MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

READINGS

ISAIAH 5:1-7

PSALM 80:7-15

PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

MATTHEW 21:33-46

✢ 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.

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/Birthdays/Anniversaries

Peace

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

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**

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 (read responsively)

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**.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.
Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through 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: Isaiah 5:1-7

Despite God's loving care, the vineyard (Israel) has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, instead justice and righteousness.

1 I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
2 He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
4 What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?
5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
6 I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!
L: The word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 80:7-15 (read responsively)
Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
8 **You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and | planted it.
9 You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.

10 **The mountains were covered | by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.
11 You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.
12 **Why have you broken | down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?
13 The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
14 **Turn now, O | God of hosts,**
look | down from heaven;
15 behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews credentials that used to matter and reports that the salvation of Christ motivates him to press on toward the goal of eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies
behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation
Please stand as you are able.

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

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46
Jesus' parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, reveals that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**
[Jesus said:] 33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who
planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a
watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. 34 When the
harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his
produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another,
and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and
they treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to them, saying,
'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said
to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his
inheritance.' 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and
killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do
to those tenants?" 41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a
miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him
the produce at the harvest time."42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never
read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

43 "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that produces its fruits.
44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush
anyone on whom it falls." 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees
heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They
wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded
him as a prophet.
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please be seated.*

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

Please stand 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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world. *A brief silence is held for reflection.*

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones in the Middle East, Russia and the Ukraine, the Sudan, the Sahel Region, and Myanmar. Shelter those who live within them as we pray for the safety of displaced people and refugees.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Together aloud, we pray…) **God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to members of our congregation and community, and those we lift up silently or aloud before you now…** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity
with you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord**. 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.
C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor — Rev. Stacy Chavis

Acolyte ..... Russel Beck

Communion Assistants ..... Lynn Breidenstein, Audrey Noll

Counters ..... Gail and Ted Bare

Lector ..... Brad Rauch

Ushers ..... Nancy Beck, Jane Wenger

OCTOBER 11TH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Counters ..... Nedra Bearinger, Pat Brendle

Lector ..... 8:30am Connie Becker
9:30am Judy Nichol

Ushers ..... 8:30am Sev Yerger, Pat Yerger
9:30am Mike Leid

Cover Art: *https://bible.art/gallery/the-parable-of-the-workers-in-the-vineyard/4#google_vignette*

From SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License # SAS008020

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

♫ During this time of transition, the Kyrie and the Psalm will be spoken responsively led by the lector, and the Gospel Acclamation will be spoken, led by the Pastor. On Communion Sundays, the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) will be spoken at both services. The Canticle of Praise and Hymn of Reflection will be sung during services when a musician is present.

TODAY

- **Altar Flowers**
  9/27 Sponsored by Jessica Mancini in memory of John Hause and Carl Schenskie in memory of Joanne E. Schenskie.
  10/4 Sponsored by Ted and Gail Bare.
  Fellowship
  9/27 Refreshments donated by Brenda Berger and Pat Brendle.
  10/4 Refreshments donated by Nedra Bearinger.
- **Congregational Fellowship Meeting**
  Please join us after the service for this time of fellowship.

UPCOMING

- **Craft Morning – Saturday, October 24th – 9am-12pm**
  Join us for a fun morning of painting, creativity, and fellowship as we paint a wooden craft together! Children's crafts will also be available, so bring the whole family.

ONGOING

- **Church Safety Team Volunteers Needed:**
  Muddy Creek is looking for volunteers to join our Safety Team and assist with medical, security, or emergency situations. Experience in healthcare, first aid, emergency response, or a similar field is helpful. Please contact the church office or Julie Emrhein if you are interested. Thank you for helping keep Muddy Creek safe and welcoming!
- **Bulletin and Flower Sponsorship**
  Sponsor a bulletin ($15) or altar flowers ($45). The sign-up book is just outside the sanctuary doors closest to the altar.
- **Prayer Requests and Pastoral Care**
  Please let us know when you or a loved one is sick, hospitalized, facing a difficult situation, or simply in need of prayer; we want to walk alongside you. Email us at muddycreekprayers@gmail.com (monitored by the Church Administrator and Pastor) or call the office. If you need to leave a message, we will get back to you as quickly as possible.
- **Fellowship Hour**
  We invite members to sign up to bring refreshments to share following our 9:30am worship service. Please sign up on the designated sheet in the fellowship area.

PARTNER MINISTRY EVENTS

Brenda and Friends Bus Trips

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

- October 10-13, 2026 (Sat.-Tues.) – 4-Day Mystery Trip
- October 15, 2026 (Thursday) - "Send Me No Flowers" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
- November 4, 2026 (Wednesday) - "Philadelphia 250" for the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley

This Week's Office Hours

Monday	October 5th	8am-2pm
Thursday	October 8th	8am-2pm
Friday	October 9th	8am-2pm

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

This Week's Reflection

God has showered humanity with gifts and blessings, but we often abuse those gifts. We have the ability to create so many wonderful things, yet we gather and keep as much as we can for ourselves. As Paul reminds us in the reading from Philippians, "Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ."

Thoughts
Think of the song lyrics:
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done.

Name the ways you honor God's work in your life?
What gifts can you share with others in service?