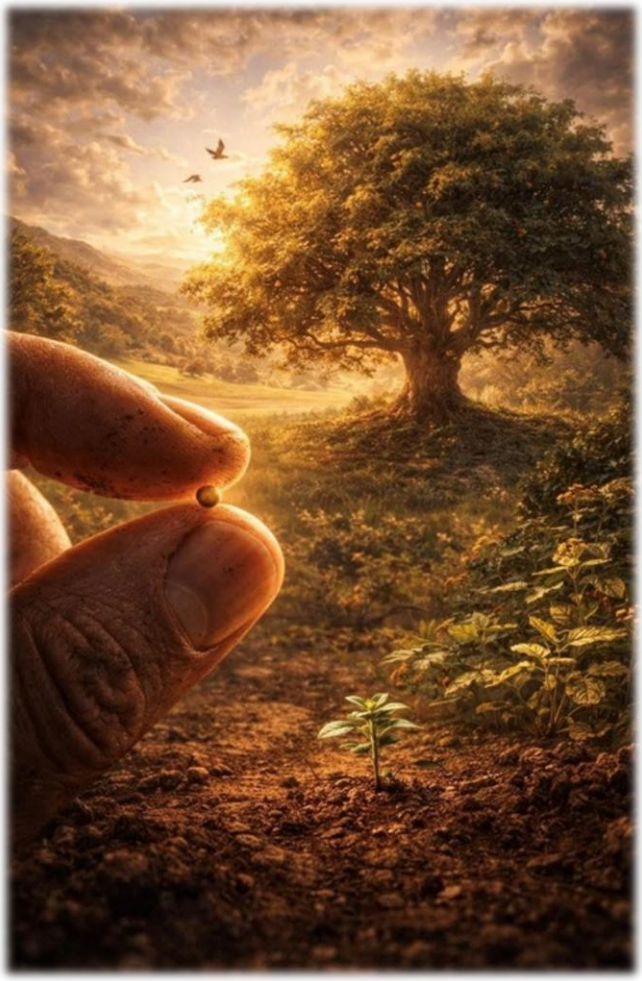
MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026



READINGS

1 KINGS 3:5-12

PSALM 119:129-136

ROMANS 8:26-39

MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

✢ 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** "Thine Is the Glory" ..... arr. A. Whitworth

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:** "You Servants of God" ..... #825

1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!

2 Ascended on high, almighty to save,
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!

3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

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.
Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: **Amen**.

Please be seated.

♫ **Choir:** "How Great Thou Art" ..... Vocal Solo
Jordan Borkert

Young People's Message

✢ WORD ✢

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

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God
said, "Ask what I should give you." 6 And Solomon said, "You have shown
great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he
walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of
heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love
and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. 7 And now, O Lord my
God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David,
although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come
in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen,
a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. 9 Give
your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people,
able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great
people of yours?"

10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 God said to him,
"Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or
riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself
understanding to discern what is right, 12 I now do according to your word.
Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been
before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.

129 Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
130 **When your word is opened | it gives light;**
it gives understanding | to the simple.
131 I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
132 **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**
as you always do to those who | love your name.
133 Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
134 **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**
and I will keep | your commandments.
135 Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
136 **My eyes shed | streams of tears,**
because people do not | keep your teaching.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us and nothing - not even death itself - is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

26 The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as
we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for
words. 27 And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the
Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of
God.
28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love
God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he
foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in
order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.
30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he
called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is
against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all
of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will
bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to
condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at
the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us
from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine
or nakedness or peril or sword?

36 As it is written,
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who
loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus 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 13:31-33, 44-52
Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several parables that explore how this impacts people.
P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**
31 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of
heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his
field;32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the
greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come
and make nests in its branches."
33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast
that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it
was leavened."
44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a
man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field.
45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine
pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he
had and bought it.
47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the
sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore,
sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will
be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil
from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there
will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” 52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please be seated.*

Sermon

♫ **Hymn of the Day**: “Be Thou My Vision” ..... #793
Please stand as you are able.

