The CHIMES

MUHLENBERG: A WELLSPRING OF GRACE

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church strives to be a Wellspring of God's Grace in Jesus Christ.

Open ✣ Authentic ✣ Relational ✣ Serving

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January 1, 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

✣ The church office will be closed tomorrow Monday, January 2.

✣ Our 2017 Congregation Council will be installed next Sunday at each service.

The following members have been elected to serve as officers in 2017:

Kristee Trumbo, President

Vicki Heitsch, Vice President

Stefanie Eye, Secretary

Officers previously elected:

Terry Looney, Treasurer
Janet Simmons, Financial Sec.
Pete Weaver, Asst. Financial Sec.

WELCOME GUESTS

We are blessed to welcome our guests today. We have a gift waiting for you at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area (main church entrance) and ask that you complete a blue guest card and/or sign our guest register. If you prefer, you may scan this QR code or visit us at www.muhlenberglutheran.org to securely register online.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

FIRST SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

TODAY (and the first Sunday of each month) we make **name badges** to be welcoming and learn each other's names. Introduce yourself to someone you don't know! Supplies are available in the Gathering Area.

We receive **non-perishable food donations** for local area food pantries and lift up this ministry in our prayers.

Lay Communion Ministers will take Holy Communion to our sick and homebound members who wish to be included.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

There are NO "regular" Sunday morning classes TODAY at 9:30. After the Pastors' time in the sanctuary, children preschool-5th grade will meet in the **MAC upstairs** for an activity.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

All middle schoolers (grades 6-8) are reminded that there **is** confirmation class **TODAY** in the Nielsen room at 9:30. Keep looking for those "here is God" moments in your life through this Christmas season, and share them online (#hereisGod) or in person for a prize.

Financial News

Contact Financial Secretary Janet Simmons at 434-5258 or gandjsimmons@gmail.com for more info about the articles below or any contribution questions.

Offerings

Historically we depend on the equivalent of two months' worth of gifts and offerings in December to finish the year "in the black." So, thank you in advance to all of you who are able to make "second mile" gifts at year end!

We will accept 2016 offerings until **January 8, 2017**. Clearly mark 2016 on your envelope and check. It is helpful if you do not include 2016 & 2017 offerings in the same check. If you have questions, please call Financial Secretary Janet Simmons at 434-5258. Visit the Connection Center for extra 2016 Special Gift envelopes.

Offering Envelopes Mailed

New 2017 offering envelopes were mailed recently. If you have not received yours, contact Janet Simmons.

Envelopes were not sent to members who do not use them on a regular basis. You may put your check in the offering plate or a yellow pew envelope as you have in the past. *Call Janet with any questions.*

Simply Giving Update

If you use Simply Giving and plan to change your amount for 2017, please send Janet an email (address above) authorizing her to do that or put a signed note in her mailbox. *Note: Pledge cards do not provide authorization.*

Time, Talent & Treasure

Last Week's Attendance

Christmas Eve			
4:30 Worship	243	Christmas Day	111
6:30 Worship	336	Wed. noon	7
8:30 Worship	158		
11:00 Worship	76		
Total	**813**		

Spiritual Gifts

Apostle is the gift that gives a believer the courage and the urgency to express faith in settings where the gospel is rarely heard. I Corinthians 12:28

Craftsmanship/Artistry is the gift that gives the believer the skill of creating artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. Exodus 31:1-11

Financial Report

Through November 2016

	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	$654,545	$713,487	$670,901
Total Receipts	$734,705	$795,403	$738,821
Expenses	$764,571	$832,827	$776,622
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	**$(29,866)**	**$(37,424)**	**$(37,801)**

Information regarding donations to other designated funds is available in the Connection Center notebook.

Giving in support of our Spending Plan:	$	27,096.70
Giving to Other Designated Funds:	$	4,958.73
Total Giving for the Week	**$**	**32,055.43**

December Thrivent Choice Dollars: $39

To give online, scan here ➔

This Week at Muhlenberg

New Members

We will welcome new members into the congregation next Sunday at the 11:00 service.

JAMers (2nd – 5th Grade)

Meet **NEXT Sunday, January 8 at 4:00** in the MAC to celebrate Epiphany. Come join the fun and fellowship as you serve others.

Ruth Sigmon Circle

No meeting this week. Instead, we will join the Mary/Martha Group and Sophie Moeller Circle for a potluck dinner on **Thursday, January 19, 6-8 pm** in Wayland Hall. See next week's edition of *The Chimes* for details.

