



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 12, 2020

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

ORGAN NEWS

NEXT 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. *See p. 6 for more information.*

† November Congregation Council minutes have been approved and are available at the Connection Center today.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Today we celebrate the Festival of "The Baptism of Our Lord." The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany like we celebrated last week. Christ's baptism inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today's feast is the high point of the Christmas season. Before Jesus' birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is God's son and inaugurates that mission. Today we rejoice in and recommit to the mission we share.

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



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

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 **TODAY** 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

RESERVING ALTAR FLOWERS



The 2020 chart is available in the sign-up book at the Connection Center. Reserve your special dates to remember or honor a loved one! We offer the opportunity for two families to sign up each week and **request payment (\$25/vase) at the time of sign up**. We will send reminders as needed. Thank you in advance for contributing to the worship experience.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	85	Wed. Noon	<i>canceled</i>
9:30 Worship	97		
11:00 Worship	<u>128</u>		
Total	310		

Final 2019 Deposit:

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 12,762.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>4,063.16</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 16,825.16

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 2019			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$725,476	\$881,318	\$750,583
Total Receipts	\$822,089	\$985,918	\$845,872
Expenses	\$825,438	\$985,918	\$846,372
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$3,349)	(\$-0-)	(\$500)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 9,123.37
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>4,666.79</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 13,790.16

See Connection Center notebook for details.

To give online, scan here →



EPIPHANY EVENT

Last Sunday's first annual Epiphany Party and Chili Cook-Off was a success, with 42 people gathering to worship, eat, and enjoy a fun evening together. Congratulations to **Karen Thomsen**, whose Black Bean and Chicken Chili won first place, just barely beating **Pastor Alex's** second place entry of Chocolate Guinness Chili, and **Vicki Heitsch's** third place Chili with Meat, Onions, and Tomatoes.

The real winner was Second Home, who received over **\$200 raised** at the event. We look forward to doing it again next year!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday Evening, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Help Muhlenberg continue to grow by joining in as we strengthen our ministries, plan new initiatives, and serve one another and the wider community. **All are welcome!**

SOPHIE MOELLER CIRCLE

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

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 (glenn778@comcast.net or 383-5085).*

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION

Second Home is a ministry here at Muhlenberg. Without it, many young children in the neighborhood would go to an empty house after school. With their parents working, the children would be on their own to do homework and feed themselves a healthy snack.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy will hold the Day for All People **Wednesday, January 22, 8:30 – 3:00 pm** in Richmond. Register online; **deadline: January 13!**

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

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.*

PASTORS BOOK CLUB

The Pastors' Book Club January meeting has been moved to **Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 pm.** We'll be discussing *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler, an honest and raw memoir about facing tough situations and an uncertain future. The book is available through resources like amazon.com and Barnes and Noble, or contact Pastor Lauren to order a copy for you.

You are invited to a ...

Congregational Meeting

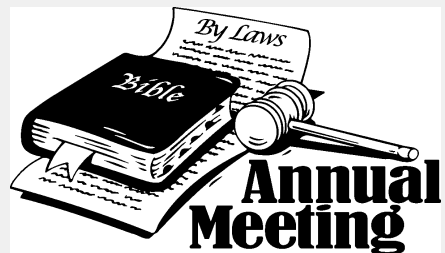
Sunday, January 26

beginning at 12:15 in the Sanctuary

Annual Meeting Agenda:

- † Review 2019 Year-End Reports (*available next Sunday*)
- † Elect Treasurer*
- † Elect Nominating Committee
- † Elect Synod Assembly Delegates
- † Vote on a Capital Campaign to replace the Organ
- † Recognize Outgoing Treasurer, Council Member, and Trustees
- † New Business

**See next page for a bio
on our Treasurer nominee.*



MEET BILL VANCE TREASURER NOMINEE



When I read the notice that the treasurer had resigned and a replacement was needed, I felt God nudging me to step up and submit my name. Over the years I have always served the church in some capacity (Youth Advisor, Chair of

Finance, Elder to name just a few). Professionally, I have been the Director of Administration for Massanetta Springs the last fourteen years.

I look forward to serving the congregation in this way

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

OPEN DOORS

Muhlenberg will host Open Doors at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church **February 3-10**. Open Doors is a rotating homeless shelter for those in Harrisonburg/Rockingham County who have nowhere else to go. The shelter is open November - April and is hosted by a different faith community each week. There are 40 beds available to anyone age 18+.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the space, prepare food, serve, fellowship with guests, clean up, provide breakfast items, and spend the night at the church each evening. Food will need to be dropped off at Blessed Sacrament between 5:00 and 6:00 pm (ready to

eat). Volunteers should arrive by 6:00 and we should be finished no later than 8:30.

You can sign up on the Google doc using this link: shorturl.at/dfEMQ. **You may also sign up and get more information in the Gathering Area following each worship service Sundays, January 12, 19, and 26.**

For more information, contact Emily Wicht Carneal (emily.wicht@gmail.com) or Susan Lawrence (lawrensj@comcast.net or 540-908-0073).

