



# 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 26, 2017**

## TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

† Today we celebrate the festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, as we do each year on the Sunday prior to Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. This festival closes the season of Epiphany and its theme of light with a bright scene on the mountaintop. In the reading, Jesus' appearance is changed, or transfigured, shining before his disciples. How are we transfigured, transformed, by Jesus' light in our midst? We take this question with us into the season of Lent ahead. We sing "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" and say goodbye to saying Alleluia during the penitential season of Lent.

† We offer many opportunities to enrich your Lenten journey. See pages 3-5 or stop by the table in the Gathering Area for details.

### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

#### BAKE FOR SECOND HOME

Here is a chance to show our famous MLC care and support by offering baked goods for the families our Second Home ministry serves, including many immigrant families. Volunteers will pack 60 bakery boxes filled with an assortment of home baked or bakery-type cookies, brownies, cupcakes, slices of baked loaves, etc. The boxes will include a miniature version of a "We're glad you're our neighbor" sign, which will be given to parents when they come for their children.

Bring your baked items to the Gathering Area **TODAY** before any service or to the MAC kitchen by 3:00. Contact Patty Sensabaugh with any questions (578-1093). Thank you!

#### DEADLINE TODAY!

**Charter Bus Trip to Inner Harbor, MD  
Saturday, May 13, 2017**

We currently have half of the bus filled and the **deadline to reserve your seat and pay for the trip is TODAY**. Tomorrow, we will open the trip to the community. Cost: \$30 per person round trip. Contact Machel Rader at 820-4784 or [raderpm@jmu.edu](mailto:raderpm@jmu.edu) to reserve your seat or with any questions.

#### 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](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org) to securely register online.*



## TODAY (CONT'D)

### JCREW

JCrew (grades 9-12) will meet **TODAY, 12-2**. We'll walk somewhere and get lunch (bring \$ for lunch if you're able), and continue our conversations as we grow and bond as a group! Friends welcome - hope to see you!

### 500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Do you know that Martin Luther wrote at least 37 hymns? You are invited to Christ Lutheran's celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, where you will learn more about Luther's contribution to our hymnody, and sing several of his hymns. This will be a combination organ recital/hymn sing with commentary, centered around Luther's hymns. This event takes place **TODAY, 4:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church**, 2807 N. Augusta Street, Staunton.

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### GO-GO GROUP LUNCH

**Wednesday, March 1 at 1 pm.** Call Dan Werner at 433-3912 for location.

### COMFORT MAKERS NEED HELP!

The 2017 comfort making project continues **THIS Thursday 8:00-noon** in Wayland Hall. Last week, 16 people made 16 comforts.

Besides the labor of love to create these new comforts, we need **full flat bed sheets** for backing (no fitted sheets). Please purge your linen closets of usable but unneeded sheets. *Contact Katie Ray (574-3824) to donate or for more information.*

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	76	Wed. noon	13
9:30 Worship	95		
11:00 Worship	<u>161</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>332</b>		

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Pastor Neal Boese wrote the spiritual gifts inventory for the ELCA and says, "when a congregation enables members to understand their gifts and use them, unimagined ministry occurs." He wrote the manual *Spiritual Gifts-Power that Drives the Congregation* to share his findings. In the coming weeks, we will highlight some ways for you to consider sharing your gifts.

*Music/Vocal is the gift that gives a believer the capability and opportunity to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing. Psalm 96:1-9*

*Music/Instrumental is the gift that gives a believer the desire and capability to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument. Psalm 33:1-3*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through <b>January 2017</b>			
	Y-T-D <u>Actual</u>	Y-T-D <u>Budget</u>	Y-T-D <u>Last Year</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$56,721	\$60,537	\$54,335
Total Receipts	\$63,582	\$68,414	\$61,048
Expenses	\$84,292	\$91,145	\$82,146
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>\$(20,710)</b>	<b>\$(22,731)</b>	<b>\$(21,098)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan: \$ 8,106.76  
 Giving to Other Designated Funds: \$ 3,155.06  
**Total Giving for the Week \$ 11,261.82**

