



The CHIMES

MUHLENBERG: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S 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

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org

January 5, 2020

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

EPIPHANY



Today we celebrate Epiphany Sunday (observed on the Sunday closest to Jan. 6). Every year on January 6, the twelve days of Christmas come to a close, and the church celebrates the

revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the magi (wise men) who come to worship Jesus. Many cultures have specific traditions around Epiphany, including gift giving and blessing of homes for the new year. The season after Epiphany starts today and continues until the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

EPIPHANY EVENT & CHILI COOK-OFF

Fire up your crock-pots!

Join us for an Epiphany event and chili cook-off **TODAY, 4:00 – 6:00 pm** in the MAC. **Bring chili, salad or bread** to share. Plan to vote for your favorite chili.



Fire up your crock-pots!

We'll share in Epiphany traditions like Chalking of the Door and Burning of the Greens, so **bring a branch from your Christmas tree or a wreath** to place in the fire and we will enjoy fellowship on a cold winter night. We need help with set-up and clean-up, so contact Pastor Lauren if you're able to assist.

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 securely register online:



muhlenberglutheran.org

ALTERNATIVE ADVENT



Boxes will be blessed **TODAY!** Thank you to all who participated in this alternative gift giving opportunity. Boxes will be delivered to those in need.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LAUREN

An email message from Pastor Lauren was sent to the congregation this week. Copies are available at the Connection Center.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY
TODAY is the deadline for accepting 2019 offerings. Date your check for 2019 and be sure your envelope indicates 2019 as well. It is most helpful if you do not include 2019 & 2020 offerings in the same check.

If you want to change your **Simply Giving** designation, document the change and submit it to me by email or a signed note in my mailbox.

I have mailed 2020 offering envelopes. If you did not receive yours and would like a packet, or have questions about your offerings, please contact me.

Janet Simmons

gandjsimmons@gmail.com or 434-5258

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER LUNCH & ORIENTATION

Have you recently joined the church? Are you considering membership? Are you curious or just want to learn more about Muhlenberg?

Join us **NEXT Sunday, January 12** for a **Prospective Member Lunch & Orientation, 12:15 – 2:30 pm** in Wayland Hall (downstairs). Together we'll explore what it means to be a Christian, a Lutheran, a follower of Jesus and a member of the Muhlenberg family. We'll discuss more in depth the mission and ministries of Muhlenberg and how you can be part of the life of this congregation as a member or an associate member.

New members will be received Sunday, February 9.

For more information, contact ...

- *Kathy Thompson, Evangelism Chair*
thompskb@jmu.edu or 540-578-4830 or
- *One of the pastors ~ 434-3496*
 - eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org
 - zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org

FINANCIAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS EVE ATTENDANCE

4:30 Worship	258
6:30 Worship	206
9:00 Worship	<u>237</u>
Total	701

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	57
9:30 Worship	107
11:00 Worship	<u>93</u>
Total	257

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2019			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$624,790	\$739,229	\$629,570
Total Receipts	\$715,607	\$837,221	\$717,730
Expenses	\$748,894	\$901,285	\$766,109
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$33,287)	(\$64,064)	(\$48,379)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 30,038.06
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>4,527.35</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 34,565.41

See Connection Center notebook for details.

To give online, scan here →



ORGAN NEWS

Sunday, January 19 at all services, Bill Wightman, member and Chair of the Organ Research Committee, will provide a Temple Talk that outlines a brief history of our current organ, a review of its existing problems, and a proposal to replace it.

To better understand the need for a new organ, Elizabeth Williams, along with Bob Lent, our long-time organ technician, will provide a demonstration/explanation of some of the problems, difficulties, and drawbacks associated with the current organ following the 11:00 service. Visit the Connection Center for more information.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **TOMORROW, 7:00 pm** in the Kairos Room. *For details, contact Jennie Warner (mjwarner1@aol.com or 476-2020).*

COMFORT MAKERS

Please join us **Thursdays** through April 2 anytime between **8 am and noon** to enjoy fun and fellowship! No sewing skills required. *For more information, contact Linda Morrison (glenm778@comcast.net or 383-5085).*

SECOND HOME NEWS

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION



Without Second Home, many young children in the neighborhood would go to an empty house after school and have to feed themselves a healthy snack and do homework.

