



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 18, 2018

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

SHE SAID YES!



I am pleased to share with you that through the work of the Holy Spirit, Muhlenberg has new pastoral leadership. Pastor Lauren Miller has accepted the call to become our new Senior Pastor.

At our November 11 congregational meeting,

Council recommended that the congregation extend a call to Pastor Lauren. Out of 133 valid ballots cast, 129 voted in favor (97%) of the recommendation and the motion passed. In a second motion from Council, the compensation package was unanimously approved as recommended. Pastor Lauren will start at Muhlenberg January 1, 2019.

Tim Peifer, Congregation Council President

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION

We collect *applesauce* (individual cups or large cans)

TODAY. 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.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

You are encouraged to attend the annual congregational meeting and potluck meal following the 11:00 service.

See page 3-4 for details

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.



THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

GO-GO GROUP BREAKFAST

Are you 55+ and enjoy fellowship with others? Join the Go-Go Group at Thomas House in Dayton **THIS Tuesday, November 20, 8:30 am.** Contact Dan Werner at 433-3912 for more information about the group and its activities.

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.

NO WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be **no noon service this Wednesday, Nov. 21.**



Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the **deadline for *The Chimes* next week is Tuesday, 11/20 at 8 am.**

CROSSES & LINKS

The names of saints past and present adorn the sanctuary 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	86	Wed. Noon	11
9:30 Worship	146		
11:00 Worship	<u>215</u>		
Total	447		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through September 2018			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$561,093	\$667,505	\$600,900
Total Receipts	\$643,389	\$749,695	\$681,384
Expenses	\$689,235	\$804,842	\$701,215
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$54,846)	(\$55,147)	(\$19,831)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	18,575.35
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>1,597.80</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	20,173.15

See Connection Center notebook for details.

October Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$591

To give online, scan here →



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 **TODAY**.

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 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 **TODAY**. 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!

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

END-OF-YEAR-GIVING

If you are 70 ½, you can give to Muhlenberg from your IRA with no tax penalty. Have the check sent directly to MLC from your IRA and there will be no tax to pay on this withdrawal. **A great way to support Muhlenberg!** Call Terry at 437-0038 or Janet at 434-5258 with any questions. *The Finance Committee*

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*, **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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

You know all that singing you do in the car, all that Christmas cheer going to waste? It's time to share it with your brothers and sisters from Muhlenberg who aren't able to make it to church! We will be caroling **Sunday, December 9**, following the 11 o'clock service and really need your voice to add to ours. The more singers we have, the more seasonal love we can share. We like all ages of singers, so whole families are encouraged to join us. Lunch will be provided, so please sign up at the Connection Center for food planning purposes. Please think about sharing a couple of hours that will mean so much to our homebound members. See you on the 9th!

Sponsored by the Care Committee

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

YOU ARE INVITED TO RESPOND

This week each family receive a stewardship packet in the mail which will include a stewardship letter, giving chart, time/talent inventory, and commitment card. Having been 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 **NEXT SUNDAY**, November 25 which is Christ the King Sunday.

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

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP



Don't let your Thanksgiving turkey go to waste. Use the remains to make stock for turkey soup. Simply boil the turkey carcass in a pot of water with carrots, onions, celery, and salt until the stock turns golden brown. Add pieces of left over turkey and serve piping hot. It's one of the most delicious ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

PASTOR PAUL ON THE GO

Our sister congregation, Grace Lutheran Church in Waynesboro, is celebrating their 125th Anniversary today. They commissioned Pastor Paul to compose a new anthem for their choir with organ and brass.

This morning Pastor Paul is conducting the premier of that anthem for their anniversary service. Bishop Bob will be the preacher for this important day as well.

Pastor Paul will be traveling to Minneapolis to be with his youngest daughter for Thanksgiving and Christ the King Sunday. He will return for the Wednesday Eucharist on November 28.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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 or 434-3496) with any questions about these projects.

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. 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 should 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**.



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

MISSION TRIP UPDATE



Five Muhlenbergers traveled to Daytona Beach Florida two weeks ago to spend a week helping repair homes damaged by hurricane Matthew. We were at three different homes doing a variety of work. We were housed at a United Church of Christ in a facility built just for this purpose. We were told that the Florida Synod and the ELCA have made major financial contributions toward the repair effort. Our program director also told us that many homeowners they work with (all low income) are “changed” by the work done by volunteers. The five of us wish to thank you for your prayers and support.

Neil Alexander, Hans Barthmus, Erin Burke, Oris Griffin, Kevin Shipe

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Natural disasters, **including California wildfires**, strike both here and abroad leaving devastation in their wake. 100% of gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) go directly to aid in disaster relief. Visit the Connection Center or visit www.elca.org to learn about ways you can help.

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 on the 1st & 3rd 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.

THIRD SUNDAY SERVICE

PROJECT FOR K-3RD

Every third Sunday of the month, K-3rd graders are doing a service project in the MAC. We invite parents to participate in this activity with their children. The next service project is **December 16**.

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

A REMINDER TO PARENTS

OF PRE K-5TH GRADE STUDENTS

Sundays, December 2, 9, and 16 all students in this age group will be in the MAC practicing for our Children’s Christmas Program which will be held Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. There will be no Children’s Church on Sunday December 9.

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 depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the editor and pastors.

✦ We offer prayers for Larry Haaland and his family following the recent death of his father.

✦ Many thanks to Janessa Baker, Wylie Walton and Barbara Roadcap for their efforts and contributions in performing an audit of the church's financial records, policies and procedures. They did a terrific job.

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 19 - 25, 2018

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Congregation Council Meeting

Tue. 8:30 am Go-Go Group Breakfast
7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers
No vocal choir rehearsals

Wed. No Noon Service
No choir rehearsal

Thu Thanksgiving Day
Church Office Closed

Fri. Thanksgiving Holiday
Church Office Closed

Sun. Christ the King Sunday
Stewardship Commitment Sunday
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Christian Formation

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 planned, but no later than Thursdays at 8 am.

Check bulletin boards for community information.

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