



# 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*

*Published Weekly by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church*

281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 ♫ Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: [info@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org) ♫ Website: [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

Pastor Mark Radecke: [radecke@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:radecke@muhlenberglutheran.org) ♫ Pastor Paul Weber: [weber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:weber@muhlenberglutheran.org)

December 17, 2017

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

#### FROM OUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL LEADERS...

⌘ THANK YOU!! We collected a great number of Leadership Needs Survey responses, and we are delighted. The Call Committee has begun working and will keep us informed as they can. Please include them in your daily prayers.

⌘ "It is our relationship with God that keeps us coming to church." The Executive Committee encourages you to continue growing your faith here at Muhlenberg. We are all waiting and searching this Advent season. Let's be here for each other and celebrate with each other in this space. Introduce and re-introduce yourself to your neighbor. God is leading us.

### 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 visit us at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org) to securely register online.



### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

#### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

When was the last time you went caroling? We are looking for an enthusiastic group - young to not so young - to help spread Advent/Christmas cheer to our brothers and sisters who can't join us in worship. Impressive singing ability is not required, just a willingness to make a joyful noise! All are welcome! **Meet in the MAC TODAY at 12:15 for a light meal.** Only about 2 hours of your time are needed to make a big difference!

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND HYMN SING

**TODAY at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary**, children in Christian Formation classes (age 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade) will present a Christmas program. Afterward, Minister of Music Emeritus Don Smith 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'll join us for this special time of Christmas joy.

## 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.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS

Are you in our latest pictorial directory? If not, come to the lower level of the Gathering Area **TODAY**, 9:00-11:00 am. In just 5 minutes, we'll take your picture and collect your contact info.



## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	86	Wed. Noon	12
9:30 Worship	121		
11:00 Worship	<u>125</u>		
Total	<b>322</b>		

### MINISTRY OF THE WEEK

#### EVANGELISM

*This space features one committee/ministry team each week. Highlights are provided so we become more familiar with their work.*

We focus on how we as a congregation can be more intentional in our outreach about MLC and the Gospel.

We welcome anyone interested in working with us on outreach, visitor response, prospective new members, or new member sponsors.

Contact Kathy Thompson ([thompskb@jmu.edu](mailto:thompskb@jmu.edu)) or Steve Reich ([reichsa@jmu.edu](mailto:reichsa@jmu.edu)) or join us at Ministries Night.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2017

	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$654,335	\$728,289	\$654,545
Total Receipts	\$740,839	\$816,648	\$734,705
Expenses	\$764,851	\$857,445	\$764,571
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>\$(24,012)</b>	<b>\$(40,797)</b>	<b>\$(29,866)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan: \$ 12,495.89

Giving to Other Designated Funds: \$ 9,819.63

**Total Giving for the Week** \$ 22,315.52

*See details in the notebook at the Connection Center.*

**October Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$109**

To give online, scan here ➔



## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### Go-Go Group BREAKFAST (55+)

Are you 55+ and enjoy fellowship with others? Join the Go-Go Group **THIS Tuesday, December 19, 8:30 am** at Thomas House in Dayton. Contact Dan Werner at 433-3912 for more information.



### Midday Music in Advent 2017

A series of half-hour recitals for the Advent season presented each Thursday at noon. All are welcome to these free concerts!

**December 21**

Muhlenberg Members:  
handbells, vocalists, &  
instrumentalists

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### LAY ASSISTING MINISTER TRAINING

If you are currently serving in this ministry or are interested, please join us for a training session **January 14, 2018 immediately after the 11:00 am service**. Contact either Pastor Paul or Pastor Mark for more details.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

### YEAR END FINANCIAL STATUS

As we are about to close out another calendar year, it is time for a brief update on the financial status of the church's 2017 spending plan. Through the end of November, we have a deficit of approximately \$24,000. In other words, our actual spending is \$24,000 more than the gifts we received. This is a direct result of actual giving being less than budgeted giving. Traditionally, December is a very strong "giving" month and I am hopeful that will hold true this year.

Please prayerfully consider any financial support above and beyond your "normal" giving. I am confident that we will once again close out the year with a giving level that eliminates our current deficit.

We will accept 2017 offerings until Jan. 7, 2018. Clearly mark 2017 on your envelope and check.

