



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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February 24, 2019

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

† Please remember the following youth in your prayers as they travel this Saturday to attend 7th Day, a Synod youth event for 5th and 6th grade students held at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg: Nate Bergy, Isaiah Campbell, Katie Kolodinsky, Abigail Kyle, Keira Miller, Ryan Moyers, Lily Norris, Asher Ryan, Molly Wells and their advisors Eric Ryan, Holly Haney and Diane Bayer. Talk with the youth to learn what these events mean to them. We thank the congregation for your support in the faith formation of our youth.

† Our 2019 Lenten journey will soon begin. Pastor Lauren has found a fantastic, all-inclusive resource for worship, music, and Christian Formation. *See pages 4-5 for details.*

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

TODAY at the 11:00 service. *See p. 3 for more information.* A reception will be held in the Gathering Area after the service. Be sure to stop by and welcome our new members.

Interested in membership or want to learn more about Muhlenberg? Contact Pastor Lauren (miller@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) or Kathy Thompson, Chair of the Evangelism Team (thompskb@jmu.edu or 578-4830). They would love to hear from you!



Please wear a nametag to help Pastor Lauren learn your name.

Supplies are in the Gathering Area.

**CULTIVATING
& LETTING GO**

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 securely register online at www.muhlenberglutheran.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BRIDGE OF HOPE BENEFIT CONCERT

Friday, March 1, 7:00-9:00 pm

Court Square Theatre



The Walking Roots Band and The Clymer Kurtz Band will perform.

Proceeds fund Bridge of Hope's efforts to end homelessness in the Valley. For more information, visit hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org.

RUTH SIGMON CIRCLE

Meets **Monday, March 4, 6:30 pm** in the Augsburg Room. Bible study, *Meeting with Jesus, Session Two*, will be taken from the Jan/Feb Gather magazine. Join us. For more information, contact *Louise Johnson* (gfriend07@verizon.net or 433-1047).

ACTS SPRING COURSE

April 6 and May 11, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waynesboro. Details and registration forms can be found at the Connection Center. Scholarships cover the cost for Muhlenberg attendees. Contact *Diane Bayer* if you are interested.

**DON'T FORGET ... NEXT SUNDAY
FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTED*
& LAY COMMUNION MINISTERS
SERVING OUR SHUT-INS**

*no glass jars, please

and NAME BADGE SUNDAY

Make a badge so fellow members can learn your name.



FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	82	No noon service
9:30 Worship	97	
11:00 Worship	<u>126</u>	
Total	305	

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 2019			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$48,402	\$64,742	\$55,138
Total Receipts	\$54,516	\$71,351	\$60,639
Expenses	\$85,975	\$101,192	\$82,188
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$28,459)	(29,841)	(\$21,549)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	8,107.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	3,361.31
Total Giving for the Week	\$	11,468.31

See *Connection Center notebook* for details.



To give online, scan here →

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

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

Sign up for March in the notebook at the Connection Center. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or contact *Kathy Thompson* (thompskb@jmu.edu or 578-4830). 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.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Andrew Foote and Grace Dings

26081 Iverson Drive
South Riding, VA 20152
Andrew: 703-314-1183;
asfoote1@gmail.com
Grace: 703-975-6276;
gracedings@gmail.com

Andrew is from Fairfax and Grace is from South Riding, Virginia. Some friends recommended they visit Muhlenberg. Andrew and Grace say it felt that this congregation really fit with them and who they are.

Grace is a music teacher at Goshen Post Elementary School in Loudon County. Andrew will be graduating from JMU with a Music Education degree in May.

They are excited to begin their unified spiritual journey together and to join an open and loving congregation. Andrew and Grace will be getting married on New Year's Day, 2020 and can't wait to get to know the Muhlenberg family. Andrew has a fish, but they are looking forward to a dog when they are married.



Wesley Way

1404 Valley Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540-830-2631
bigdrumskyreligion@gmail.com

Wes is from the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County area. He is part owner of The Little Grill Collective. He has one daughter, Emma who is 4. Wes volunteers with the Girl Scouts and enjoys working with kids. He has shopped around for a few years and became interested in Lutheranism because of friends and Nadia Bolz-Weber.

