laws, or at least not immediately connect them with the idea of freedom. What have you surrendered to God and how has that made things easier for you?