MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

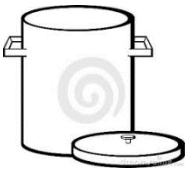
FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770

Special Event: Motown Mass on Feb. 2 at Both Services! Soul for the Soul

You and your friends and neighbors are invited to a special "Motown Mass: Soul for the Soul" at both the 8:00 and 10:15 am communion services! All the music will be classic R&B selected by Pastor Peter. Come out for this fun and festive communion service, and worship with the music of Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin and more

Note: This will be in-person only. There will be no livestream on this day due to copyrighting. Our apologies to our online viewers!



"Soup-er Bowl" of Caring - Feb. 9th

Once again, we'll celebrate Super Bowl Sunday in church by wearing your favorite sports jerseys (any team of any sport), and by collecting loose change from the congregation to give to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Even as we celebrate the Super Bowl with snacks and feasting, we remember all in this world who are hungry or who have to rely on soup kitchens for food! Come out for the fun!

Jesus 'n Me Playgroup, Sun. Feb. 2 at 9 AM in the Nursery

"Fishin' With God"

You won't want to miss the chance to hear "fishing" stories from the Bible. We will make "crumpled fish", and sing the all time favorite "One little , two little, three little fishies."

Upcoming: Sunday, March 2 at 9 a.m.: "God Made Me"
Sunday, April 6 at 9 a.m.: "An Easter Celebration"
Sunday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m.: Easter Egg Hunt

Peter's Porch Collection

The Food Collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, Feb. 2, which is the first Sunday of the month. Food donations can be placed in the bins in the sanctuary entrances. (Peter's Porch distributes the food on the first Saturday of every month from 8-10 a.m. Contact Pastor Peter if you are interested in volunteering with the monthly distribution.)

Note: There Will Not Be An Adult Forum in February As Pastor Peter Will Be Away on Feb. 16th.

Coming Up in March:

Ash Wednesday Service - March 5, 7:00 p.m.

Come out for the moving Ash Wednesday service at Muddy Creek on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. We will have communion and will be offering the receiving of ashes for all who want them.

Cluster Lenten Services begin in March

All are invited to Lenten services, held together with other local Lutheran churches in our cluster. The schedule will be as follows:
*Wed. March 12, 7 p.m. at St. John Center Lutheran Church in East Earl. Pastor Scott Brubaker from Swamp Lutheran will be preaching.
*Wed. March 19, 7 p.m. at Faith United Lutheran Church in Denver. Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry from Muddy Creek will be preaching.
*Wed. March 26, 7 p.m. here at Muddy Creek. Pastor Sandy Gideon from St. Paul's Lutheran will be preaching.
*Wed. April 2, 7 p.m. at Mellingers Lutheran Church, Schoeneck. Pastor Jim Goodyear from Bergstrasse Lutheran will be preaching.
*Wed. April 9, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Adamstown.. Pastor Tim Craven from Mellingers will be preaching.

Property Committee Meeting on February 13

All are invited to the next Property Committee Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Outdoor Spring Clean Up Saturday, March 22nd

All are invited to help clean up the church grounds and mulch the flower beds on Saturday, March 22 beginning at 8:00 a.m. (or whenever you can make it).

The Offering Envelopes and Giving Statements are in the Church Mailboxes

For those who use offering envelopes to contribute to Muddy Creek, don't forget to check your church mailboxes for your 2024 Giving Statements and your 2024 Offering Envelopes. Reminder: Your mailbox is <u>below</u> your name. If you did not receive either of these but would like them, please contact Joe Sanchez, one of our three Financial Secretaries at Muddy Creek.

You may also give offering to Muddy Creek through Bill Pay from your bank, through the "Simply Giving" automatic deduction program in which we participate, or through the "Give Online" button on our church website (mclchurch.org).

Bring In Your Redner's Receipts

Thank you to everyone who submitted their Redner receipts recently. The Good Samaritan Fund at Muddy Creek was benefitted with a check from Redner's for $121.00. Please continue to bring your Redner's Save A Tape receipts and put them in the boxes at the entrances. PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE TAPES.

