



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

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org ✚ Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

Pastor Mark Radecke: radecke@muhlenberglutheran.org ✚ Pastor Paul Weber: weber@muhlenberglutheran.org

December 30, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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
SecretaryGreta Willis
TreasurerTerry Looney

✚ We say goodbye to Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul and hello to Pastor Lauren. See details in the next column and on page 2.

✚ A year-end letter went out to the congregation last week. Extra copies are available at the Connection Center.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SAYING GOODBYE...

With great respect, we 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 with Pastor Lauren.

We give thanks to Bishop Emeritus Mauney and Bishop Humphrey for bringing 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 is a locked wooden box in the back of the sanctuary **TODAY** 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 Rhyne* in honor of Pastor Paul.

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.



NEW 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 NEXT Sunday, January 6 after the 8:00 and 9:30 services (11:00 folks are invited to come early).

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

**OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S
December 31 and January 1.**

FIRST NIGHT HARRISONBURG

Muhlenberg is hosting a group for First Night. ACME Swing Manufacturing Co. will perform 7-11 pm in the MAC. *For more information, visit firstnightharrisonburg.com.*

CALLING ALL COMFORT MAKERS!

If you can tie a knot, please join us Thursdays starting **January 3** to make comforts. Come anytime between 8 am and noon to join in the fun and fellowship! *Contact Linda Morrison with any questions (383-5085). See you then!*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

January 22, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm in Richmond. Register online before January 10 for early discount. The morning will include a welcome address and policy briefings after which we will meet with our senator and delegates. We will carpool from the church. For details, *contact Diane Bayer (434-3496).*

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

See next week's issue of *The Chimes* for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day attendance.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 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	\$ 36,261.10
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 6,828.90
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 43,090.00

See Connection Center notebook for details.

November Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$234

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 \$48,000. 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.

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

The Finance Committee

FINANCE 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 (gandjimmmons@gmail.com)

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Attention Committee/Ministry Chairs: If you have not already, please send your annual report to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@mhlenberglutheran.org) this week

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

Plan an eco-friendly Kwanzaa celebration. Celebrate the values of family, community, commerce, and self-improvement while honoring the environment, too. Choose an antique kinara (candleholder), use soy candles, and shop at local retailers for fair-trade handicrafts items made from recycled materials, and other gifts that have minimal impact on the planet.

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. There is no charge, but a contribution toward the printing costs will be appreciated. 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@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).*

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES (ICM)

"a caring presence" in America's places of work"

ICM is a Christian outreach program that provides trained volunteer chaplains for the workplace. Chaplains volunteer about 2-3 hours each week and provide guidance, assistance, referral services, or simply a listening ear to any employee who is facing tough issues. ICM locally serves 29 businesses at 37 locations.



Muhlenberg members Joann & Dick Petonke and Pastor Richard Umberger faithfully served as ICM chaplains. Presently, Dan Werner serves at Comsonics and Roger Bergey at Truck Enterprises. Pam Bergey is a member of the National Board of Directors. Many Muhlenberg members have ICM chaplains serving in their workplace.

Presently, ICM is in need of financial support to provide excellent chaplain and leadership training, for communications (publicity, printed materials, and speakers), planning new chapters, and shepherding current chapters. Your gift ensures a caring presence and a listening ear to hundreds of employees in our area. If you would like to donate, make checks payable to Muhlenberg and indicate ICM on your check and envelope.

Do you have a caring heart and a couple of hours each week to share? Please consider becoming an ICM chaplain. Lay people and clergy, all are welcome. We have local businesses seeking chaplains, and you could fill that need. ICM will train and support you. Please visit with us in the Gathering Area on January 13 & 20 to learn more.

For more information, contact Pam Bergey (pcbergy@yahoo.com or 433-7418).

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.

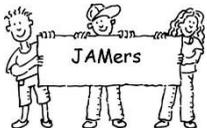
SHARING GOD'S WORD

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.

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

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.

ADVENT BOXES

If you haven't returned your box for Alternative Advent or Habitat for Humanity, please bring it to church next Sunday so it can be delivered to those in need.

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. John 8:12-19 Thu. Luke 8:16-21
Tue. Luke 2:15-21 Fri. Acts 7:44-53
Wed. James 3:13-18 Sat. John 1:[1-9] 10-18
Sun. Matthew 2:1-12

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 31, 2018—January 6, 2019

Mon. New Year's Eve
Church Office Closed
First Night Harrisonburg

Tue. New Year's Day
Church Office Closed

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

Sun. **Epiphany of Our Lord**
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
Food Pantry, Lay Communion &
Name Badge Sunday
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)