MUDDY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER
www.mclchurch.org, 717-336-2770

A Note From Pastor Peter

Because I am retiring on May 31, I wanted to take a moment to share some of my sincerest thoughts with you. It has truly been my great privilege and honor to have been able to serve Muddy Creek Lutheran Church for the last 11 years. I tell everyone about how fantastic Muddy Creek is as a congregation. You are truly a congregation that is friendly, generous, caring, cooperative, and loving. Muddy Creek is blessed with tremendous, wise and caring lay leadership. I have had the honor of working closely with many of you on Church Council, on the Executive Committee, and on committees and as truly dedicated volunteers. As well, Muddy Creek is blessed with a wonderful staff - Greg Gehman as Director of Music, Linda Mohn as Administrative Assistant, Mark Saylor as Sexton, and Linda and Brenda Berger as Janitors. A deep and heartfelt thank you to all the leaders, staff, and volunteers at Muddy Creek!

As well, in my capacity as your pastor, I have been truly honored to have been allowed into your lives in so many ways. It has been my utmost privilege to have accompanied so many of you through the deaths and funerals of loved ones, through your baptisms, through your weddings, through reception into membership at Muddy Creek, through visits to you or your family in the hospital, through visits to our cherished shut-ins, and to have done so many service and fellowship projects alongside you.

A special thanks to my family - especially to my wife Pastor Nancy, with whom I had the privilege of serving together as a team ministry here at Muddy Creek for the first six years of my ministry here until she retired in 2020. She has been an invaluable and wise teammate and constant consultant.

My career as a pastor has now spanned 40 years. As I hang up my robes and empty out my bookshelves, I can truly say that serving the people of Muddy Creek as my last called position leaves me with nothing but gratitude, pride, and thankfulness. This has been a wonderful opportunity and privilege.

I am convinced that God will continue to bless Muddy Creek and its people in all the coming years. This congregation will celebrate its 300th anniversary just seven years from now, and I thank God that I have been allowed to have served 11 years of its incredible history.

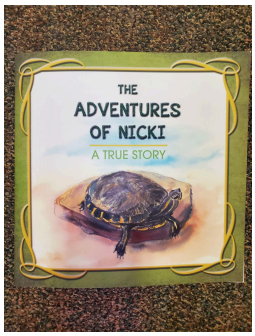
With much love and appreciation, Pastor Peter

Farewell Luncheon For Pastor Peter and Family - May 18th

All are invited to a Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Peter and his family on Sunday, May 18th at about 11:30 a.m. following the second service. Pastor Peter will retire on May 31, and his last two Sunday services will be the 8:00 and 10:15 a.m services on May 18, and the 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. services on May 25 (Memorial Day weekend). His last day at Muddy Creek will be May 31.

Special Events Happening on Mother's Day, May 11

***All Women and Children Are Invited to Play A Song on the Colored Bells** at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. worship services.
***Confirmation Sunday:** Wyatt Youndt will be sharing his Faith Statement in place of the sermon at both services. He will be confirmed at the 10:15 a.m. service.
***Nicki the (Famous) Turtle Special Event.** At 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we are holding a very special event for all adults, children and families. Jeannie Aungst, the mother of Matt Aungst, Stacy Aungst and Theresa Trout, will be coming along with her famous 71 year-old turtle, Nicki! The Aungst family got Nicki as a small southern cooter turtle in a bowl many years ago, and she has since grown considerably and aged well! Nicki has since been featured in articles, in online website posts with 28 million views, and in many in-person presentations to groups, schools and pet stores. Her daughter Theresa wrote and published an illustrated childrens' book about the story of Nicki, entitled "The Adventures of Nicki: A True Story". Jeannie will read this story to everyone as well.
***Recognition of Graduating Seniors at both services. (**See announcement in this newsletter.)



