



# 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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**November 11, 2018**

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ

**(Members, a letter with details was mailed Thursday, 11/1. The Chimes you receive at church will also have details.)**

### PASTORAL CANDIDATE PREACHES

TODAY we welcome our pastoral candidate who will preside and preach at all three services. A letter with details about the call process, a bio, and the proposed compensation package was mailed to members November 1. Extra copies are available at the Connection Center today.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

Today is a special and important day for all of us at Muhlenberg. For the Call Committee, today represents the culmination of our diligent and prayerful process. We believe we have presented the candidate who best reflects our congregation's hopes, needs, aspirations, and expectations. If you met the candidate on Thursday at the Meet and Greet, we hope you saw first-hand at least a glimpse of why the Call Committee was not just unanimous in our recommendation, but, even more, we were downright enthusiastic about it!

Why is this candidate the Call Committee's choice? At every stage in the Call process, the candidate stood head and shoulders above all the others. In our time with the candidate, they revealed warmth, maturity, and authenticity. Their extensive experience and passion for all aspects of ministry is inspiring.

Due to family commitments out-of-state, I cannot be with you today. Other members of the Call Committee will be present at each service and at the Called Congregational Meeting after the 11:00 service (*see p. 2 for details*). On behalf of the Committee, I share a sincere hope that you see in this candidate all that your Call Committee has seen - and, we pray the congregation will share our confidence that they are the right person to serve as our next Pastor. *Ted Sudol, Call Committee Chair*

*~see next page for a message from our President~*

### 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](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org).*



## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are, the place we all want to be, drenched in the exhilaration of the Spirit's work, calling a new Pastor for Word and Sacrament. In Council's interview with the candidate, we felt at ease with their dedication to their call to preach the gospel and lead in worship. We are confident in the candidate's strengths for ministry and building up the body of believers, and believe in their ability to lead Muhlenberg forward. You've put your confidence in Council and the Call Committee. Now I pray you see what the Spirit revealed to us — a faithful leader of Word and Sacrament. Kristy and I made prior plans to be away today but will be with you in spirit. You're in good hands for this important call.

*Tim Peifer, Congregation Council President*

### CALLED

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**TODAY**, immediately following the 11:00 service, we encourage members to attend a Called Congregational Meeting.

The only business to be conducted is voting on extending a call to our candidate and approving a compensation package. (Extra copies of the letter mailed to members are available at the Connection Center today.)

**Note to members returning to church for the meeting: Parking attendants will be available to help you find an available space.**

*See p. 5 for additional parking information.*

## CROSSES & LINKS

The names of saints past and present adorn the sanctuary today in celebration of All Saints Sunday. The white crosses represent our pastors, past and present. The red and white links represent names of individuals the congregation has named as important in their life of faith. The collection will be displayed through Sunday, December 3.

### OUR COMMUNITY PLACE (OCP)

OCP is seeking food donations for their community Thanksgiving Feast. If you want to help, a list of items needed and instructions are available at the Connection Center.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	95	Wed. Noon	8
9:30 Worship	114		
11:00 Worship	126		
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>		

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through <b>September 2018</b>			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$507,425	\$610,194	\$537,560
Total Receipts	\$584,854	\$687,115	\$612,864
Expenses	\$622,068	\$728,294	\$638,023
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$37,214)</b>	<b>(\$41,179)</b>	<b>(\$25,159)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	16,968.95
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	7,069.94
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	\$	<b>24,038.89</b>

*See Connection Center notebook for details.*

**October Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$591**

To give online, scan here →



## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### MINISTRIES NIGHT

**Tomorrow, Nov. 12, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Help Muhlenberg continue to grow during this time of transition by joining in as we strengthen our ministries, plan new initiatives, and serve one another and the wider community!