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:21

*Gary Calleo, Finance Committee Chair*

## FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

For members who participate in the Simply Giving program and are planning to change your giving for 2018, please document your change and submit it to me by email ([gandjsimmons@gmail.com](mailto:gandjsimmons@gmail.com)) or by placing a signed note in my box. Please contact me if you have questions.

Janet Simmons, 434-5258

## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

*The Ministry teams of Christian Formation and Local & Global Mission are offering opportunities to make your Advent and Christmas a time of sharing with others. By providing these different opportunities, we hope you may 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.*



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.).

**Please return the boxes to the Gathering Area December 24.** We will bless the boxes on Christmas Day and then share them with those in need.

### **WORLD HUNGER GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE**

There is a small tree in the Caring Corner with ELCA Good Gifts ornaments. The ornaments have different opportunities to give to World Hunger (providing pigs, chickens, goats and honeybees). Just remove an ornament and donate to ELCA World Hunger by visiting [www.ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://www.ELCA.org/goodgifts). You can also make a general gift by writing a check to Muhlenberg and designating World Hunger on the memo line/envelope.



## **OUR COMMUNITY PLACE (OCP)**

OCP is excited for Christmas and the opportunity to host a delicious meal for friends in the community on Christmas Day. You can help by donating items for the meal and/or volunteering your time and energy to help. Visit the Connection Center for details or call OCP at 442-7727.



## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**



### **Christmas Worship Schedule**

### **DECEMBER 24 & 25 SERVICES**

Mark your calendars for worship services December 24 and 25.

**12/24 – Fourth Sunday in Advent service at 9:30 only  
(no 8:00 or 11:00 service)**

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

**12/25 – Christmas Day service at 10:00 am**



## A CHRISTMAS DUO CONCERT

*Featuring*  
**DUOMI ZHANG, Violin**  
**& GIANNE ZHU, Piano**

Performing works by  
Schubert, Debussy,  
Mozart, Bach,  
Rachmaninoff and Gounod

FREE ADMISSION  
Donation Welcome

7:00 PM  
Friday, December 22, 2017

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH  
281 E. Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA, 22801

**Pianist Gianne Zhu**, born in China, began her study of piano at age five. In 2008, she furthered her training at Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University and earned her Bachelor's degree & Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy, and Music Theory Pedagogy in 2014 – reflecting her interest and passion for teaching and her love for performance. She is pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at JMU.

**Violinist Duomi Zhang** started playing violin at age four in China and completed her undergraduate studies at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore in 2010. A concert master in Peabody Symphony Orchestra during graduate study, she graduated from Peabody in 2014 with a Master's Degree and Graduate Performance Diploma. Currently, she plays an Antonio Gragnani loaned by string instrument collectors Mr. Mrs. Rin Kei Mei of Singapore.

## REMINDERS

### ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Make time each day for devotions as we prepare and wait for God's most precious gift to be given – His own son Jesus Christ our Lord. We have two Advent devotions options:

- Pick up a calendar from the tables in the Gathering Area.
- Receive a daily email. To sign up, send your email to [mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org) or sign up on our website under Member Pages: Advent Devotions

### PARKING ALERT!



If you park in a numbered space in the lot adjacent to 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.

The "sister lot" closer to the church (beside the white house) with un-numbered spaces is a lot the church shares with a local business. You may park there for worship services and weekday church activities after 5 p.m.

Additionally on Sundays and major holidays, you may park in the **Farm Credit lot** across East Market Street, or the **Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver lot** between West Water St. & Newman Ave.

### MISSED WORSHIP LAST WEEK?

If you miss worship one Sunday, chances are you feel a bit out of the loop. Extra copies of *The Chimes*, worship booklets, and sermons are available on the credenza in the administrative hallway. Stop by and catch up on what you've missed. Additionally, you can get sermons and *The Chimes* from our website, [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org).

## 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 [rsanders97@verizon.net](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net).*

Put your holiday lights on timers. Leaving your holiday lights turned on 24 hours a day will quadruple your energy costs-and create four times the pollution as leaving them on for six hours. Set your timer to turn the lights on at dusk and leave them on until you go to bed. You'll be able to enjoy the lights all evening without burning energy overnight.

