MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770

From Pastor Peter and the Muddy Creek Church Council Retirement Announcement

With deep appreciation for the people of Muddy Creek, Pastor Peter wishes to announce his retirement at the end of May. For the next three months, I will continue in what has been a truly great honor and privilege of serving as the pastor of Muddy Creek for the past 11 years. This is a wonderful, generous and friendly congregation with exceptional leaders! After retirement, I plan to be actively involved with child care for my grandchildren on both the East Coast and West Coast.

The Church Council has already begun initial preparations for the transition process. Thankfully, the congregation had the exceptional foresight to complete a "Planning for the Future" process in anticipation of the retirement and of other possible future needs, and so this will make the transition considerably smoother and easier. Looking forward, you may be assured in the near future that all worship services and activities will continue to occur as they have been. We appreciate the congregation's support as we all pitch in and work together for the joint ministry and mission of Muddy Creek during this transition time and in the future.

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 also be offering the receiving of ashes for all who would like it.

Cluster Lenten Services begin in March

All are invited to Lenten services, held together with other local Lutheran churches in our cluster. The theme this year is "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear". The offering will go toward supporting the upcoming Disaster Relief Mission Trip. 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 on "Love Does No Wrong to a Neighbor".
*Wed. March 19, 7 p.m. at Faith United Lutheran Church in Denver. Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry from Muddy Creek will be preaching on "Who Will Separate Us From the Love of Christ?"
*Wed. March 26, 7 p.m. here at Muddy Creek. Pastor Sandy Gideon from St. Paul's Lutheran will be preaching on "Love Your Enemies".
*Wed. April 2, 7 p.m. at Mellingers Lutheran Church, Schoeneck. Pastor Jim Goodyear from Bergstrasse Lutheran will be preaching on "If You Love Me, You Will Keep My Commandments".
*Wed. April 9, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Adamstown. Pastor Tim Craven from Mellingers will be preaching on "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear".

Please Help with Grove and Outdoor Clean Up on March 22!

To prepare for the Community Easter Egg Hunt in our Grove on Palm Sunday, we will be having a clean up of all the fallen wood and leaves in the Grove on Saturday, March 22 from 8-11 a.m. We will also clean up around the outside of the church. Please come for some or all of the time, we could really use your help! Bring your own rake. We especially need vehicles with trailers to help haul the debris over to the yard waste recycling center. We also need someone to help transport mulch. If you can help, please contact Judy Nichol at 717-484-1447.
.

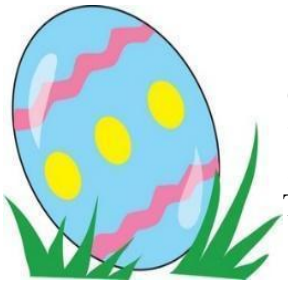
The Deadline to Order Easter Flower Sponsorships is March 30th

You may give daffodils, tulips or lilies to adorn the church on Easter, and take them home following the Easter services on April 20. Use the form located at the end of this newsletter or on the table under the mailboxes. Please place your orders and money in the marked box under the mailboxes. The deadline to order flowers is Sunday, March 30.

Easter Breakfast, April 20 at 8:30 a.m.

On Easter morning, April 20, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, all are invited to an Easter Breakfast sponsored by our Parish Life Committee. You can help by bringing in breakfast food items. Contact: Audrey Noll, 717-336-3592, aan7@ptd.net.

Community Easter Egg Hunt in the Grove
Sunday, April 13, 11:30 a.m.



On Palm Sunday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m. in the Muddy Creek Church Grove, we wil again hold our Community Easter Egg Hunt! Tell all your friends and neighbors! There will be separate sections for 2 years old under, 3-4 year olds, 5-7 year olds, and 8 and up. Smile for the Easter Bunny, too! Thank you to everyone from the congregation who donated eggs and candy!

Help Needed With Easter Egg Collection and Assembling Eggs

*From March 16 to April 6, we are collecting chocolates, candies and plastic Easter eggs for our Community Easter Egg Hunt in the Grove on April 13 (Palm Sunday) at 11:30 a.m. Items may be placed in the marked box near the mailboxes. This is being sponsored by the Evangelism Committee.
*You are invited to help stuff the plastic eggs immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service on April 6th.

Goodie Boxes Collection

From March 2 - 30, we are also collecting snack items for Goodie Boxes to be sent to Muddy Creek participants who are college students or serving in the military. Snack items may include cookies, chips, candies or crackers. Donations can be placed in the marked bins at any of the entrances. If you know of any student or service member to add to our list, please contact Jane Wenger (717-471-0556). This is being sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee.

Easter Yard Signs

The Evangelism Committee has prepared yard signs advertising Easter services at Muddy Creek. Please consider using these in your lawn as a way to let the community know about our Easter Services and invite them to attend. Signs may be picked up from the church beginning Sunday, March 23. Thank you for your help in spreading the news about services!

All Invited to Upcoming Evangelism Committee Meeting on March 2

All are invited to come to a meeting of the Evangelism Committee on Sunday, March 2 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Money Collected on Super Bowl Sunday for World Hunger

On Super Bowl Sunday, the congregation collected $187.30 for World Hunger. This is part of the "Soup-er Bowl of Caring", and the collected money was sent to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you to all who so generously contributed!

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

"Look What God Made!"

