



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 20, 2019

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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.

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



Please wear a nametag for the next few weeks to help Pastor Lauren learn your name.

Supplies are in the Gathering Area.

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

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION



Today we collect *oatmeal packets (low sugar, fruits/brown sugar)* for Second Home. Place donations in the designated bin in the Gathering Area. If you wish to help and prefer to make a cash donation, designate

Second Home food on your check and envelope.

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have updated the church's pictorial directory. For those who signed up, copies are available **TODAY** and next Sunday, January 27. There is no charge, but a contribution toward the printing costs will be appreciated.

The online version is available now. *If you need help logging in, contact Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).*

Note: Non-pictorial directories that include information about all active members are available from the usher's table in the Gathering Area.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SNOW DAY

Wed. Noon: 15

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 2018			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$750,583	\$877,169	\$789,569
Total Receipts	\$845,873	\$971,097	\$881,199
Expenses	\$846,372	\$971,097	\$842,012
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$499)	\$0	(\$39,187)

November Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$234

To give online, scan here →



FINAL 2018 DEPOSIT

Offerings designated for 2018 received through January 6, 2019.

Giving in support of our Spending Plan:	\$	11,390.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds:	\$	212.23
Total	\$	11,602.23

As shown, we ended 2018 with a deficit of \$499 — amazing considering our deficit was over \$48,000 at the end of November. It was a long and worrisome year as we saw the deficit rise as the year went along. As treasurer, I truly thank the congregation for their generosity down the stretch and the staff and committees in reigning in expenditures as much as possible.

Terry Looney, Treasurer

THE VIRGINIA LUTHERAN

Copies of the January issue are available at the Connection Center today!

You are invited to a ...

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 27

beginning at 12:15 in the Sanctuary

Annual Meeting Agenda:

- † Review 2018 Year-End Reports
- † Recognize Outgoing Council Members
- † Recognize Outgoing Trustees
- † Elect Nominating Committee
- † Elect Synod Assembly Delegates
- † New Business

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED

There will not be a potluck lunch before the Annual Meeting. In September, after many years of great service to Muhlenberg, Machele Rader and Hilary Buckless stepped down as Co-Chairs of the Fellowship Committee. **We are looking for members who are interested in serving on the Fellowship Committee and one or two people to serve as chairs.** The Fellowship Committee plans potluck luncheons for congregational meetings and the church picnic. (They may also choose to plan special events [Oktoberfest, movie night, Valentine's Day gathering, bus trips]) . If you are interested in helping with this ministry, *please contact Council President Tim Peifer (dseries4@gmail.com or 435-5066) or Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).*

**Pick up a copy of the 2018 Annual Report
at the Connection Center today!**

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

THIS Tuesday, January 22, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm in Richmond. Register online. 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).*

CALLING ALL COMFORT MAKERS!

Join us Thursdays. Come anytime between 8 am and noon to join in the fun and fellowship! *Contact Linda Morrison with any questions (glenn778@comcast.net or 383-5085).*

SECOND HOME NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR SECOND HOME!

Our New Year's resolution is to continue the mission of helping low income parents stay employed by providing quality, low cost before and after school care with an academic focus. Have you included Second Home in your new year's resolutions? Getting involved is easy. We welcome volunteers to help with academics or enrichment, to help with special projects or fundraising events. We also appreciate your in-kind and cash donations. As a community supported program, we can only fulfill our promise with your help. Thank You! Our 2018 community impact report is now available at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area and in the Narthex near the church offices. Please help yourself.

Would you like to get more updates on what we do? *E-mail Krisztina at 2ndhomedirector@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.* You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

REMINDERS

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

When the weather is questionable, there are multiple ways to conveniently check for announcements about church cancellations:

1. **Call Muhlenberg** (434-3496). Our voice-mail greeting is updated as soon as decisions are made.
2. **Check our website** (www.muhlenberg.lutheran.org). It is also updated as decisions are made.
3. **Tune in to WSVB AM 550 radio or WHSV TV3** television station or visit their websites to monitor church cancellations.
4. **Check Facebook** – announcements are posted there as well.

Note: if we decide to cancel the Sunday 8:00 and 9:30 am worship services, Christian Formation Classes will also be cancelled for that morning. Every attempt will be made to hold the 11:00 a.m. service, but it may be cancelled if conditions are too severe.

OUR EXPENSES CONTINUE...

Our Baptism into the Body of Christ and our life together in this congregation commits us to generous giving and returning thanks to God. Winter weather can cause us to close, keeping you from coming to worship. Please do your best to honor your pledge and make up the offerings you missed! You may want to consider "Simply Giving," an automated bank-draft offering to the church from your bank account. Even though Sunday services may be cancelled, the work of the church continues and expenses are still incurred. For more information, including other automatic ways to give, *contact Financial Secretary Janet Simmons (gandjsimmons@gmail.com or 434-5258) or Treasurer Terry Looney (tooness116@gmail.com or 828-3643).*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS

Our annual meeting of neighborhood shepherds will be **Sunday, February 3, 12:15- 1:45** in Wayland Hall. Lunch provided. Meet and share about the Neighborhood Shepherd Ministry with Pastor Lauren and other shepherds.

