



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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January 9, 2022

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



This Sunday is about Jesus being baptized by John the baptizer. The voice of God speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends like a dove. This story is also about us: we too have been baptized, we have heard God's loving call, and we have received the Holy Spirit and are sent out into our daily lives with the message of God's love and forgiveness

GUEST PREACHER TODAY

Today we welcome former Muhlenberg Interim Pastor Mark Radecke who will be our Guest Preaching Minister with Pastor Lauren serving as Presiding Minister. Join us in saying a special hello and thank you to Pastor Mark between services.

WELCOME TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Narrative Lectionary (the four-year cycle of readings which we follow) dedicates the time between Christmas and Easter this year to the gospel of John. This unique gospel opens up an experience of grace through stories of signs pointing us to God. Throughout the next few months, we'll dive deep into this gospel to meet a relational, deeply intimate Christ.

You are encouraged to take time to read the gospel in its entirety, and find opportunities to study it further outside of Sunday morning worship. Consider joining in adult Sunday school or the Wednesday morning Bible study in order to learn more about this fascinating gospel. We'll have small group study opportunities during Lent, as well. If you'd like to study in-depth on your own, the commentary *John* by Karoline Lewis is fantastic. We look forward to exploring the gospel of John together!

As the Omicron variant continues to rapidly spread in our community, we ask everyone to please use an abundance of caution when determining whether to attend worship and Christian education in person. Stay home if you have ANY symptoms of COVID or influenza, or have had any close contact with a person who has COVID in the past week. Both worship and adult Sunday school are easily accessed online; contact the church office if you need any assistance connecting. For now, we will continue to offer in-person worship, but our ability to do that depends on everyone acting responsibly. Thank you for your care and concern for all the members of our community! --Pastor Lauren

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL
INSTALLATION**

Our 2022 Congregation Council members will be installed this morning! They have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in our parish family. Please keep them in your prayers and joyfully work with them as you are called upon and able.

- Sandra Blade**
- Bill Compton**
- Cathy Copeland**
- Jenny Gibson**
- Joe Grandstaff**
- Bruce Hamilton**
- Gus Kagey**
- Brad Moyers**
- Russell Presnell**
- Kevin Stees** *Vice President*
- Rachel Peters**
- Sarah Sunde** *Treasurer*
- Karen Thomsen**
- Meg Wightman** *Secretary*
- Greta Willis** *President*

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION
CLASS LOCATIONS**

- Pre-K – 5th Grade** meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (behind the church)
- These classes meet downstairs in the church:
- Grades 6 -12** ~ Campus Room
- Devotional Classics Adult Class** ~ Nielsen Rm
- Faith Lens Adult Class** ~ Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MEETING

Middle school youth will gather **TODAY, 2:00 – 4:00 pm** for a combined confirmation/ youth group experience full of learning, serving, and having fun together! This month's gathering is at the home of the Perritts. Their address is in the email sent to middle school families this week. (If you're not receiving those emails, please contact Pastor Lauren so she can add your email address to the list.) You can also find the Perritt address in the directory or contact Pastor Lauren.

Middle school youth typically meet the first Sunday of each month from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the backyard of a host family.

PASTOR ALEX AWAY

I will be on vacation through January 15, traveling with family to Egypt. I will not be accessible by phone or email during this time, so please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Depoy with any urgent needs. I'm excited to see you again when I return! +Pastor Alex

2021 OFFERING THROUGH 12/31

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 12,566.10
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 535.00
Total	\$ 13,101.10

RECENT ATTENDANCE

12/26	10:00 Holy Communion	44
	Total Views this Week	200
	Hours Viewed this Week	52.8
1/2	8:30 Holy Communion	37
	11:00 Holy Communion	48
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers	46

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (1/10) at 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us **each Wednesday at 10:30 am** for Bible study via [ZOOM](#):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

COMFORT MAKERS

Please join us **Thursdays through April 7 anytime between 8 am - noon!** No sewing skills required. *For more information, contact Linda Morrison (glenm778@comcast.net or 383-5085).*

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

If you are new to the Muhlenberg community, or would simply like to learn more about the congregation, please join us for a *Welcome to Muhlenberg* experience **NEXT Sunday, January 16 at 9:45 am.** Meet leaders, hear about ways to get involved, and take a tour of our campus. We'll also share information about membership at Muhlenberg. If you're interested but unable to attend, please contact Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) so you can receive an invitation to our next event later in the spring.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

You are invited to a ...

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 30

**beginning at 9:45 in person and
via ZOOM**

(same Zoom link we use Sunday mornings)

Annual Meeting Agenda:

- ✦ Review 2021 Year-End Reports*
- ✦ Elect Nominating Committee
- ✦ Elect Synod Assembly Delegates
- ✦ Recognize Outgoing Council President
- ✦ New Business

*Reports will be sent electronically. Hard copies will be available from the Connection Center and Connection Box (outside the Gathering Area). Contact Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) to have a hard copy mailed to you.

