



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 23, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

† Below are the officers elected to serve in 2019. We are blessed to have them share their time and talents.

PresidentTim Peifer
Vice PresidentBill Compton
Secretary.....Greta Willis
TreasurerTerry Looney

† We say goodbye to Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul and hello to Pastor Lauren. See details on page 4.

† A year-end letter went out Friday to the congregation. Extra copies are available at the Connection Center.

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

GOODLATTE DONATES PORTRAIT

Today we welcome Congressman Bob Goodlatte and his wife Maryellen at the 9:30 am service. Mr. Goodlatte has been the Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia's 6th district for 26 years and is retiring this year. In his retirement, he is donating a portrait of Peter Muhlenberg (whom we are named after) to the church.



Peter Muhlenberg is the son of Henry Muhlenberg, the first Lutheran pastor in America. Peter Muhlenberg was also a pastor and served a parish in Woodstock, VA, where he delivered his legendary sermon of January 21, 1776 in which he called the men of his congregation to serve in the American Revolutionary War. The stained glass window (on the left closest to the chancel in our nave) depicts this story. Thank you Mr. Goodlatte for adding this portrait to our rich history in the Shenandoah Valley.



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

12/25 – Christmas Day Service
10:00 am

**12/30 – First Sunday after
Christmas**
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

Once again this year we will gather around the manger of our Lord and worship the Christ who was born to save. All three of our services this Christmas will be resplendent with carols, special music, the Christmas story from Luke, and Holy Communion as we celebrate the presence of Christ in our midst.

On Christmas Eve, the 4:30 pm service will include a special children's message and homily by Pastor Mark. Pastor Paul will preach at the

6:30 & 9:00 pm liturgies with Kathy Thompson telling the gospel story at the 6:30 service. All three services will begin with the centuries old Proclamation of Christmas, pronounced by our pastors, and conclude with candle lighting and the singing of *Silent Night*.

At 10:00 am on Christmas Day, the Nativity of Our Lord, we will celebrate the birthday of our King with a special service. Worship on Christmas Day is one of the highlights of our faith as we quietly reflect on the deeper meaning of the coming of God as a child. A children's message and homily will be shared by Pastor Paul on the gospel reading from John 1, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth."

On December 30, the First Sunday after Christmas, our celebration will continue with a service of readings and carols with a final homily given by Pastor Mark. This service will mark the conclusion of the ministry of our interim pastors as we anticipate the arrival of Pastor Lauren on January 1.

As we share farewells and leave 2018 behind, with all the gifts and experiences that God has given us to share, we look forward in anticipation to a New Year of God's grace under the leadership of our new pastor!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

ALTERNATIVE ADVENT

Return your Advent box **TODAY**. We will bless the boxes on Christmas Eve and then share them with those in need.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Return offering boxes to the Gathering Area by Christmas Eve.



CHRISTMAS EVENING DINNER CANCELLED

After prayerful consideration we have decided to **hold off on hosting a dinner on Christmas Day for a year** - the short notice has affected the families who usually plan, prep, and host the meal.

If you still feel the Spirit's nudge to reach out to others this Christmas, *consider contacting Our Community Place (442-7727 or leons@OurCommunityPlace.org).*

If you would like to be part of the consideration in planning for this event in the future, please *contact Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496) or Cannie Campbell (campbecg@jmu.edu) or 564-1803).*

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	64	Wed. Noon	9
9:30 Worship	131		
11:00 Worship	<u>141</u>		
Total	336		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 2018			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$629,570	\$727,886	\$654,335
Total Receipts	\$717,730	\$816,245	\$740,839
Expenses	\$766,109	\$881,741	\$764,851
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$48,379)	(\$65,496)	(\$24,012)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	14,420.10
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>2,971.50</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	17,391.60

See Connection Center notebook for details.

November Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$234



To give online, scan here →

Note: We will accept 2018 offerings through January 6, 2018. Clearly mark 2018 on your envelope and check.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES

"a caring presence" in America's places of work"
Did you know that Industrial/Commercial Ministries (ICM) provides chaplains for the employees of 29 businesses at 37 locations in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County? Watch for more information about ICM in next week's issue of *The Chimes*.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed
December 25, 26, & 31.

NO NOON SERVICE DEC. 26

Wednesday, December 26 is a staff holiday so there will be **no noon service** that day.

FIRST NIGHT HARRISONBURG



Muhlenberg will once again participate in First Night. ACME Swing Manufacturing Co. will perform 7-11 pm in the MAC. The band says, “You do want to dance, don't you? You move, we groove ... Ballads, blues, love songs, we're all about close listening.”

