



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 6, 2019

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Dear people of Muhlenberg,

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you. With these words, the apostle Paul opened his epistle to the Philippians, and with these same words, I want to introduce how excited I am to be serving as your senior pastor! Thank you for your warm welcome to this place. I'm slowly getting settled and have enjoyed my time with staff and volunteers in the office this week.

Nate (my fiancé), Keira and Brendan (my kids, ages 10 and 8), and Donovan and Ana (Nate's kids, ages 12 and 6) are all looking forward to being part of the Muhlenberg community in different ways. You'll see them around some, but not all, Sundays this spring. They look forward to getting to know you.

Through the spring, I'll be commuting from Charlottesville, so my schedule may have a few more constraints than it will after the end of the school year when we move to Harrisonburg. Thanks for your patience in this transition time! I anticipate being in the Harrisonburg area on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If you have a pastoral care need or any kind of

emergency, don't hesitate to call Linda Depoy during office hours or leave a message on my voicemail after hours.

I am delighted to begin this journey with you and can't wait to get to know each one of you. May God bless us as we serve together!

Pastor Lauren

Welcome Pastor Lauren at a reception in the Gathering Area after the 8:00 and 9:30 services this morning.

FIRST SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

TODAY we wear **name badges** to be welcoming and learn each other's names. We receive **non-perishable food donations for Patchwork Pantry**. **Lay Communion Ministers** will take Communion to our sick and homebound members.

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 to securely register online visit us at www.muhlenberglutheran.org.



A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS...

It is Lutheran policy and practice that when pastors complete their call, they really do leave. Our interim pastors will not be available for hospital visits or to spend time talking with members about pastoral concerns or parish issues. We will support Pastor Lauren through our prayers, absence, and in our words and deeds. When and if we see you, we will rejoice in the reunion and want to hear how you are, but refrain from talking about Muhlenberg or engaging in pastoral conversations. We thank you in advance for your prayers and for not inviting us to step over these boundaries.

Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

RUTH SIGMON CIRCLE

Meets **TOMORROW, 6:30 pm** in the Augsburg Room. The topic is *Fear* based on the December issue of *Gather* magazine (copies available outside Diane Bayer's office). Join us! *For more information, contact Louise Johnson (433-1047 or gfriend07@verizon.net).*

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **TOMORROW, 7:00 pm** in the Kairos Room. *Contact Jennie Warner (mjwarner1@aol.com or 476-2020) for details.*

CALLING ALL COMFORT MAKERS!

If you can tie a knot, please join us Thursdays. Come anytime between 8 am and noon to join in the fun and fellowship! *Contact Linda Morrison with any questions (glenm778@comcast.net or 383-5085).*

SIMPLY GIVING NOTICE

To change your giving for 2019, or learn more about Simply Giving, contact Janet Simmons (gandjsimmons@gmail.com or 434-5258).

FINANCIAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE

Christmas Eve		Christmas Day	65
4:30 Worship	295		
6:30 Worship	253		
9:00 Worship	<u>220</u>		
Total	768		

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	85	Wed. noon	8
9:30 Worship	97		
11:00 Worship	<u>134</u>		
Total	316		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2018			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$629,570	\$727,886	\$654,335
Total Receipts	\$717,730	\$816,245	\$740,839
Expenses	\$766,109	\$881,741	\$764,851
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$48,379)	(\$65,496)	(\$24,012)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	19,296.47
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>1,925.00</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	21,221.47

See Connection Center notebook for details.

November Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$234

To give online, scan here →



2018 DEFICIT AND GIVING

It's not too late to make a year-end contribution that still counts for 2018! Through faithful giving, Muhlenberg is closer to ending our year in the black, but we still have a **deficit of \$11,000**. Please prayerfully consider an end of year gift.

TODAY is the last day you can still contribute for 2018. Please date your check 12/31/2018 and clearly mark 2018 on your envelope for any cash contributions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

January 22, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm in Richmond. Register online **before January 10 for early discount.** The morning will include a welcome address and policy briefings after which we will meet with our senator and delegates. We will carpool from the church. For details, *contact Diane Bayer (434-3496).*

MUHLENBERG NEWS

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 rsanders9@verizon.net.