**All committees welcome new members.**

### SOPHIE MOELLER CIRCLE

Meets **Tuesday, November 13, 1:30 pm** in the Kairos Room. Marilyn Jarrells will lead the program from *Gather* magazine. All are welcome...come join us. *Contact Marilyn Jarrells ([marilynnjarrells@gmail.com](mailto:marilynnjarrells@gmail.com) or 246-5753) for details.*

### PASTOR'S CLASS

*God in Odd Places* is the topic of a course Pastor Mark is teaching **Tuesdays through December 4, 6:00 –7:00 pm** in the Nielsen Room (no class on Nov. 20). **You can still join the class.** Everyone is welcome!

To access the syllabus and links to the readings and other materials, see the Members Pages section on the church website.

### PIANO RECITAL

#### BY MUHLENBERG MEMBER



**Alice Wightman**, 12-year-old daughter of Bill & Meg Wightman, will present a 30-minute piano recital **NEXT Sunday, November**

**18, 3:00 pm.** Alice will perform a variety of musical genres including sacred, classical, & contemporary. She is a student of Elizabeth Williams. All are invited to this recital! Come out and support this aspiring young artist that is also one of Muhlenberg's own!

### PARKING ALERT!

If you park in a numbered space at the lot on the corner of Ott and Water Streets (behind the MAC), **your car may be towed!** That lot is leased by Urban Exchange and no other vehicles are permitted.



You may park in the “sister lot” with un-numbered spaces closer to the church (beside the white house) for worship services and weekday church activities after 5 pm.

Additionally on Sundays, you may park in the **Farm Credit lot** across E. Market St. or the law office **Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver lot** between West Water Street and Newman Avenue. Visit the Connection Center for a parking map.

### PARKING COURTESY

From young families juggling little ones to older members and all those 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.

**For TODAY'S Called Congregational Meeting and festival Sundays, let's be especially 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. Thank you for your consideration.



*As our constitution requires, we are informing you of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church's*

## **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

*Sunday, November 18 at 12:15 pm in the MAC*

### **The Purpose of the Meeting:**

- Elect Trustees
- Review & Vote on 2019 Spending Plan  
*(available at the Connection Center)*
- Purchase of Property at 65 Ott Street

### **ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

*As per our Constitution & Bylaws, the property of the congregation is held in trust by four trustees elected by the congregation and appointed by the court according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Trustees serve a term of five years and must abide by the decisions of the congregation. After many years of service, Norwood Beery and Katie Ray are resigning their positions. Council has asked two candidates to consider serving as Trustees:*

- **Neil Alexander** has been a member for about 55 years. He has served in many roles with a focus on Christian Formation. When he retired 3 years ago, he began serving as a volunteer office assistant and has become very active on the Property Committee. Neil says, "It would be an honor to serve as a Trustee."
- **Diane Walton** has been a member since 2007. She serves on the altar guild, rings handbells with Gloria Dei Ringers, helps maintain the Parish Register, and serves as a teller and volunteer office assistant. Diane says, "It would be an honor and privilege to serve in this new capacity."



### **PROPERTY AT 65 OTT STREET**

As good neighbors, Bob and Kathy Rivera worked with Muhlenberg and signed a "Right of First Refusal" which is recorded in the Deed Office of the Courthouse. Since their deaths, their daughter Katie Ritchie is not interested in keeping the house, which creates an opportunity for Muhlenberg to purchase the property. Congregation Council is in conversation with Katie. Should things progress favorably, our Constitution requires approval by members for Council to purchase the property. This will be addressed at our Annual Meeting Sunday, November 18.

A letter with details about the meeting was mailed to members November 7. Additional copies are available at the Connection Center. *If you have concerns or questions, please contact Tim Peifer ([dseries4@gmail.com](mailto:dseries4@gmail.com) or 438-9167). See next page for Potluck Meal information.*

## JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK MEAL



We will have food, fellowship, and information for all to enjoy at the Congregational Meeting November 18. No sign-up needed, just bring a dish to share. Not sure what to bring? Below is a list that might help jump-start ideas and make sure we have some of everything.

Additionally, we need help at 10:30 to set up the potluck, and help afterward to wash dishes and clean up. Join in and help if you can!

