



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 26, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

ORGAN NEWS

A letter from Bob Lent, Shenandoah Organ Studio, Inc., outlining the details, background and history surrounding our organ is at the Connection Center for those interested and unable to attend the informative demonstration last Sunday.

At today's meeting, the congregation will vote on a proposal to begin a capital campaign to raise funds to replace the current organ.

See p. 5 for more information.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We meet **TODAY** following the 11:00 service. The 2019 Annual Report is available at the Connection Center. Have questions? Bring them up at the Congregational Meeting.

See p. 3-4 for details.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

PASTORS BOOK CLUB

The January meeting has been moved to **THIS 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 19**, 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.

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

THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

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

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 **THIS 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.

CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS



The Care Committee will hold its annual Shepherd meeting **NEXT Sunday, February 2, 12:15 – 2:00 pm** in Wayland Hall. Light lunch provided. *Shepherds, please RSVP to Sandy Randolph (828-2033).*

If you are not currently a shepherd but want to know more, please attend or call Sandy. There is no obligation.

REMEMBER ... NEXT SUNDAY

NAME BADGE SUNDAY

Make a badge so fellow members can learn your name.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTED

(no glass jars, please)

LAY COMMUNION MINISTERS

SERVING OUR SHUT-INS

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	67	Wed. Noon	9
9:30 Worship	95		
11:00 Worship	<u>140</u>		
Total	302		

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	\$ 5,391.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 4,703.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 10,094.50

See Connection Center notebook for details.

To give online, scan here →



ENDOWMENT GRANT WINNERS

We received several grant proposals. All had great, creative ideas for helping and bringing love to our community. Thanks to everyone who submitted a proposal. Here are the "winners" of the endowment funds this year:

- \$500 to Small and Large Group Sharing submitted by Ramona Sanders
- \$1,000 to Southwest Virginia Mission Project submitted by Katy Wessel
- \$6,000 to Second Home Learning Center submitted by Kristztina Szekeky and Brandon Driver

Congratulations to our winners!! Please connect with these Muhlenberg members and ask them about their winning ideas!

For more information, contact Greta Willis (gretakwillisa@gmail.com or 502-500-4939).

You are invited to a ...

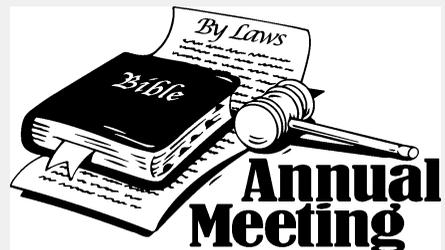
Congregational Meeting

*TODAY 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 - Saturday, June 13**, at Roanoke College. Muhlenberg may elect up to six voting members to attend the assembly, and we will hold this election at the Congregational Meeting **TODAY**. 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

TABLE TALK: HUMAN SEXUALITY

One last Table Talk on the topic of human sexuality is scheduled for **Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 pm** in the Nielsen Room. If you aren't able to attend but are interested in sharing thoughts with either of the pastors, please contact Pastor Lauren or Pastor Alex. They are eager to engage with all who wish to be a part of the conversation.

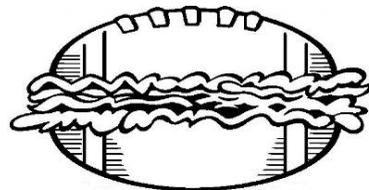
ADULT MISSION TRIP

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**. 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.

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.**

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.

COMMUNION IN THE PEWS



Holy Communion

For those who wish to receive Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, communion is served in the pews – **please let an usher know.** In addition to bread and wine, **white grape juice and gluten-free bread** are also available. Please indicate your preference for juice to the Lay Assisting Minister and take gluten-free bread from the small container beside the wheat communion bread.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

When the weather is questionable, there are multiple ways to conveniently check for announcements about **Sunday and weekday worship service and activity 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

YOUTH NEWS

JCREW

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

WINTER CELEBRATION

Some of our youth are missing today. Clay Arthur, Pastor Alex, and former staff member Mycah McNett are at *Winter Celebration* this weekend with the following youth: Lily Harmison, Grayson Campbell, Abby Moyers, June Holm, Grace Britt, Liam Wightman, Emily Eppard and two guests, Molly Clark and Mairi Bachman. *Winter Celebration* is the annual Virginia Synod event for high school students. Be sure to ask them about their faith packed weekend when they return!

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* (sundesa@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 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)

Extended deadline: NEXT Sunday, February 2 to return registration forms and checks to Diane so they can be postmarked on February 3 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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

As we discuss plans for a pastor-led First Communion class, we would like to hear from families who are interested in having a child be part of the class. *Most often, the first communion class is for students in the third or fourth grade. However; if you have a younger child whom you feel is ready for communion, they are welcome to participate.* We ask that one parent/guardian attend the class with their child. If you plan to have your child be part of this class, *please contact Diane Bayer.*



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 depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

✦ Thanks for your many acts of kindness, food, visits, cards, prayers and calls. God bless my Muhlenberg friends. *Mildred Lynn*

✦ Thanks for the emails, calls, cards, visits, food and prayers since Lee's diagnosis of lung cancer. We feel your prayers surrounding us each day and many prayers are being answered. The treatment plan is working! Our family is so grateful for these successful results and is staying hopeful... What a blessing to be a part of the Muhlenberg family! *Brenda & Lee Branner*

✦ Congratulations to Eli Derrick who was the only youth to represent the USA this week in skiing at the Junior Youth Olympics in the "Ski Cross" event! Eli is the son of Kati and Paul Derrick.

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.



~continued from last week~

Lady Bird Johnson said in 1967, "The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest. It is the one thing all of us share." Consider small, yet meaningful lifestyle changes that can help save the earth.

4. Eat less meat.
5. Compost your food waste.
6. Choose quality clothing & repurpose them!
7. Consider alternative transportation options.
8. "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle."

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 27 – February 2, 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 |
| | 6:30 pm | Pastors' Book Club |
| | 7:15 pm | Sanctuary Choir |
| Thu. | 8:00 am | Comfort Makers |
| Sat. | 8:00 am | Synod Leadership Training |
| Sun. | 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am | Holy Communion |
| | | Food Pantry and Lay Communion |
| | 9:30 am | Christian Formation |
| | 12:15 pm | Shepherd 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 (depoym@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).