Enjoy critters and all of God's creation as we explore the theme, "Look What God Made!"

Upcoming: 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 next food collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, March 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.)

Brenda and Friends Bus Trip Schedule

*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.

Muddy Creek to Host Chad Shober and Liza Novicki

During the month of March, Muddy Creek has the honor of hosting Chad Shober and Liza Novicki. Chad had presented at the Adult Forum last Fall about his pilgrimages around the world. Their RV will be parked outside the Fellowship Hall. Chad and Liza have also graciously volunteered to help out around the church during their visit. Welcome, Chad and Liza!

From the Finance Committee -

Thanks to all Thrivent clients who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars® to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church. The grant funds we received from Thrivent last year helped us to fund a number of programs. If you are a Thrivent member and have not yet done so, please consider directing Choice Dollars® to the Church. You can make an impact! Call Thrivent at: 800-847-4836 or log on to your Thrivent account.

Also, the Muddy Creek Lutheran finance team wants you to know that there are many options for giving available for you to choose from:

1. Place cash or check in a giving box found at each entrance (with or without a giving envelope).
2. Mail your check to the Church at 11 S. Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517.
3. Use your bank's online bill pay function to mail a check to the Church.
4. Give your banking info and recurring gift amount to the Finance Secretary (Michelle Dimitris or Joe Sanchez) who will set up a recurring electronic withdrawal.
5. Use the "Give Securely Online" button on the Church website (mclchurch.org) or the QR code found in the weekly bulletin to use our vendor, Vanco's, secure website to set up one-time or recurring gifts from your bank account or credit card.
6. Download the "Vanco Mobile" app on your Apple or Android smartphone and use it to set up one-time or recurring gifts from your bank account or credit card.
7. Have your investment manager set up a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA or 401K.
8. Have your broker transfer a gift of stock to the Church's brokerage account.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who submitted their Redner receipts. The Good Samaritan Fund at Muddy Creek will benefit with a check from Redner's for $121.00. 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! Thanks!

Condolences

Our condolences to:

*Brad and Doris Rauch at the death of Brad's brother Doug Rauch on Feb. 9.

*Scott and Michelle Dimitris at the death of Scott's father Gus Dimitris.

Altar Flower Sign-Ups

If you wish to sponsor altar flowers or bulletins (you may make them in honor of or in memory of someone if you wish), please sign up in the binder located outside Pastor Peter's office. 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.

Offering

Income to General Fund in January (includes Mission Support): $8,987.06
Expenses to General Fund in January (includes Mission Support): $16,398.18
Income to General Fund Year End through end of January: $8,687.06
Expenses to General Fund Year End through end of January: $16,098.18

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Viewed on Muddy Creek YouTube Channel and Facebook
January 26, 8 a.m. – 28, 10:15 a.m. - 58	38 (includes livestream)
February 2 , 8 a.m. – 32 10:15 a.m. – 65	(not streamed)
February 9, 8 a.m. – 8, 10:15 a.m. – 36	88 (includes livestream)
February 16, 8 a.m. – 17, 10:15 a.m. – 44	21 (includes livestream)

(There are currently 107 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 221 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Worship Helpers in March

March 2 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Scott Strickland
10:15 am Communion Assistant - Lynn Breidenstein
10:15 am Acolyte -
10:15 am Lay Reader – Hollie Kemper
10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper
10:15 am Money Counters - Dave and June Sloat
Bread Baker - Marliese Smith

March 9 10:15 am Acolyte -
10:15 am Lay Reader - Jill Youndt
10:15 am Cantor - Pastor Peter
10:15 am Money Counters - Linda and Tim Fritz

March 16 10:15 am Acolyte -
10:15 am Lay Reader - Joe Sanchez
10:15 am Cantor - David Sensenig
10:15 am Money Counters - Julie and Dave Emrhein, Kim Eshleman

March 23 10:15 am Acolyte -
10:15 am Lay Reader - Doris Rauch
10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare
10:15 am Money Counters - Gail and Ted Bare

March 30 10:15 am Acolyte -
10:15 am Lay Reader - Fred Hainley
10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman
10:15 am Money Counters - Nick Duong and Thai Phan, Pat Brendle

Easter Flowers

If you wish to order any flowers to decorate the church on Easter (April 20, 2025), please give the money and order form to Jane Wenger, or put the money and form in an envelope and place it in the marked box under the sanctuary mailboxes (or you may mail your order in to the church office with your check.) Lilies, Tulips and Daffodils are available.

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 30.

Cost is: $8.00 per 6.5" pot of Daffodils
$8.00 per 6" pot (5-6 bulbs) of Tulips
$10.00 per pot of Lilies (white) (3-4 blooms per pot)

Checks are preferred (please note on check "Easter Flowers") but, if you choose to use cash, exact amount of money is needed.

1 order per form, please

YOUR NAME: _____

Number and type of plants: #_____ Type _____

If you would like "in honor of" or "in memory of" included in the bulletin, please fill in the appropriate lines.

In honor of _____

by _____
(optional)

In memory of_____

by _____
(optional)

(Optional) Do not include in bulletin _____

Any questions, please contact Jane Wenger at jlwredjet@gmail.com or (717) 471-0556

****All flowers ordered can be picked up following the service.**

Deadline for ordering is March 30. **Please PRINT CLEARLY. Thank you.**