Retirement Transition Update

The Transition Committee has been meeting frequently to prepare for Pastor Peter's retirement which will occur on May 31. . The Transition Team consists of Gail Bare (chairperson), Audrey Noll, Will Wood, Judy Nichol, Matt Aungst, and Scott Strickland. The Committee submitted the Interim Pastor Information Form to the Synod requesting an Interim Pastor to work 20 hours per week, covering Sunday services and visitation. The Synod is optimistic that there will be a pastor available to fill the interim position by June 1. The Transition Committee will interview the Interim Pastor candidates and present a recommendation to Council at the appropriate time.

The Committee also interviewed Terri Renninger to be an additional Administrative Assistant along with Linda Mohn in the office. Terri will be taking over the duties the Pastor is currently doing such as the preparation of the weekly bulletins and the newsletter. She will be starting May 1 and will be working in the office 10 hours a week Monday through Friday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. (Office hours with Linda and the pastor will still continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays fom 9:30 a.m. to noon.We welcome Terri to our staff and look forward to working with her.

As well, a Call Committee (different members than the Transition Committee) is currently being formed to call a new pastor.

Ascension Service at Swamp Lutheran on May 29

On Thursday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m., all are invited to our cluster Ascension Day Service at Swamp Lutheran Church, 275 Swamp Church Road in Reinholds. Pastor Marissa Becklin of Faith United Lutheran Church will be preaching.

Sunday School Until May 18

Sunday School for all children is held every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. downstairs in the Sunday School Room. The last day for Sunday School will be May 18.

Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 25

On Sunday, May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend), our summer worship schedule returns with services at spoken worship at 8:00 a.m. and a service with liturgy, hymns and music at 9:30 a.m. Please note that the 9:30 a.m. time for the second service during the summer is now half an hour later than in past years. The Church Council decided that this would better suit the needs of some in the congregation who would like to worship at 9:30 a.m. rather than 9:00 a.m. in the summer.

Peter's Porch Collection

The next food collection for Peter's Porch (our local food pantry) will be Sunday, May 5, which is the first Sunday of the month. Food donations can be placed in the bins in the church entrances. (Peter's Porch distributes the food on the first Saturday of every month from 8-10 a.m. Contact Faith United Lutheran Church if you are interested in volunteering with the monthly distribution.)

Fellowship Hall Renovation Project Update

Just before Easter (and just in time for the Easter Breakfast), the renovation of the Fellowship Hall was completed! It looks wonderful! Cloister Flooring removed the old carpeting and installed new tile flooring in the entire Fellowship Hall and the adjoining downstairs hallway. Thank you to all the volunteer painters from Muddy Creek who painted the Fellowship Hall and the downstairs hallway. Some dividers were also removed and a new curtain for the stage was added. A special thank you to the Property Committee for all their hard work and labor on this project, to Bob Brugger for leading the painting work, to Rich Yerger for installing the window blinds, to Will Wood for helping haul away materials, to Lauren Gallagher for coordinating work on the nursery, and to Gail Bare for coordinating the whole project.

Community Yard Sale in our Grove on Sat. June 14

On Saturday, June 14 from 7 a.m. to noon, the Evangelism Committee of Muddy Creek is again sponsoring a Community Yard Sale in our church Grove. Each space (12 foot frontage) costs only $5, which goes entirely to our local food pantry, Peter's Porch. The Schoeneck Lions Club will be there with a food truck and our church will be selling baked goods and cookbooks. If you are interested in reserving a spot to sell your items, please contact Will Wood at 717-917-3141, will.wood@live.com.

If you can help make individually-wrapped baked goods (such as cakes, cookies, cupcakes, etc) to donate for the Yard Sale, please call Gail Bare at 717-672-6282. The proceeds of the Bake Sale will go to support the Boy Scouts, who are helping with the sale. Donated baked goods can be dropped off at the church on Friday evening, June 13th, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. or on Saturday morning on the day of the sale. They may also be dropped off at Gail's house, 935 Lincoln Heights Ave in Ephrata prior to the sale. Please let Gail know if you are interested in helping on Friday evening or Saturday morning with organizing and selling the baked goods.

