MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

READINGS

ISAIAH 55:10-13

PSALM 65:[1-8] 9-13

ROMANS 8:1-11

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

✢ 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** "O Worship the King" ..... arr. P. Clemens

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:** "O Worship the King" ..... #842

1 Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

2 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

3 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

5 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

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. 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the father, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the father. Amen

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.
Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: **Amen**.

Please be seated.

♫ **Choir:** "It Is Well with My Soul" .....Cantor Quartet
Gail Bare, Greg Gehman, Hollie Kemper and David Sensenig

Young People's Message

✢ WORD ✢

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

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

Israel's exiles return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

12 For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.
L: The word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Your paths overflow with plenty.
1 You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.
2 **To you, the one | who answers prayer,**
to you all | flesh shall come.
3 Our sins are strong- | er than we are,
but you blot out | our transgressions.
4 **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!**
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple.
5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.
6 **You make firm the mountains | by your power;**
you are girded a- | bout with might.
7 You still the roaring | of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.
8 **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs;**
you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.
9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is | full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.
10 **You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;**
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.

11 You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.
12 **May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,**
and the hills be | clothed with joy.
13 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;
let them shout for | joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

God sent Christ to free us from sin. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ
Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free
from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law,
weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the
likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the
flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who
walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who
live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but
those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the
Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the
Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is
hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, 8 and
those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of
God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not
belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of
sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him
who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus
from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit
that dwells in you.

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 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near."

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such
great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there,
while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many
things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he
sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them
up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil,
and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the
sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered
away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked
them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a
hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, hear!"

18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word
of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and
snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the
path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears
the word and immediately receives it with joy,
21 yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when
trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person
immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the
one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth
choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good
soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed
bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in
another thirty."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

♫ **Hymn of the Day**: "As Rain from the Clouds"..... #508

Please stand as you are able.

1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.
Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

2 As grain that is scattered your word has been sown
on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.
Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,
awaking and warming and healing our land.
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

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: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence is held for reflection.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Together aloud, we pray…) **God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. Provide for all who are in need as we also pray for Russell Beck, Larry Shober and those affected by the Lancaster County storms. Be with those we lift silently or aloud before you now…**
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. 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.**

Lord's Prayer

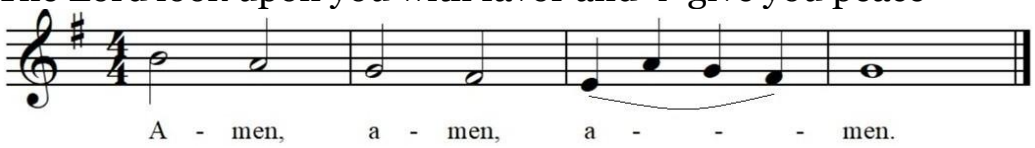
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against 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. 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**: "Go, My Children, with My Blessings" ..... #543

1 Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.

2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

3 Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Dismissal

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

♫ **Postlude:** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" ..... G. Elvey

Cover art: https://bible.art/p/dt3JiutJe50g58sIhTI9/1-corinthians-15-37

TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor — Rev. Stacy Chavis
Music Director — Greg Gehman

Acolyte..... Barb Yerger

Cantor..... David Sensenig

Counters..... Nedra Bearinger, Pat Brendle

Lector .....9:30am Nancy Beck

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

JULY 19th WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte..... Malia Mancini

Cantor..... Gail Bare

Counters..... Jeanette and Mike Leid

Lector .....9:30am Jill Youndt

Ushers ..... 9:30am Mike Leid, Carl Schenskie

This Week's Office Hours

Tuesday	July 14th	8am-2pm
Thursday	July 16th	8am-2pm
Friday	July 17th	8am-2pm

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

- **Fellowship**
  Refreshments have been provided by Carolyn and Bob Kramer.

UPCOMING

- **Combined Service - Sunday, July 19th**
  Service at 9:30am followed by Congregational Fellowship Meeting
- **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 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, 2026 (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.
- August 20, 2026 (Thursday) - River Lady Lunch Cruise & Historic Smithville, NJ

This Week's Reflection

Today's texts articulate or reveal God bringing forth life where there is only death in every direction. Cypress and myrtle trees rise up in the place of thorns and briars (Isa. 55:13). "Christ Jesus has set [us] free from the law of sin and of death," and the life-giving Spirit dwells in us (Rom. 8:2, 10). The parable of the sower elicits reflection, repentance, and, ultimately, new life from its readers and hearers in considering the sort of spiritual life they practice.

Thought:

Today's parable is a vivid reminder of all God has overcome to bring life and healing to the world.

With God's help, what things have you overcome?