



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 25, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

† **Call Committee Update:** We are pleased to inform you that we have scheduled initial interviews for seven candidates. This is a very important part of the process. The number of candidates interested in Muhlenberg is a testament to the strength of our faith community. As we enter this next phase of the process, let's continue to grow our faith together and be that welcoming beacon of Christ's love to newcomers.

Please keep the candidates, the Call Committee, and the congregation in your prayers. Thank you for your continued support. *Mark Warner, Call Committee Chair*

† **See page 3 for Lenten Opportunities.**

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 visit us at www.muhlenberglutheran.org or scan this QR code to securely register online.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

NEW MEMBERS

We receive new members **TODAY** during the **11:00** service. Afterward, meet our newest members at a reception in the Gathering Area. *See today's insert for details about our new members.*



ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

For those that make electronic donations to Muhlenberg, we have something new for you on Sundays. At the Connection Center, you will find a laminated card called Electronic Contribution. Pick one up before service on Sunday and place it in the offering. It signifies to others that you are faithful and generous in your stewardship. *Questions? Contact Dennis Baugh (dennisbaugh@gmail.com / 540-705-0520).*

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ISSUES AT THE END OF LIFE

Are you interested in learning about matters that have to do with the end of life, from religious, emotional, practical and spiritual perspectives? While he was at Susquehanna University, Pastor Mark taught a national award-winning course on such issues (<https://goo.gl/EK8GFL>), and is open to teaching an abbreviated form of the class at Muhlenberg. Participants will decide the topics to be addressed, which could include religious/theological/spiritual perspectives on end of life and “afterlife,” grief in America, constructing and leaving a personal legacy, funeral practices & options, advance directives, physician assisted death, and what to say/what not to say to those who are grieving. Other topics are also possible.

A first session for those interested will be **THIS Tuesday, February 27 from 5:30 to 6:25 pm**. The group will meet on Tuesdays at that hour. Participants will decide how often the class will meet (weekly, bi-weekly or monthly). Please indicate your interest by signing up in the notebook at the Connection Center.

FOOD COLLECTION



**Food
Collection**

NEXT Sunday, March 4 in the Gathering Area, we will collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry.

No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products. Thank you for your support.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	40	Wed. Noon	12
9:30 Worship	91	Wed. PM	70
11:00 Worship	<u>114</u>		
Total	245		

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK:

FELLOWSHIP

This space features one committee/ministry team each week. Highlights are provided so we become more familiar with their work.

The Fellowship Committee hopes you will join us this spring! Activities being planned this year include a Paint Nite in March and a trip in May.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member, or have ideas and/or feedback as to activities you would like to see Fellowship offer, contact Machel Rader at raderpm@jmu.edu or 820-4784.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 2018			
	Y-T-D <u>Actual</u>	Y-T-D <u>Budget</u>	Y-T-D <u>Last Year</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$54,786	\$53,872	\$55,900
Total Receipts	\$60,639	\$61,749	\$63,582
Expenses	\$82,188	\$94,581	\$84,292
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$21,549)	(\$32,832)	(\$20,710)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan:	\$	6,711.44
Giving to Other Designated Funds:	\$	<u>2,088.65</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	8,800.09

See details in the notebook at the Connection Center.

January Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$775

To give online MLC, scan here →





LENTEN ACTIVITIES at Muhlenberg

MIDWEEK LENTEN PREACHING SERIES AND SUPPERS

We are excited to continue our preaching series for Midweek Lenten Services to be held in the Sanctuary **each Wednesday during Lent at 6:30 pm. At 5:45 pm, a light supper sponsored by various congregational groups will be served in the Nielsen Room and Wayland Hall.** Here is the list of preachers:

- **2/28 Pastor Alex Zuber:** “The Covenant with Abraham & Sarah and the Mark of the Word”
- **3/07 Pastor Mark Radecke:** “The Mosaic Covenant and the Mark of Confession & Absolution”
- **3/14 Pastor Robert Alley:** “The Covenant with David and the Mark of Worship”
- **3/21 Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop:** “The New Covenant and the Mark of Ministry”

We are especially excited to hear from Pastor Alex who was active in our campus ministry as a student, from Pastor Alley who is active among us, and from Pastor Kelly who represents the Synod and is the daughter of Chip & Diane Bayer.

Our sponsoring groups for the 5:45 supper:

3/7 Youth	2/28 Fellowship
3/14 Mary Martha	3/21 Council

Join us for a great evening of fellowship and worship!

LENTEN MIDDAY RECITAL SERIES

Martin Luther said, “Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.”

Please join us **Thursdays at noon** during the Lenten season as we feature a variety of incredible musicians. Each week this 30-minute program offers an opportunity to temporarily release the stress of the day and be rejuvenated through the power of music. Concerts are free and open to all. Artists performing this season:

- Mar 1 Edward Gant, cello**
JMU Music Faculty
- Mar 8 Chris Carrillo, trumpet**
JMU Music Faculty
- Mar 15 MLC Members**
Instrumentalists and vocalists from the MLC community
- Mar 22 Florence Jowers, organist**
Minister of Music, Christ Lutheran, Staunton



EASTER OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER LILIES



Want to help beautify our church for Easter and remember/honor a loved one? Cost is **\$17 per plant**.