On the third Sunday each month, we ask you to donate specific items to help provide snacks. For this month, we ask you to donate **canned fruit (natural/packed in water)**

Sunday, January 19.

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 the memo line of your check and envelope.



CONGRATULATIONS!

We rejoice in the birth of Cooper Alan Kiser, son of Ansley & Bryce, grandson of Keith & Teresa, and great-grandson of Jackie Kiser. Cooper was born December 21.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SOPHIE MOELLER CIRCLE

Meets **Tuesday, January 14, 1:30 pm** in the Kairos room. New members welcome. *For more information, contact Marilyn Jarrells (marilynnjarrells@gmail.com or 246-5753).*

DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy will hold the 2020 Day for All



People **Wednesday, January 22, 8:30 – 3:00 pm** in Richmond. Register online; don't miss the January 13 deadline!

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.*

EPIC CONFERENCE

EPIC Leadership Conference
at Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg



Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations (EPIC) is a one-day leadership development conference designed to strengthen congregational leaders for their ministry in the congregation and in the world. Muhlenberg is hosting this Virginia Synod event **Saturday, February 1, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

Workshops will include topics such as Congregational Vitality, Ministry with Older Adults, Creating a Good Digital First Impression, and Resources for Difficult Discussions. The cost is \$15 per person with lunch included. Register at vasynod.org/epic. *Contact Pastor Lauren with any questions.*

ALPHA TEENS

Contact Rebecca Pettit
(304-939-0528 or pettitre4@gmail.com)
for more information.

January 25-26: Church Lock-In. (Staying the night is not required. You are welcome to join us for just the evening events.) Pack a sleeping bag, pajamas, clothes for church, personal hygiene items, and favorite games.

- Taco dinner starting at 6:00 pm. *Please notify Rebecca of food allergies/restrictions.*
- Service project: make cards for hospitalized children.
- Movies and games.
- 8:00 am worship on January 26.

JCREW

For more info, contact Clay Arthur
(434-3496 or clay@muhlenberglutheran.org).

Kick off the new year with JCrew! We will meet **NEXT Sunday, January 12, 12:15 pm** in the Campus Room. Let's have lunch and fun! Make plans to join us!!

JAMERS

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

Meet **NEXT Sunday, January 12, 4:00 in the MAC** to celebrate Epiphany. Join the fun and fellowship as together you serve others.

WHERE DID THE LECTIONARY GO?

We have discontinued publishing the daily lectionary in *The Chimes*. The appointed lessons are listed in our hymnal, and devotional booklets are available in the Gathering Area. If you would like *Bread for the Day*, an additional resource, contact Pastor Alex.

CREATION CARE TIP

This is the new home for the weekly  Creation Care Tip. Be sure to check every week to learn about ways you can help the environment! For more info, contact Ramona Sanders (rsanders9@verizon.net or 433-1165).

Harrisonburg City residents may take items to the Recycling Convenience Center (2055 Beery Road, 434-5028). Acceptable materials include plastics #1 & # 2, aluminum, tin, glass, scrap metal (appliances, bed frames, lawnmowers, etc.), bulk items (furniture, mattresses/box-springs, etc.), white office paper, and mixed paper (newspaper, colored paper, magazines, junk mail).

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 6 - 12, 2020

Mon.	7:00 pm	Eldercare Support Group
Tue.	4:45 pm	SonShine Singers
	5:30 pm	Cherub Choir
	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed.	12 noon	Holy Communion
	7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thu.	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sun.	Baptism of Our Lord	
	8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Christian Formation
	12:15 pm	New Member Lunch
	12:15 pm	JCrew
	4:00 pm	JAMers

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 Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depay@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).