Watch The Chimes for more information and participation instructions.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

The Arbor Day Foundation reminds us that planting a tree is the ultimate act of optimism and sharing. It is the one act within reach of nearly every man, woman, and child to improve the environment and make this world a better place. It is repayment of our debt to nature for the air we breathe and the joy we know from bird songs, summer shade, and the calming beauty of shimmering leaves.

DESIGN OUR BULLETIN COVERS IN 2022

Do you have artistic gifts or an eye for photography? Your gifts can help tell God's story! One of our congregation's strategic initiatives over the coming year is to "Become a Congregation of Storytellers." While our lectors and Biblical Storytellers do a wonderful job of proclaiming God's story each week in worship, there are other means of storytelling. Whether you use your own art, photography, or any other visual medium, you have the opportunity to pick a week this spring with the corresponding biblical story, and use your gifts to design our Sunday worship bulletin cover! Storytellers of all ages are welcome to sign up here to claim your favorite stories from the Gospel of John this Spring: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45ACAB2DAAFDC34-bulletin>.

Contact Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) with any questions about ways you can use and share your gifts to help us become a congregation of storytellers!

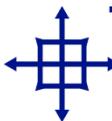
--- Sunday of the Liturgical Season

The Date, 2022

YOUR VISUAL
STORYTELLING
GOES HERE

Story of the Day Here

John #:#-#



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE NEWS

FINANCE MANAGER NEEDED

We are renewing our search to hire a paid part-time Finance Manager. We need a staff member who can manage our financial affairs, while also working with our Parish Administrator and volunteers.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

As you know, Crystl Whitmire is retiring. We are so thankful for her service, and she will be dearly missed. As a result of her retirement, we are beginning a search to fill the open position. The Administrative Assistant will report to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY NEWS

For more information, contact Financial Secretary Gary Calleo (ynccall@yahoo.com or 540-421-5463).

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Area. If you wish to have yours left in the Connection Box (outside the Gathering Area), or do not see any with your name on them, please email Gary or call the church office. Envelopes not picked up and still being utilized will be mailed early January 2022.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

OPEN DOORS

Muhlenberg will provide food for homeless guests at Open Doors **January 31-February 6.**



Open Doors' mission is to engage the community of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County in partnership to provide shelter, compassionate support, and access to services for people who are homeless. The shelter has a maximum capacity of **60** guests, but depending on the weather, numbers can fluctuate a great deal. **In the last few weeks they have been averaging 55-60 guests daily.**

The shelter is available daily from 6:30 pm - 7:00 am and is currently located at 677 Chicago Avenue, Harrisonburg (formerly Red Front Supermarket).

We need prepared food, hot and ready to serve! Food will need to be dropped off at the former Red Front supermarket at 6:30. Volunteers are needed each night to serve in the kitchen (plating food) from 6:30-8:00. Sign up online at https://tiny_url.com/yyv6cvmt. Thanks to all who have already signed up!

Contact Susan Lawrence (540-908-0073 or lawrensj@comcast.net) if you have questions or need assistance dropping off food.

THANK YOU!

We collected 100 pounds of items for Patchwork Pantry last week! Thank you for your generosity to help those experiencing hunger in our community!

YOUTH NEWS

WINTER CELEBRATION CANCELLED

Here's a message from Dave Delaney...

I am so sad to have to report that we have cancelled in-person Winter Celebration due to the current out-of-control positivity rate and highly infectious nature of this omicron variant. This was a gut-wrenching decision that as recently as last week we sincerely thought we would not have to make, but as a Synod we have striven to be consistent since the start of the pandemic with prioritizing safety in all of our synodical and congregational ministries.

We determined at the same time that we will also not attempt to hold our rescheduled Lost & Found that had been planned for March 4-6.

Our hope and current plan is instead to hold a series of one-day, in-person rallies at several locations around the Synod as we get closer to Spring to give us a chance to gather under safer circumstances.

Full refunds of registration fees that have been sent in for Winter Celebration will be returned to congregations and participants.

ACCESS SERMONS ONLINE

Following the Narrative Lectionary allows us to tell a continuous story of faith week after week. If you missed or would like to revisit a particular sermon, you can find a [playlist on YouTube](#) that is updated weekly! Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) to see the sermons posted, and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)!

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS



MIDWINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Our second annual midwinter Power in the Spirit online gathering is coming soon! Once again centered on Candlemas (February 2), this is our time after Christmas and before Lent to “rest, renew, and rise!” Power in the Spirit first met online because we had to. Now we gather online in the midwinter because we want to!

Join us for live sessions online from **Monday, January 31, to Wednesday, February 2.** We'll open our virtual doors at 5:30 pm each night, and by 5:45 we'll be enjoying lectures and workshops from a variety of leaders. At 7:00 pm we'll close with worship. Registration opens January 3. Click [HERE](#) for more information or visit vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit.