Sign-up deadline is SUNDAY, MARCH 18. To reserve your lily

and have information published on Easter Sunday, do the following:

1. **Sign up** in the notebook (*under the "Flowers" tab*) at the Connection Center.
2. **Pay** for lilies by placing your check in the offering plate (write "Easter Lilies" on the memo line/envelope).

Payment will reserve the lilies.

Lilies may be picked up after the 11:00 service on Easter Sunday. Remaining lilies will be distributed as needed on Thursday (April 5).



ALTERNATIVE GIVING

If you wish to remember a loved one in a different way, choose a local or global opportunity in **Patchwork Pantry** or **ELCA World Hunger**:



*Alternative Giving
Opportunity*

1. Sign up in the notebook (**blue forms in the front cover pocket**) at the Connection Center by **SUNDAY, MARCH 18**.
2. **Make your contribution** by placing your check in the offering plate. Ensure correct credit/designation by indicating "**Patchwork Pantry Easter Gift**" or "**World Hunger Easter Gift**" on the memo line of your check/envelope.

On Easter Sunday, we will publish the names of loved ones remembered with Easter lilies or alternative giving.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

BASKETS OF PROMISE

During Lent the Christian Formation (through the JAMers elementary youth group) and Local & Global Mission ministry teams are sponsoring Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise appeal by collecting items for Personal Care Kits.

TODAY we collect **BATH TOWELS** (light-weight, dark colors, 52" x 27"). Lightweight towels dry quicker in the sun!

NEXT Sunday, March 4, we will collect **TOOTHBRUSHES** (adult size in original packaging).

Look for a complete list of the items at the Connection Center. *Contact Diane Bayer* (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org / 434-3496) *with any questions.*

HURRICANE RELIEF TRIP

We are looking into a *Hurricane Relief trip* to Florida. Since we have not yet connected a sponsoring host, the window is very tentative. So as you consider making this domestic trip with us, consider either late October or November 3-11 as possible dates.

We plan to do some in-house fundraising to defer the expenses; however, the group that goes will be responsible for the *majority* of the cost. The 2018 church budget does NOT include any funding for this trip.

At this time, we are only looking for interest. *Email Herb Amato* (amatohk@jmu.edu) *if you would like to be on our email distribution list.* Based on interest, we will start putting together a budget and an itinerary. Once we have an idea of the cost and departure date, we will ask for a *firm* commitment and a non-refundable registration deposit. If you have questions, please contact any of us.

Herb Amato, Neil Alexander, Erin Burke

MUHLENBERG NEWS

Ever wonder where communion bread comes from?

VOLUNTEERS!

Ever wonder how communion glasses get cleaned???

VOLUNTEERS!

Ever wonder how communion linen gets cleaned???

VOLUNTEERS!

None of these necessary tasks are difficult or all that time consuming. Volunteers are needed to assist those who are carrying the load week to week.

Why not spread these tasks among our large congregation you say...well then, why not volunteer?

- Contact David Hill (234-8892) if interested in baking communion bread.
- Contact Sylvia Hollen (sahollen@comcast.net / 833-6723) to get on the list to clean the communion linen.
- We especially need help to clean and store the glasses and communion ware after the 9:30 and 11:00 am services. Contact David Hill.

Will you help?

REQUEST FOR LENTEN DEVOTIONS
We are nearly halfway there on devotions submitted! Thank you to everyone who has joined their voices in our Lenten Practice.

If you've found this meaningful, consider writing a story of faith to share. If you know someone who you think should participate, encourage them to submit a devotion by emailing Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberg.lutheran.org).

Here are a few guiding questions: How has your relationship with God inspired your faith? Through whom has God strengthened your faith? What or who helped you through the low points in faith? How has your faith journey intersected with Muhlenberg? How do you remember your baptism outside of church?

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

Switch on your ceiling fan. Remember to reverse the fan motor to circulate warm air into living areas and reduce your energy bill up to 10%. Some energy-efficient models use as little energy as a 100-watt light bulb. For summer use, use the forward setting which will blow cool air downward.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Designated Choice Dollars are offered to eligible Thrivent members based on insurance premiums, contract values, etc. Choice Dollars can be directed to specific organizations, including Muhlenberg. To designate where your Choice Dollars are given, call 1-800-847-4836 or visit thrivent.com/choicedollars. You will need your 9-digit Thrivent ID number which can be found on your Thrivent statement. Visit the Connection Center for full details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

RUTH SIGMON CIRCLE

Meets **Monday, March 5, 6:30 pm** in the Augsburg Room. The Bible study from *Gather* magazine will be led by Phyllis Sonner. All MLC women are invited to attend. *Please contact Louise Johnson at 433-1047.* Hope to see you at the meeting.