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'n ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only,the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Together aloud, we pray…) **God our intercessor, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. 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.**

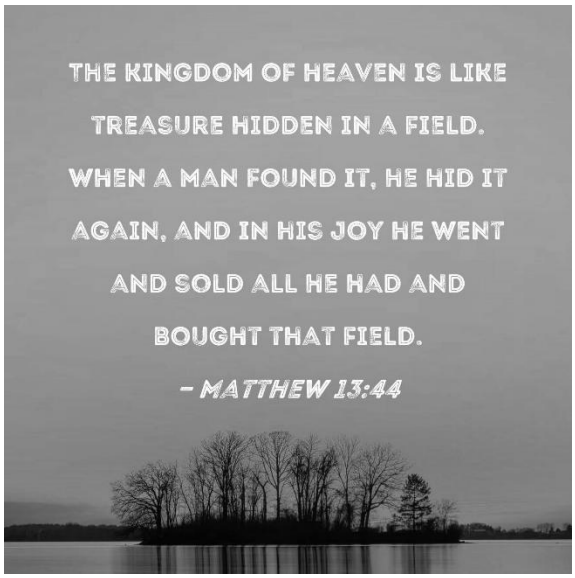
God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. 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.**

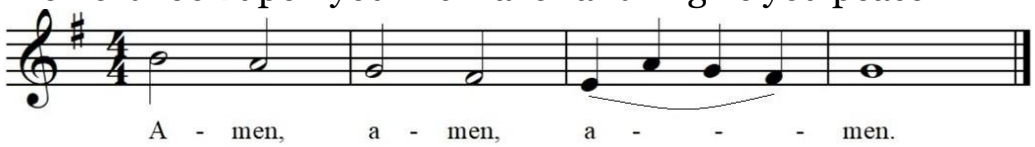


✢ SENDING ✢

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**: "On What Has Now Been Sown" ..... #550

Dismissal

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

♫ **Postlude:** "All Creatures of Our God and King"..... from "Geistliche Kirchengesäng"

Cover art: https://bible.art.com

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church is a proud member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Lower Susquehanna Synod.

TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor — Rev. Stacy Chavis
Music Director — Greg Gehman

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

AUGUST 2nd WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte..... Russel Beck

Cantor..... Hollie Kemper

Communion Assistants.....8:30am Scott Strickland, Connie Becker
9:30am Hollie Kemper, Lynn Breidenstein

Counters..... Brad and Doris Rauch

Lector ..... 8:30am Lee Anne Ueberroth
9:30am Brad Rauch

Ushers .....8:30am Bill Lausch, Lauren Gallagher
9:30am Gail and Ted Bare

This Week's Office Hours

Tuesday	July 28th	8am-2pm
Thursday	July 30th	8am-2pm
Friday	July 31st	8am-2pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Prayers – Our hearts prayers continue to be with the family of Larry Shober. A memorial has been opened in his honor.

TODAY

- **Altar Flowers**
  Flowers are given by Richard and Barbara Yerger in honor of their wedding anniversary.
- **Fellowship**
  Refreshments have been sponsored by Marleise and Julie Emrhein.

UPCOMING

- **Family & Friends Day - Sunday, August 9th**
  Bring a covered dish to share and enjoy time together in fellowship with friends and family. There is a sign-up sheet below the mailboxes.

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

- August 7, 2026 (Friday) - "Dear Soldier Boy" at Bird-in-Hand Stage Includes a buffet meal and deluxe motorcoach.
- August 20, 2026 (Thursday) - River Lady Lunch Cruise & Historic Smithville, NJ

This Week's Reflection

A string of parables describes the kingdom of heaven, and then we hear Jesus' question: "Have you understood all this?" King Solomon asked God for the wisdom to discern between good and evil, for the understanding to live out both justice and mercy as a ruler of God's people. The wisdom Solomon seeks to rule his earthly kingdom reflects the wisdom of the kingdom of heaven.

When you read the parables, which description of the Kingdom resonates most with you?

In your own words, how would you describe the Kingdom of God to others who have questions about God and Christ?