



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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March 24, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: CALL UPDATE

Good news! With Pastor Lauren settling in, Council sought her input as to what our next pastoral position should look like and the skills needed from that candidate. We agreed that Muhlenberg would post our next call as a full-time Associate Pastor. At Council's retreat a few weeks ago, we went through the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) the congregation assembled in 2017. The majority of the information was still relevant, but we did update some information for the new call of an Associate Pastor, particularly the top five skills and strengths we are looking for in a candidate. *Updated copies of the MSP are available from Linda Depoy in the church office.*

It gives me great pleasure to announce the members of our next Call Committee: **Karen Thomsen (Chair), Brad Moyers, Jenny Gibson, Steve Reich, Adam Copeland and Melissa Perritt.** We are inviting an Assistant to the Bishop to review the call process with our new committee so we can move forward. Please keep Muhlenberg, the candidates, and our Call Committee in your prayers as we move into a new discernment process for our next Pastor. *Tim Peifer, Congregation Council President*

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

NEW WORSHIP BOOKLET FORMAT

You'll notice a new format for our worship booklet. The details about why we do what we do have been moved from a side column to the back of the booklet. Visitors and members alike will find these descriptions helpful. We hope you find the new format fresh and easy to follow.

LENTEN WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

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. *Visit the Gathering Area for a brochure that outlines our Lenten worship and activities.*

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.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

DID YOU PURCHASE A COMFORT?

If you purchased a comfort, please pick it up today from the back of the sanctuary. Place a check in the offering plate, indicating "Comforts" on your check and envelope.

FAMILY CAMP NIGHT

FOR ALL AGES



The VA Synod Southern Valley Conference is holding Family Camp Night **for all ages THIS EVENING, 5:00-7:00 in the**

MAC. Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp staff will present an evening with dinner, games and information about camp, including adult activities! *For more information, contact Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496 or).* Remember, Camp isn't just for kids ~ there's something for everyone!

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	73	Wed. Noon	12
9:30 Worship	88	Wed. PM	45
11:00 Worship	<u>147</u>		
Total	308		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2019			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$102,094	\$122,412	\$104,253
Total Receipts	\$126,537	\$148,279	\$128,502
Expenses	\$143,414	\$176,995	143,400
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$16,877)	(28,716)	(\$14,898)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	16,837.16
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>1,875.75</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	18,712.91

See Connection Center notebook for details.

February Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$344

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg JAMers (elementary youth) enjoyed an afternoon at Camp Caroline Furnace on March 10 and had a fabulous time visiting this beautiful piece of God's creation! Come to the Family Camp Night this evening at 5:00 pm in the MAC to learn more about Camp activities and explore how your family might enjoy time there together.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

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 6:15 pm in the MAC and wrap up by 7:15 pm. This casual yet meaningful experience is great for all ages. (Note: Arriving as close to 6:15 as possible will give you a better chance of finding a parking space. By that time, most Day Care and Second Home children have been picked up.)

LENTEN MIDDAY RECITAL SERIES



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 are listed below:

- Mar 28 Elizabeth Williams, organ & piano**
Muhlenberg's Music Minister
- April 4 Edward Gant, cello**
JMU Music Faculty
- April 11 Florence Jowers, organ and John Bullard, classical banjo**
*Florence: Minister of Music, Christ Lutheran
John: freelance musician from Richmond.*

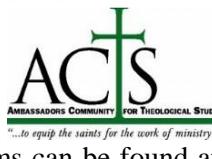
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

RUTH SIGMON CIRCLE

Meets **Monday, April 1, 6:30 pm** in the Augsburg Room. The Bible study is from the March *Gather* magazine, *Session Three, Meetings with Jesus*. All are welcome. For more information, contact Louise Johnson (gfriend07@verizon.net or 433-1047).

ACTS SPRING COURSE

April 6 and May 11, 9:00 to 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 (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) if you are interested.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. For more information, contact Ramona Sanders (rsanders9@verizon.net or 433-1165).



Use hydrogen peroxide instead of bleach when you wash a load of whites. Hydrogen peroxide is just as effective for whitening your clothes but has none of the harmful environmental effects of bleach. In fact, hydrogen peroxide is simply water with an extra oxygen molecule. It is produced naturally in the environment when sunlight mixes with water. Add a cup of 3% hydrogen peroxide to your wash as an inexpensive and color-safe alternative to bleach; your clothes will look great and you'll be doing your part to safeguard marine life.

LENT AT MUHLENBERG



CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO

Visit the Gathering Area for all the information and supplies needed to participate in our Lenten program, *Cultivating and Letting Go*. You will find a devotional, origami instructions and materials, extra weekly coloring pages and a large coloring page that ties each week's theme together.



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.

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

TODAY, March 24, we collect **TOOTHBRUSHES** (adult size in original package).

NEXT Sunday, March 31, we collect **COMBS** (*please, no pointed handle combs*).

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**



APRIL 8. To reserve your lily (limit 30) 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 25).



ALTERNATIVE GIVING



*Alternative Giving
Opportunity*

If you wish to remember/honor a loved one in a different way, choose a local or global opportunity in **Second Home** or **ELCA World Hunger**:

1. Sign up in the notebook (**lavendar forms in the front cover pocket**) at the Connection Center. **Sign up deadline is APRIL 14.**
2. **Make your contribution** by placing your check in the offering plate. Ensure correct credit/designation by indicating "**Second Home 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.