Make a New Year's resolution to be even more eco-friendly in 2019. What steps can you take to further reduce your impact on the earth this year? Plan in advance for big projects like installing solar panels or establishing a green roof. Be sure to make a toast to congratulate yourself for all of the changes you made last year!

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have updated the church's pictorial directory. Those without internet access (or who need a printed copy) can sign up for one in the front cover of the notebook at the Connection Center. There is no charge, but a contribution toward the printing costs will be appreciated. The copies will be available January 20 and 27. The online version is available now.

If you need help logging in, contact Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES (ICM)

"a caring presence" in America's places of work"

ICM is a Christian outreach program that provides trained volunteer chaplains for the workplace. Chaplains volunteer about 2-3 hours each week and provide guidance, assistance, referral services, or simply a listening ear to any employee who is facing tough issues. ICM locally serves 29 businesses at 37 locations.



Muhlenberg members Joann & Dick Petonke and Pastor Richard Umberger faithfully served as ICM chaplains. Presently, Dan Werner serves at Comsonics and Roger Bergey at Truck Enterprises. Pam Bergey is a member of the National Board of Directors. Many Muhlenberg members have ICM chaplains serving in their workplace.

Presently, ICM is in need of financial support to provide excellent chaplain and leadership training, for communications (publicity, printed materials, and speakers), planning new chapters, and shepherding current chapters. Your gift ensures a caring presence and a listening ear to hundreds of employees in our area. If you would like to donate, make checks payable to Muhlenberg and indicate ICM on your check and envelope.

Do you have a caring heart and a couple of hours each week to share? Please consider becoming an ICM chaplain. Lay people and clergy, all are welcome. We have local businesses seeking chaplains, and you could fill that need. ICM will train and support you. **Please visit with us in the Gathering Area NEXT Sunday and January 20 to learn more.**

For more information, contact Pam Bergey (pcbergy@yahoo.com or 433-7418).

JCREW NEWS

WINTER CELEBRATION

Winter Cel is a high school (9th -12th grade) synod youth event taking place at Eagle Eyrie January 18-20. There is large and small group time, and it is a great time to make new faithful friends from around Virginia and in our own congregation! Registration forms are at the Connection Center. Deadline to return forms is **TODAY**.

JCREW MEETING

Meet **NEXT Sunday, January 13, 12:15-2:00 pm** in the Campus Room. Join us for games, lunch and a great time!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer (434-3496 or bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org) for more information.

Pick up a green Christian Formation brochure from the Connection Center. It contains information about classes for children and adults.

SHARING GOD'S WORD

Classes **begin in designated locations Sundays at 9:30. Children should be picked up immediately** following the 9:30 liturgy.

Children's Church is held on the 1st & 3rd Sundays during the 11:00 service for children 3-7 years old. After Children's Time with the pastor, children are escorted downstairs to the Nielsen Room. Children return to their parents in the Sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace.

JAMERS (2ND-5TH GRADE)

Meets **NEXT Sunday, January 13 at 4:00 pm in the MAC** to celebrate Epiphany. Join the fun and fellowship as together we serve others.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

PRAYING OUR FAITH TOGETHER!

For individual and family use. Scripture citations taken from ELW's 3-Year Daily Lectionary, p. 1143- 1153, (Year C).

Mon. Eph. 4:17—5:1 **Thu. 1 Cor. 1:18-31**
Tue. Eph. 5:15-20 **Fri. 1 Cor. 2:1-10**
Wed. Luke 1:67-79 **Sat. 1 Cor. 2:11-16**
Baptism of Our Lord **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 7 - 13, 2019

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Ruth Sigmon Circle
7:00 pm Eldercare Support Group

Tue. 4:45 pm SonShine Singers
5:30 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Celebration Singers
7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers

Wed. 12 noon Holy Communion
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thu. 8:00 am Comfort Makers

Sun. Baptism of Our Lord
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Christian Formation
12:15 pm JCrew
4:00 pm JAMers

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 information 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.
Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran)