



# 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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**December 2, 2018**

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ



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 the November 11 congregational meeting, Council recommended that the congregation extend a call to Pastor Lauren. The recommendation and the motion passed. In a second motion from Council, the compensation package was unanimously approved as recommended. Pastor Lauren will begin at Muhlenberg January 1, 2019.

*Tim Peifer, Congregation Council 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

#### THE ADVENT WREATH

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen images of Advent found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. We encourage members to prepare an Advent wreath at home and include a time of prayer or devotion after its lighting, perhaps at mealtime.



#### NAME BADGE SUNDAY

**TODAY** (and the first Sunday of each month) we wear name badges to be welcoming and learn each other's names. Introduce yourself to someone you don't know! Nametags, markers and stickers are available in the Gathering Area.



## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### LAY COMMUNION

This wonderful ministry equips members to offer Holy Communion to our homebound and sick members who wish to be included in a monthly extension of our Sunday morning worship. If you or someone you know would benefit from receiving home communion (even on a temporary basis), contact Paula Caldwell at 383-6365 or [paulafaye417@gmail.com](mailto:paulafaye417@gmail.com).



### FOOD COLLECTION

TODAY we collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry, which also needs paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all-purpose), diapers (sizes 1-5), and all types of personal hygiene products. Thanks for your support.

### 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*, TODAY, 12:15 pm in the MAC. We begin with lunch and then have crafts for the whole family, including making Advent wreaths with fresh greenery. Please bring your straw wreath form from past years to redecorate. If you don't have one, we will have wreaths available. Call Diane Bayer (434-3496) or Kristy Peifer (438-9167) with any questions.



### ANGEL TREE

We are sponsoring a Salvation Army *Angel Tree*. Your unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the tree TODAY. Thank you for sharing.

## AND WITH YOUR LIVES ADORE HIM WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR ALL

If you were not present last Sunday or have not had the opportunity to respond yet to our stewardship emphasis, you may place your time/talent inventory and commitment card in the box at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area where stewardship materials are still available. Thank you for showing your love of the Lord who is good and gracious to us!  
The Stewardship Ministry Team

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	69	Wed. Noon	12
9:30 Worship	126		
11:00 Worship	<u>113</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>		

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 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
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$54,846)</b>	<b>(\$55,147)</b>	<b>(\$19,831)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 6,874.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>13,652.13</u>
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 20,526.13</b>

See Connection Center notebook for details.

October Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$591

To give online, scan here →



## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### RUTH SIGMON CIRCLE

Meets **TOMORROW, December 3, 6:30 pm** in the Augsburg Room to share Christmas memories, articles, poems, & a brief program. All women and friends are welcome. For details, contact Louise Johnson 433-1047 or [gfriend07@verizon.net](mailto:gfriend07@verizon.net).

### ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **TOMORROW, December 3, 7:00 pm** in the Kairos Room. Contact Jennie Warner ([mjwarner1@aol.com](mailto:mjwarner1@aol.com) or 476-2020) for details.

### PASTOR'S CLASS

*God in Odd Places* is the topic of a course Pastor Mark has been teaching on **Tuesdays 6:00 – 7:00 pm** in the Nielsen Room. This Tuesday, December 4 is the final class session. To access the syllabus and links to the readings and other materials, see the Members Pages section on the church website.

### GO-GO GROUP LUNCH

Are you 55+ and enjoy fellowship with others? Join us for lunch **THIS Wednesday, December 5, 1:00 pm at Dayton Tavern**. Call Dan Werner (433-3912) for more information.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**NEXT Sunday, December 9, 12:15 pm**, we meet in Wayland Hall. We would love to see your name on our list of carolers for next week. It only takes a couple of hours and lunch is provided. Bring a friend or come and make a friend. All levels of singing are welcome and needed. Our home-bound brothers and sisters of Muhlenberg need some of your Christmas cheer. Stop by the Connection Center to sign up for food planning purposes. You don't want to miss it! *Sponsored by the Care Committee*

## MUHLENBERG 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 [rsanders9@verizon.net](mailto:rsanders9@verizon.net).*



You can make beautiful yet inexpensive holiday decorations with items found in nature: a bowl of evergreen boughs and fresh fruit; a basket filled with fallen branches, winter berries, & pinecones; seasonal plants like poinsettias. Once the holidays are over, your decorations can be added to the compost pile. (Holiday plants like poinsettias and mistletoe are toxic to pets. Please display toxic plants out of reach of your pets).

### ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Sunday, November 18, the congregation **passed the proposed 2019 Spending Plan**. It remains relatively flat to 2018 and supports good ministry outreach and programing within the Church.

We recognized and gave thanks to two of our Trustees, Katie Ray and Norwood Beery who have served our congregation faithfully. The congregation **voted in two new Trustees, Diane Walton and Neil Alexander**.

The congregation also **gave Council the approval to move forward with conversations and negotiations to purchase the Rivera house at 65 Ott Street**.

### SIMPLY GIVING NOTICE

If you are involved in our Simply Giving program and wish to make a change in your giving for 2019, please put a note in my box or send me an email. I will make the changes the first of the year.

Janet Simmons [gandjimmmons@gmail.com](mailto:gandjimmmons@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We need all types of servants for Christmas Eve/Day. **Sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center** If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below on our website:

Worship + Community > Worship: What to Expect > Worship + Music Leadership

## PHOTO DIRECTORY NEEDS UPDATING!

**December 9th and 16th** photographers will be in the lower level of the Gathering Area. We encourage you to have your photo taken so you can be included in the Muhlenberg Photo Directory.. Completing or updating your information and taking your photo only takes about 5 minutes!

Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul have found the photo directory very helpful. With Pastor Lauren starting her ministry on January 1<sup>st</sup>, we want to be as up to date as possible.

## SECOND HOME SUNDAY

Second Home is a wonderful ministry offered here at Muhlenberg. Without it, many young children in the Muhlenberg neighborhood would be going to an empty house after school. With their parents working, the children would be on their own to do homework and feed themselves a healthy snack.



For this month, we ask you to donate *graham crackers* **Sunday, December 16**. 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.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### MARY/MARTHA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Karen Dotson is hosting the annual Mary/Martha Christmas potluck dinner **on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00pm**. To help plan seating arrangement, **please RSVP to [karendotson12@gmail.com](mailto:karendotson12@gmail.com)** if you plan to attend.

Bring a pair of wrapped socks for a gift exchange. They can be slipper socks, wool socks, fun socks, etc.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND HYMN SING

**with Minister of Music Emeritus Don Smith  
Sunday, December 16, 4:00 pm**

Children in Christian Formation classes (age 2–5<sup>th</sup> grade) will present a Christmas program. Afterward, Don will provide music for an old-fashioned hymn sing. Our children and the Christian



Formation team are excited to present this program and hope you will attend this evening of Christmas joy. Refreshments will be provided in the Gathering Area after the program.

Have a favorite Advent/Christmas song you want to hear? Visit the table in the Gathering Area and **fill out a slip with your selection(s) and place it in the basket**. Contact Diane Bayer at 434-3496 with any questions.



**12/24 – Christmas Eve Services**  
**4:30, 6:30 & 9:00 pm**

**12/25 – Christmas Day Service**  
**10:00 am**

**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*

**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.). Return your box on **December 23**. We will bless the boxes on Christmas Eve. They will then be shared with those in need.



**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 in 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 bin provided in the Gathering Area **no later than December 9**.



**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**.





## REMEMBER & HONOR

### LOVED ONES



Want to remember or honor a loved one with a poinsettia? **Cost per plant is \$15.** To reserve your poinsettia, do the following:

1. **Sign up** at the Connection Center in the notebook under the “Flowers” tab.
2. **Pay** for poinsettias (write “Poinsettias” on the memo line of your check.) Place your check in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. **Payments reserve poinsettias.**

Poinsettias may be picked up after the 9:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.

**Sign up deadline is Sunday, December 9**  
(no additional flowers will be ordered after that date).

\* \* \* \* \*

### ALTERNATIVE GIVING OPPORTUNITY

If you wish to remember a loved one in a different way during this Holy Season, we offer a local opportunity in **Our Community Place** (OCP – *a community center dedicated to serving those who are struggling*) and a global opportunity in **ELCA Disaster Response** (*an ELCA mission – see Connection Center for details*).

1. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center (**blue forms in the front of the book**).
2. **Make your contribution.** Ensure correct credit/designation by indicating “**OCP Christmas Gift**” or “**Disaster Response Christmas Gift**” on the memo line of your check. Place your check in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

We will publish the name of your loved one(s) in an insert during the Christmas season (as we do for poinsettia donations). **Sign up deadline is Sunday, December 16.**

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### MISSION TRIP UPDATE



Five Muhlenbergers traveled to Daytona Beach, Florida a few weeks ago to spend a week helping repair homes damaged by hurricane Matthew. We did a variety of work at three different homes. 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 efforts. 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, 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](http://www.elca.org) to learn about ways you can help.

## SECOND HOME NEWS



A busy November ended with our Thanksgiving family meal and our 13 - member Girls on the Run team participating in a 5K at Skyline Middle School. Although December is a short month for us, it is

packed with activities and excitement:

+ Come see us at the Holiday Parade on December 7th ... or even better, walk with us in the parade! Let us know if you are interested.

+Our 5th grade students are learning about music as they write their own songs. Students are learning the importance of following directions and polishing their small motor skills as they make seasonal crafts and ornaments. The musical team is hard at work, starting auditions this week for different parts for our next musical.

+A big, red-dressed fellow and his wife are preparing to visit Second Home students on December 21st, just in time for the holidays! He and his wife travel from Richmond every December to bring us some holiday cheer. Each child receives a gift, can pick out books to take home and we celebrate with crafts and cookies. For some of our students these may be the only gifts they receive for Christmas. We are so grateful to our supporters who donate the toys and Santa and Mrs. Clause who donate their time and love each year!

Would you like to learn more, or get involved? Contact Executive . Director Krisztina Szekely at [2ndhomedirector@gmail.com](mailto:2ndhomedirector@gmail.com) or 4327989.

## YOUTH & CAMPUS NEWS

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

### CHRISMON DECORATING

**Alpha Teens** (6th-8th grade youth) are invited to stay after church **December 16th** to help Muhlenberg get ready for Christmas by putting up and decorating the Chrismon Tree! When we're done, we'll have hot chocolate and cookies.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer (434-3496 or [bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org)) for more information.

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

### THIRD SUNDAY SERVICE PROJECT FOR K-3<sup>RD</sup>

Every third Sunday of the month, K-3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

**A REMINDER TO PARENTS  
OF PRE K-5<sup>TH</sup> 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 scheduled for 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 [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.*

- ✦ We offer prayers for the family of Jimmy Garber who died last week.
- ✦ A heartfelt thank you to all MLC members who donated turkeys, money, and pies and who joined us for the Second Home Thanksgiving family meal! Even though the weather was bad and schools were closed, we had a nice turnout of families, volunteers, visitors, and staff.  
*Krisztina Szekely, Director*
- ✦ Congratulations to our Minister of Music Elizabeth Williams, who has served Muhlenberg for 10 years. Elizabeth, we celebrate you and thank you for your ministry among us!!

## FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

### END-OF YEAR-GIVING

If you are 70 1/2, you can give to Muhlenberg from your IRA with no tax liability. 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.

## 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. 2 Peter 3:1-18**      **Thu. Phil. 1:12-18a**  
**Tue. Rev. 22:12-16**      **Fri. Phil. 1:18b-26**  
**Wed. Luke 11:29-32**      **Sat. Luke 9:1-33**  
**Sun. Luke 3:1-6**

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 3-9, 2018

**Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting  
**6:30 pm** Ruth Sigmon Circle  
**7:00 pm** Eldercare Support Group

**Tue. 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  
**1:00 pm** Go-Go Group Lunch  
**7:15 pm** Sanctuary Choir

**Sun. Second Sunday of Advent**  
**8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am** Holy Communion  
**9:30 am** Christian Formation  
**12:15 pm** Christmas Caroling  
**12:15 pm** JAMers Santa Bags

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 planned**, but no later than Thursdays at 8 am.

Check bulletin boards for community information.

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