**February** Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$901

To give online, scan here →





# LENTEN ACTIVITIES at Muhlenberg

## **SILENCE PLEASE...**

*As we enter the season of Lent next Sunday, we ask that you **enter the worship space each week in silence** and enter into a time of prayerful preparation for worship. Our Gathering Area is a perfect place to enjoy conversations and catch up with old and new friends.*

## **ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 1**



We will gather for worship on Ash Wednesday at **7:30 am, 12 noon and 7 pm**, marking the start of the season of Lent. This powerful worship service offers an extended confession, time for reflection, Holy Communion, and the imposition of ashes, placed on our foreheads with the sign of the cross to “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” It is a meaningful and essential way to enter into the season of Lent and experience the full swing to the joy of Easter morning.

## **LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP**

### **TAIZÉ SERVICE**

**March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5**

Join us each Wednesday at **6:30 pm** among lit candles, silence, and prayers. Taizé songs are very simple and repetitive in nature, so that our singing becomes a prayer, out of the community in Taizé, France. Each week we will hear and briefly discuss a portion of the Lord’s Prayer, from Luther’s Small Catechism. These services will be renewing and rich – peaceful and prayerful. Make this commitment to come and worship each Wednesday evening and be blessed by an enriched Lenten season!

## **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 mid-day and be rejuvenated through the power of music. Concerts are free and open to all. Artists performing this season:

- Mar 9 Chris Carrillo, trumpet
- Mar 16 Gianne Ge Zhu, piano
- Mar 23 Kevin Stees, tuba
- Mar 30 Edward Gant, cello
- Apr 6 MLC Members, voice, instrumental

## **LENTEN DEVOTIONALS**

Available from tables in the Gathering Area. Take time each day for devotions as part of your Lenten journey to the Cross and then to the joy of our Lord’s Resurrection!

## **BASKETS OF PROMISE**

Once again during Lent, the ministry teams of Christian Formation (through the JAMers elementary youth group) and Local & Global Mission will join Lutheran World Relief’s Baskets of Promise appeal. We are collecting items for personal care kits.

**Next Sunday, March 5**, we collect **BARS OF SOAP** (in original packaging).

Look for a complete list of the items at the Connection Center. *Contact Diane Bayer at 434-3496 with any questions.*



## Animate: Bible

A refreshing new take  
on what the Bible is, and  
how we read it today.

### **ANIMATE: BIBLE FOR LENT WITH PASTOR BRETT**

Are you intimidated about reading the Bible? Looking for a good intro, refresher, or overview? Curious or struggling with what the Bible's all about or what it is to you? Want to hear from some amazing current scholars/teachers? Looking to deepen your understanding of scripture or learn with other folks? Muhlenberg members and community members/friends, you are invited to join in Animate: Bible for Lent.

We'll meet weekly on either Wednesday nights (7ish-8:30), Thursday mornings (9-10:30), or online if you can't make either time work. Together we'll watch the brief video with a leading theologian/scholar and then join in conversation in small groups and further instruction from Pastor Brett - all in a setting that welcomes questions and doesn't put anyone on the spot.

The course has a beautiful, artistic softbound journal which draws you in to reflect, go deeper, and check out scripture - each week of the journal crafted by that week's speaker's words. Speakers in the series include Rachel Held Evans, Will Willimon, and Nadia Bolz-Weber. The cost is \$14 to cover the cost of the journal, which you keep - cost can be confidentially covered if needed.

This is a seven-week course - you won't want to miss one (you can join in online or switch between daytime/evening if needed) **beginning March 8**, skipping Holy Week, and finishing the week of April 26. Sign up at the Connection Center or online! Join in!



## **BEING CHURCH TOGETHER IN A CHANGING WORLD WITH PASTOR BOB**

What does it mean to be Church in these times? With each other, with partners who share our Christian faith? With our neighbor?