Help is also needed with setting up and marking the grove, and with directing people on the day of the Yard Sale. If you can help, please contact Brenda Berger (chairperson of the Evangelism Committee) at 717-336-6886, bergerb@dejazzd.com.

Please Return Easter Yard Signs

Thank you to all who put out yard signs to advertise our Easter services to your neighborhood! Signs can be returned to the church anytime and put by the mailboxes.

Congratulations to our Graduating High Schoolers! Recognition at Services on May 11 (Mother's Day)

A celebrative congratulations to our graduating High School seniors this year: Cole Dimitris, Sophia Dimitris, Zachary Sheaffer, Cole Aungst, Cannon Youndt and Paige Walzl! They and their families are invited for a special recognition of them at either service on Sunday, May 11 (Mother's Day). Congratulations seniors, and may God continue to bless your journey!

Congratulations to Mason Sheaffer, Eagle Scout!

Congratulations to Mason Sheaffer, who will officially earn his Eagle Scout standing at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on May 28th! Mason' Eagle Scout project benefitted Muddy Creek's playground in our Grove, with Mason leading an extensive replacement and renovation of swing sets and climbing sets, replacing the benches, cleaning the ark and playground, and replacing all of the mulch. We appreciate all that Mason has done for Muddy Creek, and rejoice with him and his family as he attains the well-deserved rank of Eagle Scout!

“Brenda and Friends” Bus Trip Schedule

*May 1, 2025 - “Swing! The Musical” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Enjoy a hot plated lunch and unlimited dessert buffet before the afternoon show. Enjoy the music of the Swing era of Jazz (1930’s-46) along with high energy dancing, singing and acrobatics. Various forms of swing dancing emerged from this era including the Lindyhop, Jitterbug and the Whip.
*May 10, 2025 - Breakfast Train, Market and Antique Cars. We will travel to Topton where we board the train and ride to the Kutztown depot for a buffet breakfast before we ride back to Topton. We will spend time at the Allentown Farmers Market and America on Wheels Museum, which showcases antique cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles and includes a Changing Exhibit Gallery. We will have an included meal on the way home at Hometown Breakfast Bar and Grille.
*May 31, 2025 - 1-Day Mystery Trip
*June 21-26, 2025 - Cape Cod and the Islands of Massachusetts. Included is a local guide service, Martha’s Vineyard, tour of Cape Cod, Provincetown, Whale Watching or a Dune Tour, Plymouth and Plymouth Rock, Sandwich and The Village Green, a Cranberry Bog, and Cape Cod Bay, Hyannis, including the John F. Kennedy Memorial, Hyannisport and a view of the church that was the summer parish of the Kennedy family, Nantucket Island Tour, and more.
*June 28, 2025 - “Queens of Country” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Enjoy a hot plated lunch and unlimited dessert buffet before the afternoon show. Wendy T will perform as Dolly Parton and Reba McEntire and Jilla Webb, a premier Patsy Cline impersonator, known for her rich, velvety vocals that perfectly echo the country music legend.
*July 8, 2025 - “Noah” at Sight and Sound - Included is a buffet meal at Hershey Farms Restaurant and the 30 Year Anniversary performance of “Noah”.
*August 7, 2025 - “Clue the Musical” at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Enjoy a hot plated lunch and unlimited dessert buffet before the afternoon show. The internationally popular game is now a fun-filled musical that brings the world’s best-known suspects to life and invites the audience to help solve the mystery: who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room, and with what weapon.
*August 14, 2025 - “River Lady Lunch Cruise and Historic Smithville, NJ”. We enjoy a hot, plated meal while cruising on the river in Toms River, NJ, followed by shopping at the more than 50 unique shops.
*September 6-12, 2025 - Mackinac Island and more in Michigan and Ohio.

Condolences

Our condolences to:
*Nora Busser at the recent death of her brother.

Thank You’s

Thank you to everyone who brought in snack items for the Goodie Boxes for our college students and military members! We were able to send out 13 Goodie Boxes!

Thank you to everyone who brought in chocolates, candies and plastic eggs for our community Easter Egg Hunt! The Easter Egg Hunt was a big success!