<u>Family Last Names</u>	<u>Suggested Food</u>
A – J	Salads
K – P	Pot of Soup or Chili
Q – S	Desserts
T – Z	Cornbread or Bread

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### ADVENT-URE SUNDAY A Whole Congregation Event!

The Christian Formation ministry team invites everyone to start the Advent season by joining us for *Advent-ure Sunday, Sunday, December 2, 12:15 pm in the MAC*. We will begin with lunch. Then we will have crafts for the whole family, including making Advent wreaths with fresh greenery. If you have one, please bring your straw wreath form from past years to redecorate. If not, we will have wreaths available. Visit the Gathering Area **TODAY** for a preview of this year’s event! *Call Diane Bayer (434-3496) or Kristy Peifer (438-9167) with any questions.*



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### YOU ARE INVITED TO RESPOND

This week each family will receive a stewardship letter, giving chart, time/talent inventory, and commitment card in the mail. After being informed about the biblical meaning of “stewardship” – the managing of God’s gifts, and after being inspired by God’s grace and the lives of the saints, you are now invited to respond and “with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.”

Please read these stewardship materials with an open heart and mind, prayerfully consider your response to God’s grace as our congregation moves into a new phase of ministry. Complete and offer to God your time/talent inventory and commitment card on Christ the King Sunday, November 25.

We encourage every member of each household, including our youth, to make this offering to God. Extra copies of the letter, time/talent inventory and commitment card will be available at the Connection Center and/or in the pews.

The commitment card is different this year. It gives an option for those who do not wish to specify the amount of their gift, so everyone can respond to God’s grace in a concrete way. God has freely given to us, so let us freely give back to God and to the ministry of the gospel.

*The Stewardship Ministry Team*

### CREATION CARE TIP

Think twice before tossing your jack-o-lantern in the trash. Your Halloween pumpkin can provide a feast for wildlife. Consider smashing the pumpkin into chunks and scattering the pieces in the backyard. The birds and squirrels will feast on the seeds and pumpkin flesh. Put any leftover pieces in your compost pile.



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

*The Ministry teams of Christian Formation and Local & Global Mission are offering many opportunities to make your Advent and Christmas a time of sharing with others. By providing these different opportunities, we hope you find one that touches your heart. Another way you and your family can take part is by praying for those who are in need in our world! Contact Diane Bayer ([bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496) with any questions about these projects.*

### ANGEL TREE



ANGEL TREE

We are sponsoring a Salvation Army Angel Tree. If you would like to help make this season of giving part of your Advent journey, **please stop by the Caring Corner TODAY** and take an angel from the tree. There will also be angels designated for Second Home and Minnick School students.

Your unwrapped gifts need to be **returned to the tree on Sunday, December 2**. Thank you for sharing.

### GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE

#### And Advent Devotional Calendars

There is a small tree in the Caring Corner with ELCA Good Gifts ornaments. The ornaments will have different opportunities to give to World Hunger. Remove an ornament and make a donation to **ELCA World Hunger** by visiting [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts). You can make a general gift by writing a check to **Muhlenberg** and designating **World Hunger** in the memo line! You can also pick up an ELCA World Hunger Advent Devotional Calendar from the Gathering Area.



## SENIOR CITIZEN SANTA BAGS

### Sponsored by JAMers

**On Sunday December 9**, our

JAMers (elementary youth group) will fill Senior Citizen Santa Bags for the Salvation Army.

We are offering this as a giving opportunity for the whole congregation. Look for a complete list of items needed at the Connection Center. Bring items to church and place them in the baskets/boxes provided in the Gathering Area **no later than December 9**.



### ALTERNATIVE ADVENT

This Advent we are offering an opportunity to do something a bit different as part of your Advent devotions. We have boxes available in the Gathering Area. Pick one up and each day during devotions, put something in the box (a can of soup or vegetables, a bar of soap, a toothbrush or toothpaste, etc.).