SECOND HOME NEWS

BAKED GOODS NEEDED

Please consider providing concessions type items for the upcoming musical production of *Peter Pan, Jr.* by Second Home. Brownies, cookies, cupcakes or other snack items are needed. Brownies and cookies should be placed in sandwich bags 2 or 3 per bag. All items should be brought to the MAC before 5:00 on Friday, April 12, which is the first performance. Please respond to Tammy Offenbacher-Koogler (torkrk@aol.com) to let her know what you are willing to contribute.

TEACHER NEEDED

Second Home has an immediate opening for a part-time after school program teacher to work with 1st and 2nd grade students for the remainder of the school year, with a possibility to renew for next school year. *For more information, please contact Executive Director Krisztina Szekely (2ndhomedirector@gmail.com or 432-7989).*

SECOND HOME FUNDRAISER

Harrisonburg Women's Service League's 17th Annual Charity Classic Golf Tournament will be held **Friday, May 3 at Spotswood Country Club**. This year, they have selected Second Home as the charity the tournament will support. *See bulletin boards for details.*



Harrisonburg Women's Service League
presents the
**17th Annual Charity Classic
Golf Tournament**
Benefiting
**Second Home: providing children with a safe
place to learn and grow**
Friday, May 3, 2019

Spotswood Country Club
Shotgun start at 1 pm
Dinner & Silent Auction to follow

For more information, please visit www.hwsl.org

WAYS TO SERVE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

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



For **April and Holy Week**, **we're going to need lots of servants!** Sign up 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.

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/training 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@muhlenberglutheran.org / 434-3496). In compliance with state regulations and Safe Church policies, there is an interview and application process.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Local & Global Mission Chair
Karen Matthias (kfmatthias@gmail.com or 434-4625)
for more information.

CLOTHING FUND

Our clothing fund will be depleted this summer. Please consider donating via the offering plate with a check payable to Muhlenberg and indicate "Clothing Fund" on your check and envelope. This fund provides underwear for distribution to needy families via the Trinity (Presbyterian) Clothes Closet, for students' clothing needs at Minnick School, and for other emergency clothing needs brought to our attention. Response to this request is usually so generous that we only need to ask to replenish the fund every two or three years. Thank you for considering a donation at this time.

TENTS WANTED



OUR
COMMUNITY
PLACE

Have an old tent you
don't need? Our
Community Place (OCP)

is collecting tents for the homeless. Please deliver tents to OCP (17 East Johnson Street, across from Little Grill/Whitmer's Tires) Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm. Have questions, call them at 442-7727.

BRIDGE OF HOPE (BOH)

BOH needs Neighboring Volunteer Groups of 6-10 committed people who will walk alongside and encourage a family in its program. BOH works with single-parent families facing homelessness locally. Initial training, ongoing relational support, and planned monthly gatherings are provided. *If interested, contact Director Chris Hoover Seidel (director@hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org or 717-602-0871).*

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Natural disasters cause widespread destruction. 100% of your gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response go directly to aid in disaster relief. Visit the Connection Center for more information. 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 to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering plate:** make check payable to Muhlenberg and designate *Lutheran Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent Financial 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.

DON'T STRESS OUT!

Please do not feel overwhelmed by the number of opportunities to help our neighbors both near and far. The Local and Global Mission ministry team likes to inform the congregation of the many opportunities to use our time, talent, and/or resources to help others.



If you wish to participate, choose the organization that touches your heart, knowing that others will be drawn to help with different needs.

FINANCIAL NEWS

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Eligible Thrivent Financial members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable outreach funds using a vehicle called *Choice Dollars*®, part of the Thrivent Choice member-advised charitable grant program.

Thrivent members have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars®. After that date, **2018** funds will expire.

If you haven't already, designate your Choice Dollars® by calling Thrivent representative Sherry Ritenour at 540-325-4233 or visiting Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. *Remember, Muhlenberg is among your choices to consider.*

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

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

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

We invite JMU students, faculty, and staff to fellowship during lunch **Monday, April 8 at 12 noon** in D-Hall.

YOUTH NEWS

JCREW NEWS

For more information, contact Clay Arthur (arthurt@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-758-3208).

We will travel to Richmond **April 6-7** to gather with youth from Epiphany Lutheran Church. We will enjoy a day of fun with them, spend the night and worship with them Sunday morning. More details coming soon.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

For more information, contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Concludes NEXT Sunday, March 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.

REMINDERS

COMMUNICATING WITH OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Members of the congregation who are homebound and cannot read *The Chimes* online can request a copy be mailed to them weekly.

If you are interested, or know a member who is, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

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.

URGENT PASTORAL VISITS



With Pastor Lauren serving as our solo pastor, Pastor Bill Nabers has graciously agreed to help with urgent pastoral care until we call an Associate Pastor. You may see him making visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and members' homes. We are grateful for his ministry among us! (Note: many long-time members will remember Pastor Bill from his previous service at Muhlenberg.)

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 2:1-11 Thu. 2 Cor. 4:16-5:5
Tue. Romans 2:12-16 Fri. 2 Cor. 5:6-15
Wed. Luke 13:18-21 Sat. Luke 15:1-10
Sun. Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 25-31, 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
6:15 pm Lenten Dinner Church
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
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).