MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

at Muddy Creek - 4:30 & 10:30 PM

You, your family, and your neighbors are all invited to come to Christmas Eve Candlelight services at Muddy Creek on Tuesday, Dec. 24. The first service is at 4:30 p.m. and will include carols, a children's message, a sermon, children's bells, and a candle lighting. This may be a good option for those who have other evening celebrations with family, prefer not to drive late at night, or who have family members who go to bed earlier.

The second service is at 10:30 p.m. and will include carols, a sermon, communion, and a candle lighting. This is an excellent traditional option for those who wish to worship late in the evening and greet Christmas Day at midnight.

Also, please note that on Sunday, Dec. 29, there will be only one service, at 9:00 a.m.

We hope to see you on Christmas Eve!

Community Christmas Carol Hymn Sing and Cookies at Muddy Creek, Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 P.M.

Muddy Creek and Peace U.C.C. are holding a joint Community Christmas Carol Hymn Sing here at Muddy Creek on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. Come out and celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season with our church neighbors! Friends are welcome and invited! You are also invited to bring along cookies for sharing in a time of fellowship afterward.

Congregational Budget and Elections Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 15

The Congregational Meeting to approve the 2025 Budget and elect people to serve on Church Council and the Cemetery Board will be held on Sunday, December 15, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please come out so that we may have a quorum! If you have any questions about the budget prior to the meeting, please contact Treasurer Scott Strickland. Copies of the budget are available under the church mailboxes.

Help With Cemetery Veterans Wreath Project – Saturday, Dec. 14

Wreath laying for the veterans in the Muddy Creek Cemetery will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Again this year we will be tying bows on the wreaths and having the Boy Scouts place the wreaths the same day. For those who would like to help with tying bows on the wreaths please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m. at Muddy Creek Church in the Fellowship Hall. At 10:30 a.m. Adamstown Troop 61 Boy Scouts and Cub Pack will arrive to take the wreaths from the church to the cemetery, conduct a brief ceremony at the flagpole and then lay the wreaths on graves of our veterans. A rain date for placing the wreaths is scheduled for the next day, Sunday, December 15. Please contact Judy Nichol, 717-484-1447, jnichol @windstream.net, if you are able to help with this project.

Thank you to all who made monetary donations during November for this project!

Caring Tree Collection to Support Hollie Kemper's Mission Trip and the Good Samaritan Shelter

The Caring Tree will be in place by the mailboxes beginning Sunday, December 1st. Please bring in your items by Sunday, Dec. 22nd. This year for the Christmas Caring Tree, we are collecting for two charitable efforts.

The first is a collection of new packaged underwear for boys and girls ages 3 to 18. Muddy Creek participant Hollie Kemper will bring them with her on her upcoming mission trip to Jamaica. On Feb. 15-22, Hollie will be working with the H2Jamaica group to provide free medical and dental service and do construction projects at the New Vision Orphanage in Manchester Parish or south central Jamaica. The orphanage serves 37 children. New packaged underwear (not gift-wrapped) may be placed under the Caring Tree.

We are also once again collecting items for women and their children at the Good Samaritan Women's Shelter in Ephrata and for men at the Men's Shelter. We are collecting laundry detergent, hand soap, dish soap, new bedding (twin, toddler, and crib size), new blankets, new pillows for beds, waterproof bedbug covers (twin size), laundry baskets (for welcome baskets), Swiffer Wet Jet and refill pads, disinfectant wipes, multi-purpose surface cleaner, Scrubbing Bubbles bathroom cleaner, diapers (all sizes & pull-ups), baby wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, 13-gallon drawstring trash bags, new bath towels, new wash cloths, aluminum foil, body lotion, shavers, shaving cream, socks, winter hats, gloves, scarfs, NIV Bibles, journals, and pens.