Interested in an adult discussion during Lent on the importance of the church? *Tapestry*, the Virginia Synod Steering Team on engaging “diversity in context,” has put together a 5-week Lenten study series called “Being Church Together in a Changing World” for use by either congregation groups or individuals. Participate in one or more of the sessions led by Pastor Bob on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00ish** (following our prayer service at 6:30 pm) starting **March 8**. Watch for more details about the meeting place.

**Weekly Webinars led by Directors of Evangelical Mission.** (Directors of Evangelical Mission, or DEMs, are rostered leaders appointed by the ELCA to serve in Synods to assist congregations with mission, outreach, and stewardship.) Four DEMs will be presenting on the following:

**Week 1: Intro "Being Church Together in a Changing World"**

**Week 2: God's Mission has a Church (Why does God have a church?)**

**Week 3: Listen, Listen, Listen! (Why listening - listening together - is necessary.)**

**Week 4: Calling: You Can't Do It By Yourself (Why being Church Together is Necessary)**

**Week 5: Final Thoughts on "Being Church Together in a Changing World"**

The webinar videos will be accompanied by Scripture and discussion questions.

## MINISTRY 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 [rsanders97@verizon.net](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net).*

Vinegar is not just for salad dressing, it's also a powerful all-purpose household cleaner. Use a mixture of equal parts vinegar and water to tackle jobs ranging from cleaning windows and cutting through soap scum to removing stains. A bottle of vinegar is cheaper than similar-size bottles of brand name cleaning products and much safer.

## GRIEF SUPPORT

### TOWARD A BRIGHTER TOMORROW Bereavement Support Group

Free and open to anyone in the community dealing with grief due to the loss of a loved one.



Support groups are held in a safe and confidential environment, led by a trained facilitator provided by Sentara Hospice Services. Free material and resources will be available. Meetings will be closed after the first session. Registration is required – contact Debra Huffman at [dshuffma@sentara.com](mailto:dshuffma@sentara.com) or 564-5833. Meets at Sentara RMH Atrium (2000 Beery Road, Harrisonburg). Visit the Connection Center for a flyer with details.

**Tuesdays, March 7 -28**

**6:00 – 7:30 pm**

*Facilitated by MLC's own Dan Werner*

**Thursdays, March 8-29**

**3:00-4:30 pm**

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### ADULT MISSION TRIP TO WEST VA.

Remember last summer's devastating floods in parts of West Virginia? Recovery efforts are still underway, and we would like to take a small team of men AND women there to help with home repairs. We'll leave Thursday evening March 23, travel 2 hrs. to Greenbrier Co., work Friday and Saturday and return March 26 early afternoon. Food and lodging are included in the \$130 per person fee charged by the Appalachian Service Project organization. We will travel via our church van. Contact Neil Alexander at 405-2569 ([katneil@aol.com](mailto:katneil@aol.com)) or Herb Amato at 830-7910 ([amatohk@jmu.edu](mailto:amatohk@jmu.edu)) with questions or to sign up. **We need the fee by February 28 to reserve your spot.**

### BRIDGE OF HOPE-MUHLENBERG

A Bridge of Hope mentoring group helps end homelessness for a single



mother and her children. Women achieve permanent rental housing, financial stability through employment and a support network of friends in the community. This is an opportunity to share friendship and emotional support with a homeless woman and her children as she works to improve her situation.

After hearing about Bridge of Hope at one of our Summer of Service presentations, a Muhlenberg youth prompted the creation of a Bridge of Hope group here at Muhlenberg. If you would like to take part, join us for training **Saturday, March 11, 8:30 - noon at 1400 Technology Drive**, the VistaShare building on Mt. Clinton Pike. Contact Amanda Holsinger at [aj.holsinger@gmail.com](mailto:aj.holsinger@gmail.com) for more info.

## REFUGEE ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

### YOU CAN HELP!

At this time, the Church World Service Refugee Resettlement office is not expecting any new arrivals, but there are still ways to help. You can make a difference by:

- designating a special offering to the MLC Refugee Advocacy and Support committee. We are hoping to sponsor a family later this year as a congregation. It is not too soon to begin saving toward that sponsorship.