The Rev. Kevin Strickland, Bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA, joins us as our keynote speaker! Bishop Strickland brings a wealth of knowledge regarding worship practices and how our worship forms us for mission.

And while you are saving dates, plan to join us at Roanoke College for our summer Power in the Spirit gathering: July 14 - 16!

ABUNDANCE TASK FORCE

WHY I GIVE ~ *Conversations about giving and abundance*

As part of our Abundance Task Force's efforts to share the story of why members give to the ministries of Muhlenberg, then Congregation Council President Karen Thomsen sat down for some conversations with Muhlenberg members about giving their time, talents, and treasure to help live out Muhlenberg's mission.

For our most recent "Why I Give" interview, Karen Thomsen sat down with long-time Muhlenberg member and volunteer, Tassie Pippert!



Karen: Thank you for chatting with me today, Tassie! To start, please tell me how you came to Muhlenberg, and what keeps you coming back.

Tassie: I've been a member here for 45 years! Tom and I were even married here. I was brought up Catholic and, when I first started coming to Muhlenberg, I realized the joy of being in church, not just the "necessity" of it. I suddenly realized that it was God's grace that brought me here - and that's why we keep coming back. We even moved away and then came back - Muhlenberg is like a magnet for me, and I just love this place.

Karen: You give in so many ways here - please share with me why it's important to you to give to the ministries of Muhlenberg.

Tassie: Tom and I have been very blessed. For us, giving is something that God has done to us - He's given us everything that we have. So, we believe it's important to give back to others. Whether it's time, treasure, or just conversation - if it's important to someone, it's important to us. That's one of the things Muhlenberg is great at - the people here don't make you feel forced to give, but you want to because the opportunities are there. We started increasing our giving when we were youth ministry directors, and we saw the importance of that ministry for our children and others. As we grew and the church grew, we were able to give more. There have been times when we've had to give less simply because we had less. But, during those times, we still knew it was important to give to Muhlenberg. This place reaches this entire community and the world - it's not just within these walls. For us, for family, for community - it's important to give back.

Karen: That's great! You and Tom are extremely talented and you both give of your time many Sundays. Talk a little about giving your time at Muhlenberg.

Tassie: Tom is a gifted engineer and has always given his time at the church - whether it's as Property Chair, Council member, or running sound on Sundays. He helped redesign the Gathering Area and the Nielsen Room, etc. - those are just things that are important to him. And I love seeing him give back with all the skills he has. For me, it's always been more musical or through lay assistant ministry. For us, giving of our talents is important because that's what God gave us first, before the funds. Being there to minister to people in some way - whether it be singing in the choir, being the lector or lay assistant minister - I look at my role as very important, and so does Tom.

FINANCIAL NEWS

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

The report this week reflects a preliminary look at total revenue and expenses for 2021. There are several year-end expenses still to be posted through December 31. Next week's report will provide an update. Excluding the portion of a testamentary gift received in 2021 and appropriated by a special Council resolution for 2021 revenue, the deficiency for the year as of today is \$97,295. Taking the testamentary funds (\$79,095) into consideration, the net deficiency is \$18,200. As we are in January, all gifts and offerings now received will count for 2022, except for gifts sent by the U.S. Postal Service that bear a postmark of December 31, 2021 or earlier. *Ted Sudol*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through <u>December 31, 2021</u>			
	Year to Date <u>Actual</u> (thru 12/31/21)	Year-End Totals Budget (thru 12/31/21)	Year-End Totals 2020 Actual (thru 12/31/20)
Gifts/Offerings	\$582,646	\$867,332	\$651,830
Other Gifts & Revenue	\$150,896	\$99,230	\$87,897
Total Revenue	\$733,542	\$966,562	\$739,727
Total Expenses	\$830,837	\$966,562	\$814,339
Income/Expenses	(\$97,295)	\$0	(\$74,612)
Testamentary Gift	\$79,095	---	---
Gov. Subsidy (Payroll Protection Prog.)			\$85,989
(Deficiency)/Surplus	(\$18,200)	\$0	\$11,380

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 1,251.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 60.00
Total Giving for 1/2/2022	\$ 1,311.00

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 10-16, 2022

If viewing electronically, you can click the links below to access meetings and services.

- Mon 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm** Ministries Night via [ZOOM](#)

- Tues 6:30 pm** Celebration Singers
- 7:00 pm** Gloria Dei Ringers

- Wed 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study via [ZOOM](#)
- 6:30 pm** Sanctuary Choir

- Thu 8:00 am** Comfort Makers

- Sun** Second Sunday after Epiphany
- 8:30 am** Holy Communion in person
- 9:45 am** *Welcome to Muhlenberg*
- 9:45 am** Christian Formation Classes
- 11:00 am** Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

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

Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran)

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Printed sermons are available on the table in the Gathering Area and upon request from Linda Depoy in the church office.

Devotionals for January-March 2022 are available from the Connection Center or the Connection Box.