Also - Unwrapped Christmas gifts for kids: toys for all ages, stuffed animals, dolls, and legos. Gift cards: Fashion Cents Ephrata, Walmart, Weis Grocery Store, Redners, and gas cards to Sheetz, Wawa, or Turkey Hill. Storage bins with lids would also be greatly appreciated for proper storage of donations. Thank you for your generous support!

Volunteers Needed to Help Decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas – Sat. Morning, Nov. 30, 8:30 a.m.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday morning, at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 30 to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Also at that time, help is needed with setting up the Christmas trees (thank you once again this year to the Weber/Dimitris family for donating the trees), with attaching the pew candle holders and filling the candles, and with setting up the outdoor Nativity scene.

Christmas Eve Lawn Signs

Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Christmas Eve services! Beginning Dec. 1st, the Evangelism Committee will make yard signs available which list the times of Christmas Eve services at Muddy Creek. Pick up one near the church mailboxes and put it up on your lawn! Questions, contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886 or bergerb@dejazzd.com.

Adult Forum on Sun. Dec. 15 – New Poetry from Dave Sensenig

Muddy Creek member David Sensenig will be presenting some of the recent poetry he wrote at the Adult Forum on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The poetry will include another installment of Dave's annual "Night Before Christmas" poem. Everyone is invited to come!

Poinsettias Deadline December 8

The deadline for ordering red or white poinsettias (5 blooms each) to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season is Sunday, December 8. The cost is $7.50 each and they may be given in honor or in memory of someone. Forms are available on the last page of this newsletter or in the bulletin, or you may call the office to place your order.

Please Bring in Food Items for Peter's Porch on Sunday, Dec. 1

On the first Sunday of every month, we are collecting food items for Peter's Porch, the food distribution pantry operated by our sister congregation, Faith United Lutheran Church in Denver. Please bring in food items on Sunday, Dec. 1 and place them in the bins located in the sanctuary entrances. Thank you! (The January food collection will be on Sunday, Jan. 5th)

Jesus ‘n Me Playgroup - Sunday Dec. 8: “A Christmas Celebration”

On Sunday, Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. in the nursery, all infants/toddlers/preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to come for a Christmas-themed Jesus ‘n Me Playgroup, “A Christmas Celebration!”. Come out and have fun! Friends are invited!

Muddy Creek Field Trip to Lancaster History on December 16th

On Monday, December 16th at 1:00 p.m., Pastor Peter, the Archive Task Force, and all interested people will be taking a field trip to Lancaster History, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster. We will be handing over some more historical items, and viewing the original Muddy Creek Deed from the sons of William Penn, the Parish Record dating from 1732, as well as some other Muddy Creek historical items. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Pastor Peter.

Sunday School is on Sunday Mornings at 9 a.m.

All Sunday School children are invited to come to Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the Sunday School rooms.

2025 Altar Flower Sign-Ups Now Available

The 2025 sign-up for altar flowers is now available in the binder located outside Pastor Peter’s office. You may sign up to sponsor altar flowers or bulletins (you may make them in honor of or in memory of someone if you wish). Cost is $45 to sponsor altar flowers or $15 to sponsor bulletins. Call the church office at 717-336-2770 if you have any questions.

Brenda and Friends” Bus Trip Schedule

*December 5, 2024 - “Christmas at the Playhouse” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Enjoy a hot plated lunch and unlimited dessert buffet before the afternoon show.
*December 14, 2024 - Christmas at Winterthur and Longwood Gardens. Both places will be spectacularly decorated for Christmas. We will also drive through the light display at Herr’s Snack Food’s in Nottingham on the way home.
*December 19, 2024 - “White Christmas” at The Pines Dinner Theater in Allentown. Includes meal before the show.
*December 27, 2024 - “The Christmas Candy Caper” at Revere Tavern (due to the fire at Bird-in-
Hand Restaurant and Stage earlier this year) Included is a buffet lunch before the afternoon show.