### 2018 DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

January 23, 2018, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Greater Richmond Convention Center

You can register online – deadline is Jan. 14! We'll meet for a day of fellowship, education and advocacy. The morning will include a welcome address and policy briefings, after which we will meet with our Senators and Delegates. We will meet at the church to carpool. *Contact Diane Bayer (434-3496) with any questions.*

### HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR TRANSITION?

The Transition Communication Team (wearing green nametags) is still available to you. Team members are Neil Alexander, Rachel Peters, Lily Harmison, Kathy Thompson, Mark Byerly, Tim Peifer, Margie Miller, and Brad Moyers. They will provide any answers they have and pass along general themes to Congregation leadership. You may also speak directly to Congregation Council members (wearing white nametags).

## MISSION TRIP TO NICARAGUA



Our Nicaraguan hosts are excited to welcome us! Airline tickets were purchased the first week of December. The addition of registrants after this date is dependent on the availability of tickets, and the price will be subject to increase to cover higher fares. Questions? Contact or speak with Pastor Mark.

### WANT TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT?

Members and friends have kindly asked how they can support the February mission trip to Nicaragua. Thank you! Here are three ways.

1. **Pray** for a safe and meaningful trip; for the Nicaraguan hosts and partners alongside whom we serve; and for the members and friends of Muhlenberg who go as your ambassadors.
2. **Donate**. Monetary gifts (checks payable to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church; memo: Nicaragua Mission Support) will be used to increase the scope and quality of the projects the team will undertake: expansion of school buildings, leading Bible School, and dental services provided by the dentist and hygienist who are part of our team.
3. **Become familiar** with the school/ refuge where we will lodge and work, and especially the beautiful children to whom it ministers. Visit the website at [www.cicrinus.org](http://www.cicrinus.org).

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

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

### THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES ON DECEMBER 24.

#### 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 at 11:00 for children 3-7 years old. After Children's Time with the pastors, children are escorted downstairs to the Nielsen Room. Children return to their parents in the sanctuary during the sharing of the Peace.

#### ADULT CLASSES

Adults are invited to take part in one of these adult classes that meet downstairs:

- **No Experience Necessary:** for beginners to old-timers. All are welcome. Meets in the Library.
- **40-Day Journey:** Readings, Reflections & Spiritual Growth: an interactive class where Christian literature is read and discussed. Meets in the Kairos Room.
- **Christ-Coffee-Conversation-Connecting:** a discussion class to share and support one another as the *ELCA Social Statements* are studied. Meets in the Augsburg Room.

Pick up a green Christian Formation brochure from the Connection Center for more information.

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

The JAMers (elementary youth group) thank everyone who helped with Salvation Army Santa Bags. Using “Our hands to do God’s Work,” children, youth and adults worked together to fill 40 bags that will bring JOY to seniors in our community! We also thank those who brought gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Your spirit of giving and generosity will help make this Christmas brighter for children in our area.

Thanks to those who took part in our Tuesdays in Advent intergenerational events. We had a small worship experience, shared dinner, did service projects, and prepared for the coming of the Savior’s birth. We fed the children of Second Home hearty soup for a snack after school, and made cookies to be handed out to those who come to People Helping People.

Congratulations to Andrew Dotson, son of Karen and Mark Dotson, for being selected as the “student athlete of the week from Shenandoah County.” As his mom said, they are proud of this recognition but also proud that he loves the Lord and he is thoughtful and kind. Way to go, Andrew!

Thank you for the calls, cards and especially prayers during my husband Kenny’s hospitalization and recovery.

*Linda Depoy*

## 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. Ephes. 6:10-17	Thu. Hebrews 1:1-4
Tue. Acts 3:17—4:4	Fri. Hebrews 1:5-14
Wed. Mark 9:9-13	Sat. John 7:40-52
	Sun. Luke 1:26-38

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 18-25, 2017

Mon.	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Mtg.
Tue.	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Go-Go Group Breakfast Celebration Singers
Wed.	12 noon 4:45 pm 5:15 pm 7:15 pm	Holy Communion Cherub Choir SonShine Singers Sanctuary Choir
Thurs.	12 noon	Advent Music Concert
Fri.	7:00 pm	Christmas Duo Concert
Sun.	Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 am	Holy Communion  <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> <b>4:30, 6:30, &amp; 9:00 pm</b>

**Christmas Day Service – 10:00 am**

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](mailto: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://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).