Mark Your Calendar

Comfort Makers

The 2017 comfort making project begins **THIS Thur., Jan. 12** in Wayland Hall, 8:00-noon. Wear comfortable shoes and come as soon as you can. Contact Katie Ray (574-3824) to donate or for more information.

Ministry News

Second Home

Second Home began as a community outreach here at Muhlenberg. *Fill the Home with Love* is an ongoing program that can help bring financial security to our before and after school care for kids in need.. We hope your 2017 New Year's resolutions will include a monthly, quarterly or yearly donation to sponsor students or support Second Home. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. *Questions can be directed to Barbara Roadcap at 830-1896.*

Open Doors 2017

GET READY!

Muhlenberg will host Open Doors at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church **Feb. 6-13.**

What is Open Doors? It's an organization designed to help those most in need in our community. Their main focus is to provide a place of last resort for those who have nowhere else to go in our community. The shelter is open from November to April and is hosted by a different faith community in Harrisonburg/ Rockingham Co. each week. There are 40 beds available to anyone age 18+ needing shelter.

Last season, Open Doors served 171 individuals, 97 of whom had no source of income. 73% were males, and 130 clients were ages 31-61. They served an average of 29 guests per night. It took at least 10,000 volunteer hours from 1,300 individuals to have a successful shelter season. The most significant statistic from the last shelter season was that 10 guests were able to find permanent housing due to assistance from shelter staff!

How can you help? We are looking for volunteers to prepare parts of meals using a provided menu, to serve meals and to sit with guests as they eat, to stay overnight at the shelter location to assist the Open Doors staff, and to set up and tear down the shelter.

Questions? Check out the Open Doors website (www.valleyopendoors.com/) for more information about their work. For information specific to our week of hosting, we've created a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, which is available at the Connection Center. Or, contact Jess Weimerskirch at 383-1938 or jessicaweimerskirch@gmail.com.

Stop by the Open Doors table in the Gathering Area **NEXT Sunday** for more information or to sign up to help.

Joys, Thanks & Concerns

We are excited to share joys and concerns of our congregation, our synod/church, and beyond. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. Joys/thanks/concerns may be submitted to info@muhlenberglutheran.org and will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors & editor. If you would like us to notify the congregation of the birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member, please contact the pastors or Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org).

- Thanks to all who purchased a poinsettia or contributed to alternative giving. See the Connection Center for a complete listing of those who contributed in memory or honor of loved ones.

Dear Muhlenberg Family, We thank everyone for your outpouring of affection and for the many remembrances you have given to us. We are blessed to be part of the faithful Muhlenberg family. May our ministry together continue to be a blessing for all. Thank you, and God's blessings on each of you.

Pastor Bob, Pastor Brett, Elizabeth, Diane, Mycah, Chip, Linda & Crystl

Creation Care Tip

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or rsanders97@verizon.net.

The Arbor Day Foundation reminds us that planting a tree is the ultimate act of optimism and sharing. It is the one act within reach of nearly every man, woman, and child to improve the environment and make this world a better place. It is repayment of our debt to nature for the air we breathe and the joy we know from bird songs, summer shade, and the calming beauty of shimmering leaves.

Daily Devotions

Praying Our Faith Together!

For individual and family use. Scripture citations taken from ELW's 3-Year Daily Lectionary, p. 1121-1132, (Year A).

Mon.	**Heb. 11:13-22**	**Thu.**	**Matt. 2:1-12**
Tue.	**Heb. 11:23-31**	**Fri.**	**Eph. 3:14-21**
Wed.	**Heb. 11:32-12:2**	**Sat.**	**Eph. 4:7, 11-16**

Sun. Matthew 3:13-17

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (The Apostle's Creed)

Weekly Calendar Highlights

January 2 – 8, 2017

Mon.		**Church Office Closed**
Tue.	**7:00 pm**	**Gloria Dei Ringers**
Wed.	**7:30 am**	**Before Work Bible Study**
	11:00 am	**Pastors' Bible Study**
	12 noon	**Holy Communion**
	7:00 pm	**Micah 6:8 Group**
Fri.		**Epiphany of Our Lord**
Sun.		**Epiphany Sunday**
		8:00, 9:30, 11:00 Holy Communion
		Congregation Council Installation
		9:30 am Christian Formation Classes
		11:00 New Members Received
		12:15 New Member Reception
		4:00 pm JAMers Epiphany Event

The **weekly deadline** for routine articles for **The Chimes** is Thursday at 8 am. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit info to Linda Depoy (depoy@ muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496).

Additionally, **requests to utilize space in the Gathering Area on Sunday or post information at the Connection Center** should be made to Linda as soon as planned, but no later than Thursdays at 8 am.

Check bulletin boards for community information.

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