Bring in Your Redners Sales Slips

Bring in your sales slips from Redner’s Market and put them in the marked boxes in the entryways. We receive money from Redner’s when you do that. Gas purchases from Redner’s are no longer eligible for donation, so you no longer need to bring in your gas receipts. Please <u>do not cut</u> off the bottom of the receipts, as this part is needed by us to redeem them. Thanks!

New Financial Team for Muddy Creek Starting in January
Thank you to Nedra Bearinger and Charles Leid!

A sincere thank you to Nedra Bearinger and Charles Leid for serving as Muddy Creek's Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary for many years! Besides serving on the Finance Committee, Nedra and Charles have been faithfully found every Sunday in the Money Counting Room after worship, managing the offering counting team for the day. Nedra also has been coming into the Administrative Office during the week to enter each individual's donations into the finance computer, and every year, she has also prepared giving statements for everyone from the congregation. Nedra and Charles will continue as Financial Secretaries until the end of December, when they will be stepping down from their duties and getting a deserved rest! But they have agreed to still continue to help out occasionally as (respectively) Reserve Financial Secretary and Reserve Assistant Financial Secretary. Thank you, Nedra and Charles!

Scott Strickland and Gail Bare are remaining as Co-Treasurers. Taking the place of Nedra are Michelle Dimitris and Joe Sanchez as Co-Financial Secretaries. Taking the place of Charles is David Sensenig as Assistant Financial Secretary. Thank you to Joe, Michelle, David, Scott and Gail!

Offering Envelope and Year End Giving Statement Information

* Giving Statements for 2024: Anyone wishing to receive a giving statement who did not receive one in the past should contact Nedra Bearinger at 717-336-7444 before January 1, 2025 in order to receive one.

*2025 Envelopes: These will be available in your mailbox in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 8th. Please be sure to write your designations for your offering on the outside of each envelope: Current, Benevolence (mission to Synod and ELCA), Building/Improvement, Other (such as altar flowers, bulletins, World Hunger, Good Samaritan Fund, Ephrata Area Social Services, etc.), or Special Envelopes (Communion, Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas)—money goes to the mission of the Synod/ELCA unless it is designated otherwise.

*Four other ways to give besides envelopes: Simply Giving Program (an automatic deduction from your bank account - talk to Nedra Bearinger if you are interested), Bill Pay from your bank, clicking on the "Give Online" button on the church website, mclchurch.org, or scanning the QR code in your bulletin. We appreciate your generosity!

Thank You's

*Thank you to everyone for the birthday cards for both of us. - Sara and Ken Frazer

*Thank you for the invitation to honor my mother-in-law, Grace Schanz, at the All Saints Service. It was truly comforting and inspiring to hear the message and to be reminded of the hope we have in heaven through the gift of salvation through the person of Jesus Christ. Many blessings and much gratitude, Laura Schanz

*Thank you to all who helped deliver the Thanksgiving Gift Bags with pumpkin bread and apples to the shut-ins of Muddy Creek at the "Pack and Take" event on Nov. 10th.

*A sincere heartfelt thank you for the card and beautiful flowers I received from Pastor Peter and the Church Council for recognizing my 20 years of service, this past October, as

administrative assistant to the Muddy Creek Lutheran Congregation. Where did the time go?! Sincerely, Linda J. Mohn

Congratulations and Welcome

*Congratulations to Pastor Bob Kramer, a member of Muddy Creek, upon the 20th anniversary of his ordination. Congratulations, Pastor Kramer!

*Welcome back to Elsa Ansel of East Stroudsburg, who rejoined Muddy Creek as a member.

Condolences

Our condolences and deepest sympathy to:
*Patti Weaver and family upon the death of Patti's father, Charles Moyer, on Oct. 27.
*Karen Oglesby upon the death of her sister, Barbara Lordi, on November 5.
*The friends of Dorothy Beam, who passed away on November 6. Funeral was Nov. 13.

