MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

READINGS

ISAIAH 44:6-8

PSALM 86:11-17

ROMANS 8:12-25

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

✢ 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 to the left of 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** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" ..... arr. H. DeCou

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:** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" ..... #836

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

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.

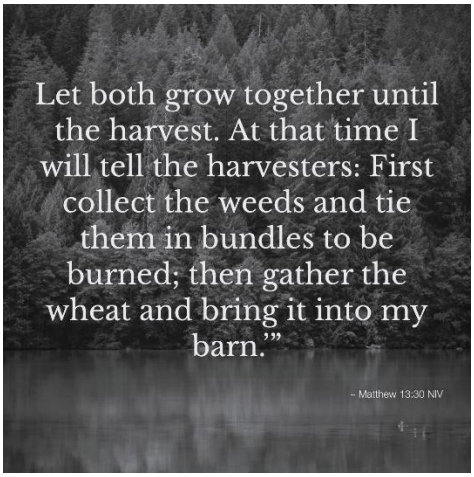
For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, Gracious Lord. **Amen**.

♫ **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.
Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: **Amen**.
Please be seated.

♫ **Choir:** "When We Walk with the Lord".....Men's Choir

Young People's Message



☩ WORD ☩

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

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

The word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God and are redeemed.

6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
8 Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth.

11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.
12 **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,**
and glorify your name for- | evermore. R
13 For great is your | love toward me;
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.
14 **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks my life;**
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.
15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.
16 **Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;**
give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.
17 **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be | put to shame;**
because you, Lord, have helped me and com- | forted me.

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

The Spirit enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation.

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live
according to the flesh—13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die,
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will
live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For
you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you
received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"
16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children
of God, 17 and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with
Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with
him.

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth
comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation
waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, 20 for the
creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the
one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from
its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the
children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning
together as it suffers together the pains of labor, 23 and not only the
creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan
inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For
in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes
for what one already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we
wait for it with patience.

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 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

24 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of
heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his
field,25 but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds

among the wheat and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and
bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the
householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in
your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An
enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go
and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you
would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow
together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,
Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather
the wheat into my barn.' "

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples
approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the
field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of
Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the
kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who
sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers
are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so
will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and
they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,
42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the
sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

♫ **Hymn of the Day**: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" .....#693

Please stand as you are able.

1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take the harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

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 source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Together aloud, we pray…) **God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, or false witness to their character. Provide for all who are in need as we also pray for the families of Frank Davis and Larry Shober. Be with those we lift silently or aloud before you now…**
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our teacher, guide and provide for all daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators, and coaches.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence.
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.

Prayer Shawl Blessing

Good and gracious God, we give thanks for the hands that knit and crochet shawls for people they do not know and may never meet. We are thankful for their ministries of care. With outstretched hands, we consecrate these shawls as symbols of your loving, comforting presence. May the recipient feel your embrace, be reminded that they are prayed for, and know they are cherished.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ☩ and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

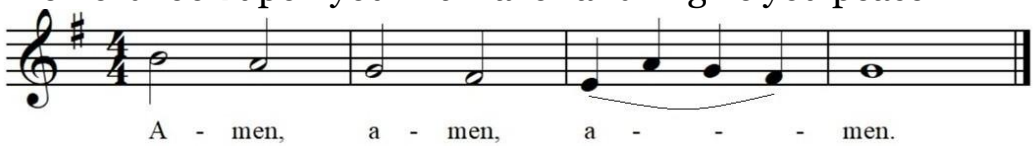
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against 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**: "Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise" #534

1 Savior, again to your dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
once more we bless you ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.

2 Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;
with you began, with you shall end the day;
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.

3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the coming night;
for us transform its darkness into light.
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn;
your evening presence promise to your own.

4 Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.

Dismissal

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

♫ **Postlude:** "Lead On, O King Eternal" ..... H. Smart

TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor — Rev. Stacy Chavis
Music Director — Greg Gehman

Acolyte..... Malia Mancini
Cantor..... Gail Bare
Counters..... Jeanette and Mike Leid
Lector .....Jill Youndt
Ushers .....Mike Leid, Carl Schenskie

JULY 26th WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte..... Jack Dengler
Cantor..... Greg Gehman
Counters..... Marie Buohl, Pat Buohl, Connie Hoover
Lector .....8:30am Connie Becker
9:30am Joe Sanchez
Ushers .....8:30am Sev and Pat Yerger
9:30am Richard and Barb Yerger

This Week's Office Hours

Tuesday	July 21st	8am-2pm
Thursday	July 23rd	8am-2pm
Friday	July 24th	8am-2pm

Cover art: https://bible.art/p/LpMNoTbbmrm6UnATfGnK/abstract-watercolor-of-the-wheat-and-the

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Prayers - Thank you for your patience as we transition to a Prayer Ministry. In the interim, please keep Muddy Creek members and families, and our country in your prayers.

TODAY

- **Congregational Fellowship Meeting**
  Refreshments are provided by Sandy Schuter and Kathleen Ebling**.**

UPCOMING

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

ONGOING

- **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!

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

When Mary Magdalene met Jesus after the resurrection, she first thought he was a gardener – a person who knows how weeds damage and crowd out other plants and how they can be beautiful and useful in the right place. Today's parable is often used harshly to identify and condemn the "weeds," but perhaps the more important message is a reminder to leave the weeding to the Good Gardener, who wants all life to flourish. Too often, we condemn others instead of granting leniency or grace. Like the parable, we let preconceived notions prevent us from seeing others as beautiful children of God.

Thoughts:

God is calling each of us into community with our neighbor.
Who is God calling you to care for?
What are you being called to do?
What will you commit to doing this month?