For more information, visit
<http://firstnightharrisonburg.com>.

2016 DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy's Day for All People will be held **January 22, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm in Richmond, VA**. You can register online – deadline is January 13.

We will 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 (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) with any questions.*

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

NEW PASTOR

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Muhlenberg has new pastoral leadership. Pastor Lauren Miller is our new Senior Pastor and will begin January 1, 2019. Join us for a reception in the Gathering Area January 6 after the 8:00 & 9:30 services (11:00 folks are invited to come early).



SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR INTERIM PASTORS

It is with great respect that we as a congregation say thank-you and bid a fond farewell to Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul. December 31 will be their last day as a new ministry begins at Muhlenberg with Pastor Lauren.

I give thanks to Bishop Emeritus Mauney and Bishop Humphrey for bringing both these ideal pastors to us as interims. They have served us in word and sacrament, enriched our ministries, tended to our ailments, comforted those who lost loved ones, and were confident mentors to Council. Join me in raising prayers of thanksgiving for their ministry.

In humble gratitude and great thanks, we will **collect a free-will offering in their honor**. If you would like to participate, make your check payable to Muhlenberg and indicate *Farewell Gift* on your check and envelope. There will be a locked wooden box in the back of the sanctuary **TODAY** and next Sunday, Dec. 30 to receive your gifts. It is Council's desire that from this gift we set aside an amount that lets them take their wives to a nice dinner. The balance will go to the *CICRIN Children's School in Nicaragua* in honor of Pastor Mark and the *A Capella Choir at Lenoir Ryhne* in honor of Pastor Paul.

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.



Remove the snow and ice from your car. The snow that piles up on the hood, roof, and windows can be very heavy. Scraping the snow and ice off your car will help improve your vehicle's fuel efficiency and make driving safer for you and others on the road. Invest in a good-quality scraper and snowbrush to make cleaning your car easier.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have updated the church's pictorial directory. Those without internet access (or who need a printed copy) can sign up for one in the front cover of the notebook at the Connection Center **beginning next week**. There is no charge, but a contribution toward the printing costs will be appreciated when you pick up your copy. The copies will be available January 20 and 27. The online version is available now. *If you need help logging in, contact Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberg.lutheran.org or 434-3496).*



We have a contract on the house at 65 Ott Street! Watch *The Chimes* for more information.

SECOND HOME NEWS

*All of us at Second Home
wish you a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!
Thank you for your support!*



REMINDERS

COMMUNION IN THE PEWS

For those who desire communion and are unable to come forward, **white grape juice and gluten-free bread** are now available. Please indicate your preference for juice to the Lay Assisting Minister and take gluten-free bread from the small container beside the regular communion bread.

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 W. Water Street & 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. Let's be 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 for them. Thank you for your consideration.

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 information about classes for children and adults.

WHY CHILDREN NEED TO GET TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS EVE

A resource for parents and guardians is available at the Connection Center. Please take a copy and learn why coming as a family on Christmas Eve is important!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

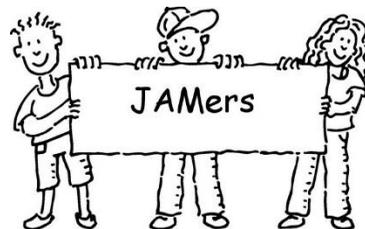
During the 11:00 service, children 3-7 years old are invited to Children's Church. It is held the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month. (After Children's Time with a pastor, children are escorted downstairs to the Nielsen Room. Children return to their parents in the Sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace.)

THIRD SUNDAY SERVICE PROJECT

Today and 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.

JAMERS (2ND-5TH GRADE)

Meets Sunday, January 13 at 4:00 pm in the MAC to celebrate Epiphany. Come join the fun and fellowship as together we serve others.



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.

✚ Many thanks to Pr. Mark and Pr. Paul, staff, and members of the MLC family for the prayers, visits, calls, emails, text support, cards, hugs, and shared tears as we journeyed with Karen's mother through her end of life. Through caring, you are the wellspring of God's grace.

Karen & Bruce Matthias and family



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. Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] Thu. John 21:19b-24
Tue. Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 Fri. Revelation 21:1-7
Wed. Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60 Sat. 1 Cor. 3:10-17
Sun. Luke 2:41-52

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 24-30, 2018

Mon. Christmas Eve Services
4:30, 6:30, & 9:00 pm

Tue. Christmas Day Service
10:00 am
Church Office Closed

Wed. Church Office Closed
No Noon Service

Sun. First Sunday of Christmas
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 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)