Mark Your Calendars for January/February 2025

*Sunday, January 26, 2025 - Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon
*Sunday, February 2, 2025 (both services) - Motown Mass "Soul for the Soul". Pastor Peter will present a special communion service with all liturgy and hymns coming from classic R&B music.

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
October 27, 8 a.m. – 22, 10:15 a.m. - 43	43 (includes livestream)
November 3, 8 a.m. – 23, 10:15 a.m. - 63	22 (includes livestream)
November 10, 8 a.m. – 30, 10:15 a.m. - 59	37 (includes livestream)
November 17, 8 a.m. – 30, 10:15 a.m. - 59	22 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 105 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 214 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in October: $15,463.58
Expenses to General Fund in October: $20,515.67
Income to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of October: $194,969.06
Expenses to General Fund Year-to-Date as of end of October: $167,015.41

Worship Helpers Schedule

Dec. 1 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant and Acolyte - Grace Youndt
10:15 am Lay Reader – Brenda Berger
10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig
10:15 am Money Counters - Julie and David Emrhein, Kim Eshleman
Bread Baker - Marliese Smith

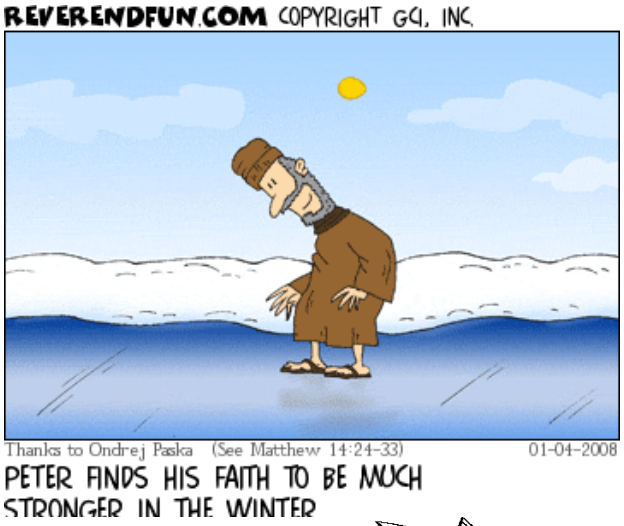
Dec. 8 10:15 am Acolyte - Cannon Youndt
10:15 am Lay Reader - Nancy Beck
10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare
10:15 am Money Counters - Linda and Tim Fritz

Dec. 15 10:15 am Acolyte - Mason Sheaffer
10:15 am Lay Reader - Judy Nichol
10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman
10:15 am Money Counters - Gail and Ted Bare

Dec. 22 10:15 am Acolyte - Sophia Dimitris
10:15 am Lay Reader - Jill Youndt
10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper
10:15 am Money Counters - Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve:
4:30 pm Acolyte - Grace Youndt
10:30 pm Acolyte and Communion Assistant - Kelby Weaver
Bread Baker: Marliese Smith

Dec. 29 9 am Acolyte - 9 am Lay Reader - Joe Sanchez
9 am Cantor - Gail Bare
9 am Money Counters - Jeanette and Mike Leid



Place completed form, with money attached, in the marked box on the table under the mailboxes (if using a check, note: poinsettias.) Or it may be sent in to the church office.

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<u>Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 8, 2024</u>

Cost is $7.50 (Red or White plant, 5 buds each)

I desire # of plants: Red _____ and/or White _____.

Everyone is responsible to pick-up the plants they order.
Flowers can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services, or anytime following.

Plants will be placed in the church by December 22.

If you would like your poinsettia "in honor of" or "in memory of" included in the bulletin, please list below (please print clearly). Please note: <u>Please complete a separate form for each poinsettia purchased</u> (for instance, Do not list "in Honor of" and "in Memory of" on the same form.)

Purchaser's Name _____

In Honor of _____

By _____

(optional)

In Memory of _____

By _____

(optional)

If you wish to order poinsettias without your name being listed in the bulletin,

check here _____