Dear friends at Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, On behalf of everyone at Peace United Church of Christ, we would like to thank you for your support in lending us tables for our recent indoor yard sale. Your willingness to lend us tables really helped our ability to host a successful event. We truly appreciate your kindness, which embodies the spirit of fellowship and cooperation that both of our churches value. Thank you once again for your support. We look forward to the opportunity to return the favor - Peace United Church of Christ

I just wanted to take a moment to say how much we appreciate and enjoy using your beautiful sanctuary to rehearse with our singing group. You have been so generous and kind! God bless your church. Sincerely, Rose Newswanger and the choral group who sang at Muddy Creek on Saturday, March 8th

Dear Muddy Creek, Liza and I are deeply grateful for your hosting us in our RV parked at the church during our recent few weeks of uncertainty. We have enjoyed getting to know all of you and working with you on various projects around the church. We have been touched by your love and for making us feel a part of your congregation. Love and hugs, Chad Shober

Cemetery Veterans Wreaths Project Contributions During May

In celebration of Memorial Day, a collection for the Veterans Wreath project in the Muddy Creek Cemetery will take place during the month of May. Containers are provided for donations on the entryway tables. Wreaths will be purchased and laid on veterans graves in December. Checks can be made out to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church. Currently there are 247 veterans buried in Muddy Creek Cemetery. Thank you for your donations!

Seniors 55+ Event Hosted by East Cocalico Lions Club - May 17

The East Cocalico Lion's Club invites senior 55+ to a free afternoon of food and entertainment on Saturday, May 17th from 2-4 p.m. at the Reamstown Fire Hall. Please RSVP to Dwayne Atkinson at 717-676-0905 by Friday, May 9th.

Attention Redner's Shoppers

Thank you for bringing in your receipts and placing them in the marked bins in the entryways. Our Good Samaritan Fund will receive $75.00 for this quarter from Redner's. Please bring in the entire receipt. It cannot be used if it is cut.

Worship Helpers in May

May 4 8:00 am Communion Assistant - Karen Oglesby
10:15 a.m. Communion Assistant - Nancy Beck 10:15 am Acolyte -
10:15 am Lay Reader – Brenda Berger 10:15 am Cantor - Gail Bare
10:15 am Money Counters - June and Neal Leid Bread Baker - Marliese Smith

May 11 Mother's Day, Confirmation, Recognition of Graduates
10:15 am Acolyte - Cannon Youndt 10:15 am Lay Reader - Nancy Beck
10:15 am Cantor - Greg Gehman
10:15 am Money Counters - Nedra Bearinger, Judy Dengler, Karen Oglesby

May 18 10:15 am Acolyte - Barbara Yerger 10:15 am Lay Reader - Hollie Kemper
10:15 am Cantor - Hollie Kemper
10:15 am Money Counters - Hollie Kemper, Jane Wenger

May 25, Memorial Day
9:30 am Acolyte -
9:30 am Lay Reader - Joe Sanchez
9:30 am Cantor - Pastor Peter

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Online Views (Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube/Facebook
March 30, 8 a.m. – 28, 10:15 a.m. – 56	43
April 6, 8 a.m. – 18, 10:15 a.m. – 55	20
April 13 (Palm Sunday), 8 a.m. – 38, 10:15 a.m. – 77	41
April 17 (Maundy Thursday) - 31	37
April 18 (Good Friday) - 23	29
April 20 (Easter), Dawn – 27, 7:30 a.m. – 53, 10:15 a.m. – 88	51

(There are currently 107 subscribers to the Muddy Creek Lutheran YouTube Channel, and 222 followers on the Muddy Creek Facebook Page.)

Offering

Income to General Fund in March: $11,780.11
Expenses to General Fund in March: $13,806.91
Income to General Fund and Mission Fund Year-to-Date as of end of March:$39,865.58 (includes $6,103.53 of Qualified Charitable Distributions and $500 of donations from a congregant's employer)
Expenses to General Fund and Mission Fund Year-to-Date as of end of March: $44,259.96.