ADULT MISSION TRIP

The Adult Mission Team will serve in Dickenson County in Southwest Virginia **Sunday July 26 - Saturday, August 1**. The trip will include lots of work (painting, rebuilding, shoring up, and general improvements that people there need), as well as lots of fun (fellowship, live bluegrass, dancing, and lots of food!). We will stay at the Binns-Counts Community Center in McClure, VA. *Please email Katy Wessel at katydwessel@gmail.com for more information.*

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

Super Bowl Subs!

Better than Sheetz, because they're home-made with love. Order forms for subs will be available in the Gathering Area **NEXT Sunday, January 19 and Sunday, January 26**. You'll have a tasty treat for the Super Bowl! Suggested donation for a 6" sub is \$7. Proceeds go to the Mission Trip Fund.



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ORGAN BUZZ?

As reported by Congregation Council in *The Chimes* November 3, the Organ Research Committee made a presentation to the Council at their October meeting summarizing the committee's research and recommendations regarding our pipe organ.

While the glorious music that comes from our organ every Sunday may sound spectacular to some, the fact of the matter is that the music emanating from the instrument is difficult to produce at best. For nearly 30 years, we have struggled with an organ that was constructed by a reputable company that, unbeknown to us at the time, was on the verge of bankruptcy.

The organ was not designed properly for our space, and as a result is too loud. To compensate for the loudness, the wind pressure was lowered by the installer, leaving much of the organ nonfunctional. Additionally, since its installation, many components have failed, leaving the organ even less functional. Because the company went out of business, we have no recourse to improve this instrument. More than \$100,000 has been spent on repairs and tunings to help make the organ sound better, but regardless of what has been or can be spent in the future, it simply cannot be fixed.

For the last several years, Music Minister Elizabeth Williams and others, including Music Minister Emeritus Don Smith, former member Adair McConnell, pipe organ mechanic Bob Lent (who has worked on the organ since its installation) and current Organ Research Committee members Bill Wightman (chair), Tassie Pippert, Crystl Whitmire, Mark Byerly, and Council Member Hans Barthmus have been researching solutions to the problems, listening

to other organs, and soliciting proposals from three reputable organ manufacturers.

The committee has received three proposals to replace the current pipe organ with a new one, using as many of the existing pipes as possible.

Feel free to ask any of the committee members for additional information.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, acolytes, greeters, communion assistants/stewards, sound techs, etc.

Sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center for **February and Ash Wednesday services**. Signing up helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson (578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu)*. If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Sermons > Serve in Worship

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.



REMINDERS

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

When the weather is questionable, there are multiple ways to conveniently check for announcements about church cancellations:

1. **Call Muhlenberg** (434-3496). Our voice-mail greeting is updated as soon as decisions are made.
2. **Check our website** (www.muhlenberg.lutheran.org). It is also updated as decisions are made.
3. **Tune in to WSVA AM 550 radio or WHSV TV3** television station or visit their websites to monitor church cancellations.
4. **Check Facebook** – announcements are posted there as well.

Note: if we decide to cancel the Sunday 8:00 and 9:30 am worship services, Christian Formation Classes will also be cancelled for that morning. Every attempt will be made to hold the 11:00 a.m. service, but it may be cancelled if conditions are too severe.

BUILDING USE REQUESTS

To schedule space or change building use arrangements, contact coordinator Lori Reich:

- **Email** request: buildinguse@muhlenberg.lutheran.org
- **Leave a message** via building use voicemail (434-3496).
- **Complete a request form** (located beside the church mailboxes). Return completed forms to the building use mailbox.

Requests are not reviewed every day, but will be answered as soon as possible

YOUTH NEWS

JCREW

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

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

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.

JAMERS

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

Meet **TODAY, 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*.

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 for details about our opportunities.

SHARING GOD'S WORD

Christian Formation classes begin **Sundays at 9:30** in designated locations. Children should be picked up following the 9:30 liturgy.

ATTENTION 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

7th Day, the Synod youth event for all 5th & 6th graders, will be held **March 7-8** at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg. Contact Diane Bayer for a registration form, take one up from the table outside her office, or print one from the Synod website, vasynod.org (under the Youth and Young Adults link, 7th Day).

Sunday, January 26 is the deadline to return registration forms and checks (made out to Muhlenberg for half the registration fee [\$57.50] and 7th Day on the memo line) to Diane to receive the early bird discount.

Here's what others had to say about the event:

- *What a blast getting to meet kids from all over Virginia as we learned more about our faith. If you didn't go last year then you should go this year and see what you missed.*
- *7th Day weekend was a great experience! I didn't really know what to expect because I had never been to a retreat before, but after going to Eagle Eyrie I will definitely go back next year!*

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).



You may have leftovers from holiday get-togethers. A great way to be a steward of the Earth is to consume your food. Did you know that Americans throw away 25% of the food they buy? Not only is this a waste of money, but it is also harmful to the environment. Producing food takes land, water, and heavy machinery.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 13 - 19, 2020

Mon.	5:30 pm	Executive Committee Mtg.
	7:00 pm	Ministries Night
Tue.	1:30 pm	Sophie Moeller Circle
	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.	8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Christian Formation
	12:15 pm	Organ Demonstration & Explanation

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.