Wes has been called to serve in God's Lutheran Church, he believes as a pastor. He is currently in the discernment process. Wes has an Associate's Degree in Mental Health and is interested in mental health/substance abuse recovery.



LENT: CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, of inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge. This year, our lectionary offers us images and stories with themes of earthiness and grit. We'll explore these texts in worship each Sunday, and through the week engage in an intergenerational art project, Wednesday evening dinner church, and devotional reflections written by Muhlenberg members.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: 7:30 AM, 12 NOON, 7:00 PM



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6. Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer where we will receive the sign of ashes, an ancient symbol of repentance. Half-hour Ash Wednesday services with the Imposition of Ashes will be held at 7:30 am and noon on Wednesday, March 6. The complete Ash Wednesday liturgy will be spoken at 7:00 pm. A light meal will be served – details below.

HUNGER AWARENESS MEAL: 6:00 pm in the MAC

Prior to Ash Wednesday worship, Christian Formation will serve traditional Third World beans and rice from Africa, South America and Central America and share information about world hunger. Share God's love for us and for others as together we eat a meal that many around the world eat every day!

CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO DEVOTIONS

Twice a week throughout Lent, reflections on our theme of *Cultivating and Letting Go* written by Muhlenberg members will be emailed to our mailing list. If you are not currently on the email list, you can sign up on our website. Printed copies will also be available each week at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area. *If you are interested in submitting a devotion, contact Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).*

Also available in the Gathering Area **will be** a daily Lenten devotional entitled "Lasting Hope." This beautiful, full-color booklet explores the Lenten Psalm texts.

LENT: CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO (CONT'D)

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

WORSHIP CHANGES DURING LENT

The season of Lent brings with it opportunities for us to cultivate and let go of aspects of our liturgy and worship practice. Such changes are intended to highlight the journey we make to the cross and engage us in a time of repentance, introspection, and discipline.

- On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, we will let go of the word “Alleluia” for the season of Lent. Based on the Hebrew word, hallelu yah, meaning “praise the Lord,” alleluia has been a word of great praise to God in the life of the church. Because of the penitential character of the Lenten season in the Western church, singing or saying the word alleluia has historically been suspended during Lent’s forty days.
- On Ash Wednesday, worshipers are invited to receive the imposition of ashes.
- There are no flowers during this penitential season, and we receive unleavened wafers at communion.
- Through the season of Lent, communion will be received at the altar rail, either standing or kneeling, as you are able.
- In our worship we sing only the “Kyrie” and not the Hymn of Praise, “Glory to God.” We use a musical setting that is more chant-like. It may feel new, but actually comes from the 1958 Service Book and Hymnal.

The use of these options invites us to consider what we are cultivating in our lives as well. They also provide a refreshing break until we return to a fuller expression of worship in the Easter season.

MIDWEEK LENTEN DINNER CHURCH

On Wednesdays during Lent, worship will take place around the table: the dinner table. Think of a good dinner party with a spiritual twist – and then add art (music, poetry, Scripture), robust conversation, and prayerful moments (embracing simple liturgy and silence). Together we’ll cultivate relationships with each other and with God.

We’ll begin at 6:15pm in the MAC and wrap up by 7:15 pm. This casual yet meaningful experience is great for all ages.

LENTEN COLLECTIONS

ELCA WORLD HUNGER BOX

Boxes are available in the Gathering Area. Funds raised will be used to help feed the hungry all over the world.

BASKETS OF PROMISE

During Lent Christian Formation (through the JAMers elementary youth group) and Local & Global Mission are sponsoring Lutheran World Relief's *Baskets of Promise* appeal by collecting items for personal care kits. We will **start collecting Sunday, March 10**. Look for a complete list of needed items at the Connection Center. *Contact Diane Bayer (bayer@muehlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) with any questions.*

Sunday, March 10, we collect **BARS OF SOAP** (individually wrapped in original wrapping).

March 17, we collect **BATH TOWELS (lightweight, dark colors, 52" x 27")**. We ask for lightweight towels because they dry quicker in the sun!

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.

Create a weekly meal plan that limits red meat to twice a week. You can dramatically reduce your carbon footprint by replacing red meat with more sustainable options. When you do purchase red meat, support sustainable farming practices by choosing products that are labeled "organic," "free range," and "grass fed."

