



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 9, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ



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.

Pastor Lauren will begin at Muhlenberg January 1, 2019.

PHOTO DIRECTORY NEEDS UPDATING!

TODAY and December 16, photographers will be in the lower level of the Gathering Area. Please 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!

An updated directory will assist Pastor Lauren during her transition. Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul have found the photo directory to be an invaluable resource and encourage all of us to participate in the directory update

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We meet at 12:15 pm in Wayland Hall. We will have a light lunch then go caroling. All are welcome! Bring a friend or come and make a friend. All levels of singing are welcome and needed. Our homebound brothers and sisters of Muhlenberg need some of your Christmas cheer. Only a couple of hours of your time are needed to make a BIG difference! You don't want to miss it!

Sponsored by the Care Committee

SENIOR CITIZEN SANTA BAGS

Sponsored by JAMers

JAMers will meet in the MAC at 12:15 to enjoy lunch and fill Senior Citizen Santa Bags for the Salvation Army.



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.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

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.



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

If you have not had the opportunity to respond 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

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.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	81	Wed. Noon	7
9:30 Worship	90		
11:00 Worship	<u>165</u>		
Total	336		

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
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$54,846)	(\$55,147)	(\$19,831)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	31,659.20
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>47,642.77</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	79,930.97

See Connection Center notebook for details.

October Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$591

To give online, scan here →



CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our overall gifts and offerings in 2018 are about \$25,000 less than 2017. The Church staff and ministry teams have done a solid job reducing expenses (about \$12,000 less than 2017) but we are still operating at a significant deficit of \$46,000. For the first time in many years, we have to dip into our "cash reserves" in order to pay the operating expenses for the church. As we close out 2018, please prayerfully consider a step up in your giving to help with our financial situation.

The Finance Committee

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Tomorrow Evening

Monday, December 10, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Want to help Muhlenberg continue to grow during this time of transition? Join us as we strengthen our ministries, plan new initiatives, dream new dreams, and serve one another and the wider community! **All committees welcome new members.**

MARY/MARTHA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Karen Dotson is hosting the annual Mary/Martha Christmas potluck dinner **on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 pm. (carpool at 5:30).** To help plan for sufficient seating, **please RSVP to 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.

SOPHIE MOELLER CIRCLE

Meets **Tuesday, December 11 at 12 noon** for their annual Christmas Lunch. Bring a dish, a white elephant gift, and a Christmas story or poem to share.

SECOND HOME SUNDAY



For this month, we ask you to donate *graham crackers* **NEXT 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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND HYMN SING

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

Children in Christian Formation classes (age 2–5th 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.

CELEBRATING MUHLENBERG'S ANNIVERSARY

NEXT Sunday, December 16, we will celebrate the 170th Anniversary of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church.

It was on Sunday, December 17, 1848, that a small group of Lutherans gathered in Harrisonburg and signed a document requesting the formation of a congregation under the leadership of Pastor John J. Suman. This event was reported to the Virginia Synod in May, 1849, the year in which the church was officially incorporated.

The congregation's first building from 1850 was a white frame structure on North Main & Wolfe Street. When Pastor Suman resigned in 1853, the church consisted of 48 members and the Sunday School had an enrollment of 100 children. The synodical minutes from 1853

MUHLENBERG NEWS

SIMPLY GIVING NOTICE

If you are enrolled 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 gandjsimmons@gmail.com

noted that the church held a weekly lecture, a monthly concert, and prayer meetings. For its first seventy years the synod played a major role financially in keeping the congregation solvent. The church survived difficult times as most pastors stayed for only a few years and as Harrisonburg and the nation encountered many challenges.

In June, 1949, one hundred years after its incorporation, the congregation broke ground for a new church at our present location. The choir sang, the synodical superintendent (bishop) gave the blessing, and a neighboring pastor from Winchester preached. The cornerstone was set in place in April 1950 and the church dedicated in 1952. The cornerstone of our present church contains items from the cornerstones of the original 1850 white frame structure and from the 1889 brick church built on the same site.

During recent years Muhlenberg has experienced sustained growth in the midst of changing times. We are not bound by the limitations of our heritage but strive to make the gospel of Jesus Christ relevant for our time. As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's coming, we joyfully thank God for the faith and commitment of the saints of Muhlenberg who preceded us. To God alone be the glory!

ADVENT EMAIL DEVOTIONAL

Advent, the season of the church in which we wait for Christ to be born, is represented by four major words: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. During Advent we invite you to connect with those four words and four important words to Muhlenberg: Open, Authentic, Relational, and Serving by participating in spiritual growth through devotionals.

Sign up for daily emails on our website: Member Pages > Advent Devotions 2018

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.



Start gathering eco-friendly packing materials. Mail your holiday gifts in boxes padded with recycled newspaper or shredded paper. You can also use real unshelled peanuts and include a note asking the recipient to feed them to the squirrels once the box is unpacked. These green materials will protect your packages just as well as bubble wrap or Styrofoam but have none of the negative impacts on the environment.



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 or 434-3496) with any questions about these projects

ALTERNATIVE ADVENT

Do something a bit different as part of your Advent devotions. Pick up a box (available in the Gathering Area) and during your daily 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 and then share them with those in need.

GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE

And Advent Devotional Calendars

The Caring Corner has a small tree with ELCA Good Gifts ornaments which provide different opportunities to give to World Hunger. Remove an ornament, go to ELCA.org/goodgifts and make a donation to **ELCA World Hunger**. **You can make a general gift by writing a check to Muhlenberg and designating World Hunger in the memo line!** ELCA World Hunger Advent Devotional Calendars are available in the Gathering Area.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

Devotional calendars and offering boxes are available on 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 TODAY

(no additional flowers will be ordered after today).

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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 NEXT Sunday, December 16.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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

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

ORDINATION

The congregation is invited to join in celebrating the ordination of Melissa May here at Muhlenberg, on **Friday, December 14 at 7:00 pm**. The granddaughter of Bill and Jan Rosenow, and niece of Kristee Trumbo and Kim Fawley, Melissa has been called to serve as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Nome, Alaska.

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.

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:



We participated in the Holiday Parade on December 7.

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 21, 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 or 432-7989.

YOUTH & CAMPUS NEWS

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

CHRISMON DECORATING

Alpha Teens (6th-8th grade youth) are invited to stay after church **NEXT SUNDAY December 16** 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)
for more information.*

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

SHARING GOD'S WORD SOMETHING NEW*

All children age 3 to 3rd grade **begin at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, in the sanctuary** for a time with the Pastor. Those in Pre K will go upstairs to the Teddi Nelson Education wing and be picked up there by their family.

Children in K - 3rd grade go to the MAC (behind the church) on the 1st & 3rd Sundays; the 2nd & 4th Sundays, they go to the Nielsen Room for Children's Church and then return to their parents in worship.

* A Nursery attendant will bring the nursery children in for the Pastor's message and then escort them back to the nursery.

* Youth in grades 4 and 5 will start promptly at 9:30 upstairs in the MAC.

Children's Church during the 11:00 service for children 3-7 years old is held the 1st & 3rd Sundays. 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 undertaking a service project in the MAC. We invite parents to participate in this activity with their children. The next service project is **NEXT Sunday, December 16.**

A REMINDER TO PARENTS OF PRE K-5TH GRADE STUDENTS

TODAY and Next Sunday 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 **TODAY, December 9.**

ADULT FORMATION CLASSES

No Experience Necessary : An in-depth Bible study suitable for everyone. No experience needed. All are welcome. Meets in the Library.

40-Day Journey - Reading, Reflections & Spiritual Growth: an interactive class where participants read and discuss Christian literature. Meets in the Kairos room.

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

✚ We offer prayers for Cynthia Page and her family following the death of her mother.

✚ We appreciate your thoughts, cards, and prayers for Peggy following her fall, subsequent surgery and ongoing rehabilitation. *David and Peggy Hill*

✚ The family of Susan Morningstar wishes to thank each and everyone who came back to church on a Sunday afternoon to pay respects and take part in Susan's funeral service.

I have taken much comfort from the lovely cards and kind expressions of sympathy extended to me at the passing of my dear sister, Susan. God's blessings to you all. *Ruby Lineweaver*

✚ We give thanks for Muhlenberg's own Remington Willis, who 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 in the Gathering Area and pick up a copy of her "Month Three Update".

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 8:22-25 Thu. 2 Cor. 8:1-15
Tue. 2 Peter 1:2-15 Fri. 2 Cor. 9:1-15
Wed. Luke 7:18-30 Sat. Luke 1:57-66
Sun. Luke 3:7-18

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 10-16, 2018

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Ministries Night

Tue. 12 noon Sophie Moeller Circle
4:45 pm SonShine Singers
5:30 pm Cherub Choir
6:00 pm Mary/Martha Christmas Dinner
6:30 pm Celebration Singers

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

Sun. Third Sunday of Advent
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
Second Home food collection
9:30 am Christian Formation
4:00 pm Children's Christmas Program and Hymn Sing

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/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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