Watch *The Chimes* for more ways to help, and (we hope) exciting news about a full sponsorship coming up soon. --*Andi Arndt* [andioarndt@gmail.com](mailto:andioarndt@gmail.com).

## YOUTH NEWS

### 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY

Please remember in your prayers the following as they travel Saturday to attend 7<sup>th</sup> Day, a Synod youth event for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students held at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg: Ike & Naomi Dean, Caleb Dove, Taylor Driver, Annika Harmison, Lily Hickerson, Alex Holsinger, Keaton Robey, Owen Wells and their advisors Diane Bayer, Buck Holsinger, Janelle Mitchell and Stephanie Driver. Talk with any of these youth to hear what these events mean them. We thank the congregation for supporting the youth in their faith formation.

### JAMers

Meet **Sunday, March 12, 4:00 – 5:30 pm in the MAC** for activities related to our Lenten journey. We'll play some fun games and end with a treat! *Contact Diane Bayer for more information (434-3496).*

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer at 434-3496 or [bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto: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 at 11:00** for children 3-7 years old (held in the Nielsen Room). After Children's Time with the pastors, children's church leaders will accompany children downstairs to the Nielsen Room. Children will return to their parent(s) in the sanctuary during the sharing of the peace.

For more information, pick up a green Christian Formation brochure from the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.

## SPRING 2017 ACTS COURSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader: The Rev. Dave Delaney



MARCH 11  
APRIL 1



### REGISTER NOW FOR THE SPRING 2017 ACTS COURSE

Join us March 11 and April 1 at Grace Evangelical Lutheran in Waynesboro (or at two simulcast locations). Hear Rev. Dave Delaney present an introduction to the Old Testament, providing participants a broad view of the history of Ancient Israel and how their scriptures came to be. Muhlenberg covers the cost for anyone attending this course. *Contact Diane Bayer at 434-3496 for simulcast locations or more information.*

## 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 [depyo@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depyo@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors & editor.*

✦ Thanks to everyone for cards, words, and food. I have 40 cards and when I get down and out for my Joe, I read each one over.

*Hilda Arnaud*

✦ Words will never express our thanks to the staff and congregation for their prayers, love, support and care given to our Mother – not just during her long illness, but since she was a member in 1960 (57 years). She loved her Lord, her church and each of you. The lovely service, inspiring music, and loving message was a comfort to all who attended. The communion brought all who loved her together for one more time and reassured us she is assured eternal peace and happiness. The Care Committee lunch was perfection – she loved her time cooking for others on the committee – what a loving way for you to pay tribute to her. With much appreciation for all you have done for our Mother, Ruth Marie Wetzels Shaver.

*Jerry & Peggy Simmons*

## FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry **NEXT Sunday, March 5**. No glass jars please. The pantry also needs paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all-purpose), diapers, and personal hygiene products.

## 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. Acts 7:30-34**

**Thu. Rom. 1:1-7**

**Tue. Rom. 11:1-6**

**Fri. Rom. 1:8-17**

**Ash Wed. Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21**

**Sat. Matt 18:1-7**

**Sun. Matthew 4:1-11 *First Sunday in Lent***

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

February 27-March 5, 2017

**Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting**

**Tue. Shrove Tuesday (no pancake supper)**

**6:30 pm Celebration Singers**

**7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers**

**Ash Wed. Services at 7:30 am, 12 noon, 7:00 pm**

**1:00 pm Go-Go Lunch**

**4:45 pm Cherub Choir**

**5:15 pm SonShine Singers**

**Thu. 8:00 am Comfort Makers**

**Sat-Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Day Synod Youth Event**

**Sun. First Sunday in Lent**

**Food Pantry, Lay Communion &**

**Name Badge Sunday**

**8:00, 9:30, 11:00 Holy Communion**

**9:30 am Christian Formation Classes**

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 ([depyo@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depyo@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)