Brenda and Friends Bus Trip Schedule

*February 27, 2025 - "The Best of the Mahoney Brothers" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Enjoy a hot plated lunch and unlimited dessert buffet before the afternoon show. The greatest hits of the BeeGees, Neil Diamond, the Beatles, the California Sound, Billy Joel and Willie Nelson are just some of the musical legends presented in this exciting and uplifting musical tribute.

*March 3, 2025 - Asher's Chocolate and Philadelphia Flower Show "Gardens of Tomorrow". Also Included is a buffet lunch at Mission BBQ.

*March 7, 2025 - "Bill Haley, Jr. and the Comets" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Enjoy a hot plated lunch and unlimited dessert buffet before the afternoon show. Bill Haley Jr. and The Comets is a high-energy five-piece combo performing a rousing, crowd-pleasing set of songs first recorded at the dawn of Rock 'n' Roll in the early and mid- 1950s by the legendary Bill Haley and The Comets.

*March 13, 2025 - "The Irish Cabaret" with Andy Cooney at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Enjoy a hot plated lunch and unlimited dessert buffet before the afternoon show. Andy adds to his troupe by inviting other talented entertainers.

Widows and Widowers Group at Swamp Lutheran

Swamp Lutheran Church invites all widows and widowers to come to their Widows and Widowers Group. The next luncheon will be the day before Valentine's Day, on Thursday Feb. 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Udder Choice Restaurant in Ephrata (turn right after entering, private room on the right, separate checks). Pastor Scott Brubaker from Swamp will be the guest speaker. Valentine's Day holiday can be a time for widows and widowers to reflect on love and loss, and can sometimes be a lonely time. So please come to be with new and old friends. Please RSVP to the Swamp Church office at (717) 336-2849.

Thank You's

Muddy Creek Council - Thank you so very much for the gift card to Shady Maple. It was my pleasure to serve Muddy Creek Church for so many years as Financial Secretary. I truly enjoyed doing the work. I know that I will miss my weekly time spent at the church.

Thanks again! - Nedra Bearinger"

The Good Samaritan Women's and Children's Shelter in Ephrata wishes to thank Muddy Creek for your wonderful donations of gifts and items to us at Christmas!

Condolences

*Our condolences to the family of John Rutt who passed away on January 4.

*Our condolences to Lynn Breidenstein and family at the death of her brother-in-law, John White.

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
January 5, 8 a.m. – 23, 10:15 a.m. - 55	27 (includes livestream)
January 12, 8 a.m. – 20, 10:15 a.m. - 59	41 (includes livestream)
January 19, 8 a.m. - 24, 10:15 a.m. - 28	61 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 106 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 218

followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in December: $36,311.21
Expenses to General Fund in December: $14,517.46
Income to General Fund Year End at end of December: $248,194.02
Expenses to General Fund Year End at end of December: $196,073.46
(The year-end surplus in the General Fund was $52,120.56. Originally, a deficit of $37,000 had been forecast when the 2024 Budget was approved. Therefore, the actual General Fund surplus exceeded expectations by $89,120.56. Thank you to a very generous Muddy Creek congregation!!!)

Worship Helpers in February

Feb. 2 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Karen Oglesby
10:15 am Communion Assistant and Acolyte - Zach Sheaffer, Mason Sheaffer
10:15 am Lay Reader – Will Wood
10:15 am Cantor - Pastor Peter
10:15 am Money Counters - Nedra Bearinger, Judy Dengler, Karen Oglesby
Bread Baker - Marliese Smith

Feb. 9 10:15 am Acolyte - Malia Mancini
10:15 am Lay Reader - Doris Rauch
10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig
10:15 am Money Counters - Jere and Joan Shimp

Feb. 16, 10:15 am Acolyte - Mason Sheaffer
10:15 am Lay Reader - Brenda Berger
10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare
10:15 am Money Counters - Hollie Kemper, Jane Wenger

Feb. 23 10:15 am Acolyte - Sophia Dimitris
10:15 am Lay Reader - Nancy Beck
10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman
10:15 am Money Counters - June and Neal Leid