



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

Published Weekly by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church

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January 19, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

ORGAN NEWS

TODAY at all services, Bill Wightman, 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 our long-time organ technician Bob Lent, will provide a demonstration/explanation of some problems, difficulties, and drawbacks associated with the current organ following the 11:00 service. *See p. 5 for more information.*

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

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. **TODAY** we ask you to donate **canned fruit (natural/packed in water)**. 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.

The 2019 Annual Report is available at the Connection Center today! It contains information about Muhlenberg ministries, membership and finances. Have questions? Bring them up at the Congregational Meeting next Sunday. *See p. 3 for more information.*

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

GO-GO GROUP BREAKFAST (55+)

THIS Tuesday, January 21, 8:30 am at Thomas House in Dayton. Contact Dan Werner at 433-3912 for more information.

COMFORT MAKERS

Please join us **Thursdays** through April 2 anytime between **8 am and noon** to enjoy fun and fellowship! Contact: Linda Morrison (glenm778@comcast.net or 383-5085).

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. 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 carpool from the church. 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.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	67	Wed. Noon	8
9:30 Worship	109		
11:00 Worship	<u>118</u>		
Total	294		

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	\$ 8,789.85
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>8,277.45</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 17,067.30

See Connection Center notebook for details.

To give online, scan here →



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.



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 at the Connection Center)*
- † 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 and details
about Synod Assembly.*



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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Each year, representatives from all ELCA congregations in the Virginia Synod gather to experience and express what it means to be called to be church together as the Body of Christ, through attending to necessary items of business, experiencing corporate worship, and engaging in fellowship and faith formation.

This year's Synod Assembly will be held **Friday, June 12 through Saturday, June 13**, at Roanoke College. Muhlenberg may elect up to 6 voting members to attend the assembly, and we will hold this election at the Congregational Meeting **next Sunday, January 26**. If you are interested in attending Synod Assembly, or would like more information, *please contact Pastor Lauren or Council Vice-President Greta Willis.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

PASTORS BOOK CLUB

The January meeting has been moved to **Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 pm**. We'll discuss *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.

For **February**, in honor of Black History Month, we will read *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. From the inside cover, "In a time when nearly all institutions... claim to value diversity in their mission statement, *I'm Still Here* is a powerful account of how and why our actions so often fall short of our words." Let Pastor Alex know if you'd like this book ordered for you. The cost is \$17.

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 **TODAY and NEXT 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, and Mark Byerly 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.



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

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 today and NEXT Sunday, January 26.**

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



REMINDERS

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is held every Sunday in the Nielsen Room (downstairs) for ages 3 – 3rd grade.

- 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays – 11:00
- 2nd & 4th Sundays – 9:30

It begins after the Children's Time with the pastors. Leaders take children downstairs for Children's Church. They return to their families in the sanctuary during Sharing of the Peace!



CHILDREN'S BUSY BAGS

Special *busy bags* for children are available from ushers.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

At the Connection Center, you will find a laminated card called Electronic Contribution. Feel free to get one before service on Sunday and place it in the offering. It signifies to others that you are faithful and generous in your stewardship.

Contact Financial Secretary Janet Simmons (gandjsimmons@gmail.com or 434-5258) to sign up or for more information about electronic giving.

YOUTH NEWS

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.

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

For more info, contact Pastor Alex Zuber
(434-3496 or zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org).

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

All college students are invited to join Lutheran Campus Ministry for Dinner Church each Wednesday, 6:00 pm and for a variety of weekly activities at 7:00 pm. If any Muhlenberg members would like to help provide meals and join our LCM students for dinner, *please contact Sarah Sunde* (sundes@jmu.edu or 540-383-8515). We need volunteers to provide meals January 29, and February 12 & 19.



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 from the table outside her office, or print one from the Synod website, vasynod.org (under Youth Ministry)

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

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!*

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 pastors and editor.

✦ Thank you for blessing me with cards, calls and prayers as I continue medical treatment. Your support and acts of kindness are greatly appreciated.

Barbara Werner

✦ Muhlenberg's former campus student Maren Corliss, is serving in Hungary this year as a member of the YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) program of the ELCA. If you would like to learn more about her mission, stop by the Connection Center for a copy of her December newsletter.

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

Contact Ramona Sanders (rsanders97@verizon.net or 433-1165) for more info.



In 1967, Lady Bird Johnson said, “The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest. It is the one thing all of us share.” We should take to heart and do our part to protect the planet for generations to come. Consider small, yet meaningful lifestyle changes that can help save the earth.

1. Use reusable grocery bags instead of plastic.
2. Use less paper when you can.
3. Invest in a reusable water bottle instead of buying water in disposable plastic bottles.

~continued next week~

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 20 - 26, 2020

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Mon. | 6:30 pm | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Office Closed
Congregation Council Mtg. |
| Tue. | 8:30 am | Go-Go Group Breakfast |
| | 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 |
| Sat-Sun. | | Alpha Teens Lock-In |
| Sun. | 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am | Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 am | Christian Formation |
| | 12:15 pm | Congregational Meeting |

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).