SECOND HOME NEWS

READ ACROSS AMERICA

For the second year, Second Home will participate in Read Across America and will hold a reading party to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Our goal is to match each of our students with a volunteer for some reading and literacy activity fun. At the end of the party students will take home a personalized book to add to their home library.

Join us **Friday, March 1, 4:15 - 5:30 pm** in the MAC. *Let us know you will be there by signing up at the Gathering Area or by contacting Lori Reich (432-7889 or secondhomeharrisonburg@gmail.com).*

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

HAVE THE HEART OF A SERVANT?

Want to spend a morning or afternoon each week in a welcoming environment while serving your church and community? The church office is looking for members who have time to serve in a volunteer capacity as an office assistant/receptionist in the Narthex and Gathering Area. Orientation and training are provided.

Can't make a firm commitment? You can still help. We also need assistants to *fill in* on occasion. Additionally, we periodically have special projects that may be done at the church office or sometimes from home.

To explore any of these opportunities, *please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muehlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496)*. In compliance with state regulations and Safe Church policies, there is an interview and application process.

COMBINED YOUTH NEWS

MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE IN DC



Calling all youth and families! JAMers, Alpha Teens, and JCrew youth groups are planning a trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC **Saturday, May 18**. If you are interested, please sign up in the youth binder at the Connection Center. Pricing is still to be determined - right now we are looking for interest in the trip and how many people want to attend!

JCREW NEWS

*For more information, contact Clay Arthur
(clay@muhlenberglutheran.org / 540-758-3208).*

JCREW SUMMER MISSION TRIP

The deadline to reserve a space for our mission trip this summer is **Friday, March 1!** Join us for our awesome adventure to Philadelphia July 14-19! You can reserve your space by emailing or texting Clay your name and date of birth AND providing a deposit of \$50. Please make checks payable to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church.

ALPHA TEENS NEWS

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

ALPHA TEENS OUTING!

Saturday, March 9 we will meet at Valley Jump Trampoline Park, Route 33 in Penn Laird at 10:20 for a 10:30 jump session. The cost is \$12 for an hour of jumping and \$2 for jump socks (unless you already have them). Sign up in the youth binder at the Connection Center.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

*Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer
(434-3496 / 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.

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

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Sundays, March 3, 17 & 31 at 12:15, led by Pastor

Lauren. We ask that one parent/guardian attend the class with your child. *Please contact Diane Bayer if your child plans to attend.*



Saturday, April 13, students will make communion bread in the MAC and go to the sanctuary to review the service for their First Communion. They will **receive communion with their families Palm Sunday, April 14**.

Most often, first communion class is for students in the 3rd or 4th grade whose parents/guardians think this is the appropriate time for their child to start the class. Younger or older children are welcome to participate. If you have a younger child that you feel is ready for communion, they are invited to the class and may commune after parent/guardian consultation with Pastor Lauren.

JAMERS

Meet at church **Sunday, March 10, 12:15**. We will go to Camp Caroline Furnace for lunch, a camp tour, games, and s'mores. **Bring a brown bag lunch and wear old shoes** for hiking (trails may be a bit muddy). **We will return to the church by 4:30**.

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.

✦ From Second Home Kids to JAMers: A huge thank you for our snacks and reusable water bottles! Staying hydrated during musical rehearsals is important and the bottles are very helpful.

MORE MUHLENBERG NEWS

COMMUNION IN THE PEWS



Holy Communion

For those who wish to receive Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, communion is served in the pews – please let an usher know. In addition to bread and wine, **white grape juice and gluten-free bread** are also available. Please indicate your preference for juice to the Lay Assisting Minister and take gluten-free bread from the small container beside the regular communion bread.

COLORED PENCILS WANTED

We will use colored pencils for a special Lenten project. If you have any extras, bring them to church and place them in the designated box at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.

Parish Administrator Linda Depoy

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. 1 Cor. 11:2-16 **Thu.** Acts 3:11-16
Tue. 1 Cor. 11:17-22, 27-33 **Fri.** Acts 10:1-8
Wed. Luke 11:37-52 **Sat.** Luke 10:21-24
 Sun. Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

February 25—March 3, 2019

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
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. Transfiguration of Our Lord
 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
 Food Pantry, Lay Communion &
 Name Badge Sunday
 9:30 am Christian Formation
 12:15 pm First Communion Class

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).