FAMILY CAMP NIGHT

The Virginia Synod Southern Valley Conference is holding a Family Camp Night **Sunday, March 24, 5:00-7:00 in the MAC**. Mark your calendars as staff from Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center present an early evening at camp with dinner, games and information about camp activities. Please sign up at the Connection Center so the camp will know how much food to provide. You won't want to miss this fun evening with others from the Southern Valley Conference. *For more information, contact Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).*

MUHLENBERG NEWS

FAREWELL GIFTS

The Farewell Gifts given in honor of Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul during their interim service from September 2017 until December 2018 totaled **\$4,148.40**. A check in the amount of \$2,074.20 will be sent to Pastor Mark's charity of choice – CICRIN Children's School in Nicaragua, and the same amount to Pastor Paul's charity of choice – the A Capella Choir at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, NC.

CREATION CARE TIP

Turn off the tap! You can save 10 gallons of water by simply turning off the tap when you're brushing your teeth, washing your face, or shaving.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants/stewards, greeters, sound techs, etc.

Sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center for **February**. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson (578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu).* If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Community > Worship: What to Expect > Worship + Music Leadership

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

CONTACTING PASTOR LAUREN

Email Pastor Lauren anytime at miller@muhlenberglutheran.org.

Reach her anytime by calling the church office (434-3496).

- During office hours, ask to speak with Linda Depoy. She has Pastor Lauren's schedule and can assist you.
- After hours leave a message on Pastor Lauren's voice mail and it will be immediately forwarded to her cell phone. She will respond as soon as possible.

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 TODAY to learn more.**

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

OPEN DOORS

Muhlenberg will prepare and serve dinner for Open Doors **Wednesday, February 6 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church.**



Open Doors provides food and shelter for the homeless in our community and the Local & Global Mission Committee is excited about this opportunity to serve those most in need.

Volunteers are needed to prepare food, serve, fellowship with the guests, and clean up.

Food will need to be dropped off at Emmanuel between 5:00 and 6:00 pm (ready to eat). Volunteers should arrive by 6:00 and we should be finished no later than 8:30. You can sign up on the google doc using this link: tinyurl.com/yageuw16. For more information, contact Susan Lawrence (lawrensj@comcast.net or 540-908-0073).

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Natural disasters cause widespread destruction. 100% of gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response go directly to aid in disaster relief. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** www.elca.org.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time.
- **Mail:** send checks made payable to Lutheran Disaster Response and designated for *Indonesian Tsunami* Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering plate:** make check payable to MLC and designate *ELCA Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent members can direct their Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com Disaster Response for details.

YOUTH & CAMPUS NEWS

For more information, contact Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

WINTER CELEBRATION

Abby Moyers, Charlie Britt, Lily Harmison, Schuyler Harmison, June Holm, Grayson Campbell, Sarah Furr, Clay Arthur, and Mycah McNett are attending Winter Cel at Eagle Eyrie this weekend! This annual Virginia Synod event for high school youth is a truly amazing experience!

Please keep all of the participants and leaders in your prayers as they explore their faith and experience God's amazing love!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

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

SHARING GOD'S WORD

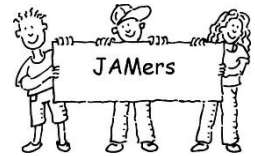
Classes **begin in designated locations Sundays at 9:30. Children should be picked up immediately** following the 9:30 liturgy.

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.

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

JAMERS RESCHEDULED FOR TODAY (2ND-5TH GRADERS)

Meet TODAY, January 20, 12:15 pm in the MAC to celebrate Epiphany. Join the fun and fellowship as together we serve others.



ATTENTION 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

7th Day, the Synod youth event for all 5th & 6th graders, will be held March 2-3 at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg. If you are interested in attending, please **contact Diane Bayer for a registration form or pick one up from the table outside her office.** You can also print one from the Synod website, vasynod.org (under the Youth and Young Adults link, 7th Day).

Here are some comments from others who have attended:

- *What a blast getting to meet kids from all over Virginia as we learned more about our faith. If you didn't go last year then you should go this year and see what you missed.*
- *7th Day weekend was a great experience! I didn't really know what to expect because I had never been to a retreat before, but after going to Eagle Eyrie I will definitely go back next year!*

Registration forms and checks made out to Muhlenberg for half the registration fee (\$57.50) need to be returned to Diane no later than **Sunday, January 27** in order for us to receive the early bird discount.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.) contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy at 434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org. Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors & editor.

✚ Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits and especially prayers following Jane's death December 17. The kindness and love expressed by our church family is truly appreciated. *Billy Walton & Family*

✚ Our 2018 Advent alternative gifting resulted in \$540 donated to ELCA Disaster Response and \$340 to Our Community Place. Thank you to all who contributed during the Advent season. It means the world to our neighbors in need.

Christian Formation put together 20 Alternative Advent gift boxes, filled 40+ Senior Citizen Santa bags, and 70 children received gifts through Angel Tree for Salvation Army, Second Home or Minnick School. We thank you for having a giving heart!

✚ The Board of Directors and Volunteers of Patchwork Pantry express deep appreciation for the support you have extended to the hungry in the Harrisonburg Community through our pantry during 2018. Month after month, you faithfully contribute food and paper products. Patchwork Pantry could not help those who come on Wednesday evenings without your help. May God bless your many ministries and most especially your ministry to those in need of food. We look forward to a continued partnership in 2019.

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. Romans 12:9-21 Thu. Romans 7:1-6
Tue. 1 Cor. 1:3-17 Fri. Romans 12:1-8
Wed. Luke 5:33-39 Sat. Luke 2:39-52
Sun. Luke 4:14-21

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 21 - 27, 2019

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Congregation Council Mtg.

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. 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Christian Formation
12:15 pm Annual Meeting

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)