The boxes can be **returned December 23**. We will bless the boxes on Christmas Day. They will then be shared with those in need.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

### FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

Devotional calendars and offering boxes are available from the tables in the Gathering Area. Make time each day for devotions as we all prepare and wait for God's most precious gift to be given – His own son Jesus Christ our Lord. Return **offering boxes to the Gathering Area by Christmas Eve**.



## SECOND HOME NEWS

### THANKSGIVING MEAL



Second Home's annual Family Thanksgiving Meal is **THIS Thursday, November 15, 5:00 - 6:30 pm** in the MAC.

We invite you to share the meal and fellowship with us. Come meet our families, staff, and board members.

Our new partnership with JMU Campus Kitchen and other generous food donors make it possible to offer this meal free. If you are interested in participating, please sign up at the Connection Center **TODAY by 12:30 pm**.

Donations of food items are welcome. Please sign up at the Connection Center and indicate food donations. If you are willing to donate a turkey, please deliver frozen uncooked turkeys by 6 pm Monday, November 12. Please deliver your dessert donations by 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 15.

*For more information, contact Krisztina Szekely ([2ndhomedirector@gmail.com](mailto:2ndhomedirector@gmail.com) or 432-7989).*

### SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION

For this month, we ask you to donate *apple sauce* (individual cups or large cans) **NEXT Sunday, November 18**. 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.



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer (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 held on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays during the 11:00 service for children 3-7 years old. After Children's Time with a 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 more information about classes for children and adults*

### JAMERS FAMILY THANKS GIVING DINNER AND SERVICE PROJECT

JAMers (grades 2-5) and their families will have a Thanksgiving meal **TODAY, 12:45-2:15 pm** (following the Called Congregational Meeting).

As a way of giving thanks for all our blessings, we will collect food items to go into our **Thanksgiving box**. These items will be given to those who come to **People Helping People** so they might enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with their families. **We will collect stuffing mix, instant potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, corn, etc.**

We hope you can join your friends for a time of fun, food and fellowship as you thank God for all His gifts to you.



## 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 (434-3496 or [depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the editor and pastors.*

✠ Juanita Whitmire and family in thoughts and prayers as they mourn the death of her brother, John Strickler, who passed October 30. A memorial service was held November 1 at Grandle Funeral Home.

✠ Thank you to my church family for the cards, food, calls, visits and especially love shared while I recovered from a fractured hip. Your care and concern are greatly appreciated. *Betsy Gaylor*

✠ Muhlenberg's own Remington Willis is serving this year as a member of the Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network in California. If you would like to learn more about what Remington is doing, stop by the Connection Center for a copy of her "Month Two Update."

## BALCONY OPEN AFTER REPAIR

The balcony ceiling repair is complete and the balcony area is open to everyone. After many leaks from our heating and air conditioning unit, mold was found growing in the ceiling. The ceiling was plaster so we decided to replace it with a more modern material since we had to treat and remove the mold. We have also been working with our new HVAC contractor to redo the drain lines to the units in the attic to avoid this problem in the future. Thank you for your patience during this renovation.

*The Property Committee*

## 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. 1 Timothy 5:1-8**      **Thu. 1 Timothy 6:11-21**  
**Tue. 1 Timothy 5:9-16**    **Fri. Colossians 2:6-15**  
**Wed. Luke 4:16-30**      **Sat. Mark 12:1-12**  
**Sun. Mark 13:1-8**

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

November 12 - 18, 2018

**Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting  
**5:30 pm** Executive Committee Meeting  
**7:00 pm** Ministries Meetings

**Tue. 1:30 pm** Sophie Moeller Circle  
**4:45 pm** SonShine Singers  
**5:30 pm** Cherub Choir  
**6:00 pm** *God in Odd Places*  
**6:30 pm** Celebration Singers  
**7:00 pm** Gloria Dei Ringers

**Wed. 12 noon** Holy Communion  
**7:15 pm** Sanctuary Choir

**Fri-Sun. Lost & Found**

**Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am** Holy Communion  
**9:30 am** Christian Formation  
**12:15 pm** Congregational Meeting  
**3:00 pm** Alice Wightman Recital

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