ACTS SPRING COURSE

March 10 and April 21 at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waynesboro (or at two simulcast locations). Mark Vitalis Hoffman will present on the Parables of Jesus as part of the New Testament ACTS course. Registration forms are at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area. If you have questions or are interested in scholarship availability, *contact Diane Bayer (434-3496).*

CONCERT FEATURING THE VIRGINIA BRASS CONSORT



Join the Virginia Brass Consort and Elizabeth Williams for the 2018 Muhlenberg Brass Festival **Saturday, March 17 at 5 pm.**

The Virginia Brass Consort is a mix of music faculty from JMU and Bridgewater College and they will perform works by Brahms, Dukas, Haufrecht, McKee, and others for a night of exciting brass music.

Admission is free; donations will be accepted to support Muhlenberg's Special Music Performance Fund.

SECOND HOME NEWS

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY!

Grab Your Hat and Read with the Cat or a CHILD!

Celebrate *Read Across America Day* with Second Home **THIS Wednesday, February 28, 4:30-5:30 pm** in the MAC.



Second Home is currently putting together an event to celebrate *Read Across America* and to promote literacy among our families, but we need you! **Our goal is to have a volunteer for every child at Second Home!** This is a great opportunity for people who can make only a small time commitment but want the chance to get involved in Second Home.

Bring your favorite Dr. Seuss book or one you haven't read yet, and come read to a child! If you want to join in the fun, *please contact the Second Home office (432-7989 or secondhomeharrisonburg@gmail.com)*

COMMUNICATION COLLABORATION

This spring the Evangelism Ministry has started working on several projects with students from the communication department at JMU. Look out for future requests to feature member spotlights, ministry highlights, and maybe even a video project! *Contact Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org / 434-3496).*

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

AN INVITATION TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

College students who are part of our worshiping community are invited to meet with Pastor Alex Zuber and the Campus Ministry Committee **THIS Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 pm** (after the Midweek Lenten Service). We will hear of Pastor Alex's experience as a JMU student involved in campus ministry.

Students may also want to hear Pastor Alex preach during the 6:30 pm service and enjoy the free supper served at 5:45 pm in the Nielsen Room (downstairs).

CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Lutheran Campus Ministry got together Saturday, February 17 for a Paint Night with Bob Ross! His old videos are available online, and we followed along with his instructions to make a peaceful forest.



Bob ross did me good

Are you a college student at JMU, EMU, Bridgewater or Blue Ridge? Make sure to find us on Facebook and look out for plans in March to visit the puppies at Gap View Ranch and Kennel.

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 during the 11:00 service for children 3-7 years old. After Children's Time with the pastors, 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 more information about classes for children and adults.

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

First Communion Classes for 2nd to 4th graders and higher will be led by our pastors **Sundays, March 4, 11, and 18 from 12:15-1:00 pm** in the Augsburg Room. A parent or guardian for each child is asked to attend the class as well. *Please contact Diane Bayer to enroll your child in the class.*



There will be a final session on Saturday, March 24, 9:30 am when the class will make communion bread in the MAC, learn about the church's communion vessels, and review the service for their First Communion.

Those attending the classes will receive First Communion with their families on Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm.

If you have a child 1st grade or younger who would like to receive Holy Communion, please call one of the pastors for a conversation.

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 and editor.

✠ I love the patterns of our worship, from the passing seasons of the church calendar to the ritual flow of each week's liturgy. These patterns prevent me from getting hung up on what is on the "surface," drawing my focus instead to the core message and meaning of a given moment. But disrupting these patterns a little—doing something familiar but in a less familiar way—can sometimes be helpful. This is how I felt when we began last week's service by praying the Great Litany. Even though the Great Litany is ancient, beginning Lent this way felt "new," and praying and singing the words of the Litany responsively as a congregation was for me a welcome and meaningful experience.

Jon Gibson

PARKING COURTESY

From young families juggling little ones to older members to others in between, there are many folks whose lives could be made a little easier or safer by parking closer to the church entrances. While we have a few designated handicapped parking spots, at times on Sunday morning those can be full. Let's be hospitable to each other and visitors who might simply be helped by a closer space. If you usually park closer, maybe take a spot a little further back so that others may have a safe spot for them. Thank you for your consideration.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

PRAYING OUR FAITH TOGETHER!

For individual and family use. Scripture citations taken from ELW's 3-Year Daily Lectionary, p. 1132-1143, (Year B).

Mon. Heb. 1:8-12 Thu. 1 Peter 2:4-10
Tue. Heb. 11:1-3, 13-19 Fri. Acts 7:30-40
Wed. John 12:36-43 Sat. Mark 9:2-8
Sun. Mark 8:31-38

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

February 26—March 4

Tue.	5:30 pm	Issues at the End of Life
	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed.	12 noon	Holy Communion
	4:30 pm	Second Home <i>Read Across America</i>
	4:45 pm	Cherub Choir
	5:15 pm	SonShine Singers
	5:45 pm	Lenten Supper
	6:30 pm	Lenten Preaching Series
	7:00 pm	Campus Ministry Meeting
	7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thu.	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
	12 noon	Lenten Recital Series
Sun.	8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am	Holy Communion
		Food Pantry, Lay Communion, and 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.