



# 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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**February 2, 2020**

## PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ

#### CONGREGATION COUNCIL INSTALLATION

Our 2020 Congregation Council members will be installed at all services 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.

<b>Sandra Blade</b>	<b>Phil Peery</b>
<b>Gary Calleo</b> <i>President</i>	<b>Russell Presnell</b>
<b>Bill Compton</b>	<b>Sarah Sunde</b>
<b>Elizabeth Fletchall</b>	<b>Karen Thomsen</b>
<b>Jenny Gibson</b> <i>Secretary</i>	<b>Bill Vance</b> <i>Treasurer</i>
<b>Joe Grandstaff</b>	<b>Greta Willis</b> <i>Vice Pres.</i>
<b>Vicki Heitsch</b>	

*~continued on p. 2~*

### 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 at*



[muhlenberglutheran.org](http://muhlenberglutheran.org)

### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

#### PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophetess named Anna began to



speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child with the words of the Nunc dimittis. His song described Jesus as a "light for the nations." In keeping with the liturgical practice of forty-day observances, this celebration *actually* marks the conclusion of the Christmas season.

Because of the link between Jesus as the light for the nations, and because an old reading for this festival contains a line from the prophet Zephaniah, "I will search Jerusalem with candles," the day is also known as Candlemas, a day when candles are traditionally blessed for the coming year.

*~continued on p. 3~*

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ (CONT'D)

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Below are highlights from last Sunday's Congregational Meeting:

- Year-end annual reports continue to be available at the Connection Center. We significantly closed the financial deficit to our operating budget in December and ended the year with only a \$3,300 deficit. Thanks to all for the strong year-end financial gifts.
- Bill Vance was elected as Treasurer of the Congregation. Congratulations, Bill!
- The following individuals were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee: Bob Kolodinsky, Stefanie Eye, Karen Mattias and Mark Kipps.
- The following individuals were elected to attend the Virginia Synod Assembly on June 12-13 in Roanoke: Greta Willis, John Mulder, Remington Willis, Karen Thomsen, Russell Presnell and Diane Bayer.
- Recognition and thanks to Terry Looney who served as Treasurer for over 25 years.
- Recognition and thanks to Karen Matthias for her service on Council (6 years).
- Recognition and thanks to Gary Beatty and Bonnie Stidley for serving as Trustees.
- The congregation approved initiating the process of a capital campaign for approximately \$830,000 for a new organ. Vote was 87 in favor, 5 against. Next steps are to form a Capital Campaign Committee to develop fund raising plans and identify financial goals and a timeline. The plan will need to be approved by the congregation.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	90	Wed. Noon	6
9:30 Worship	102		
11:00 Worship	<u>113</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>		

### 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
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$3,349)</b>	<b>(\$0-)</b>	<b>(\$500)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 8,208.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>14,338.39</u>
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 22,546.89</b>

See Connection Center notebook for details.



To give online, scan here →

### OPEN DOORS

Muhlenberg will host Open Doors at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church this week, **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+.

If you would like to volunteer or for more information, contact Emily Wicht Carneal ([emily.wicht@gmail.com](mailto:emily.wicht@gmail.com)) or Susan Lawrence ([lawrensj@comcast.net](mailto:lawrensj@comcast.net) or 540-908-0073).

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### FIRST SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

TODAY we wear **name badges** to be welcoming and learn each other's names. Supplies are in the Gathering Area.

We receive **non-perishable food donations** in the Gathering Area for local area food pantries. *See details below.*

**Lay Communion Ministers** will take Holy Communion to our sick and homebound members.

### "SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY



TODAY we hold our annual friendly competition to see if Muhlenberg members can predict the winner of the Super Bowl. Support your team by bringing extra items to benefit Patchwork Pantry (canned foods, paper products, cleansers, diapers, and personal hygiene items - no glass). Place donations in your team's designated bin in the Gathering Area.

If you want to help but prefer to make a cash donation, place a check payable to Muhlenberg in the offering plate (write Patchwork Pantry on your check and envelope). Your generous support will help feed our hungry neighbors!



### MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

#### Super Bowl Subs!



For the last two weeks orders have been taken for subs, a tasty treat for the Super Bowl! If you placed an order, please come to the church kitchen (downstairs) after your service to pick up your order. Suggested donation for a 6" sub is \$7. Proceeds go to the Mission Trip Fund.

*See p. 5 for more information about the trip.*

### CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS

The Care Committee will hold its annual Shepherd meeting **TODAY, 12:15 – 2:00 pm** in Wayland Hall. Light lunch provided.



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

### HAVE THE HEART OF A SERVANT?

Want to spend a morning or afternoon each week in a welcoming environment while serving your church and community? The church office is looking for members who have time to serve in a volunteer capacity as an office assistant/receptionist in the Narthex and Gathering Area. Orientation and training are provided.

Can't make a firm commitment? You can still help. We also need assistants to *fill in* on occasion. Additionally, we periodically have special projects that may be done at the church office or sometimes from home.

To explore any of these opportunities, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496). In compliance with state regulations and Safe Church policies, there is an interview and application process.



PSALM 116:16

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets TOMORROW, February 3, 7:00 pm in the Kairos Room. For details, contact Jennie Warner ([mjwarner1@aol.com](mailto:mjwarner1@aol.com) or 476-2020).

### GO-GO GROUP (55+)



Go-Go Group

Join us for lunch **Wednesday, February 5, 1:00 pm at Taste of Thai.** Contact Dan Werner (433-3912) for details.

### 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.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

With our ever-changing lifestyles, it's sometimes difficult to be sure everyone has your correct contact information. Have you recently ...



- moved?
- cancelled your home phone?
- changed your cell phone number?
- changed your home/work email address?

If so, please be sure your information is updated with the church. Contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496).

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES (ICM)

*"a caring presence" in America's places of work"*

ICM is a Christian outreach program that provides trained volunteer chaplains for the workplace. Chaplains volunteer about 2-3 hours each week and provide guidance, assistance, referral services, or simply a listening ear to any employee who is facing tough issues. ICM locally serves 29 businesses at 37 locations.



Presently, Dan Werner serves at Comsonics, Roger Bergey at Truck Enterprises, Alan Hiner at Sentara Orthopedics Center, and Jim Hogan at the Harrisonburg Fire Department. Pam Bergey is a member of the National Board of Directors. Many Muhlenberg members have ICM chaplains serving in their workplace.

Presently, ICM is in need of financial support to provide excellent chaplain and leadership training, for communications (publicity, printed materials, and speakers), planning new chapters, and shepherding current chapters. Your gift ensures a caring presence and a listening ear to hundreds of employees in our area. If you would like to donate, make checks payable to Muhlenberg and indicate ICM on your check and envelope.

Do you have a caring heart and a couple of hours each week to share? Please consider becoming an ICM chaplain. Lay people and clergy are welcome. We have local businesses seeking chaplains, and you could fill that need. ICM will train and support you. **Please visit with us in the Gathering Area Sundays, February 16 and 23 to learn more.**

For more information, contact Pam Bergey ([pcbergy@yahoo.com](mailto:pcbergy@yahoo.com) or 433-7418).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION



Without Second Home, 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 feed themselves a healthy snack and do homework.

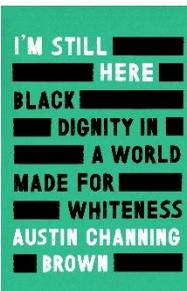
On the third Sunday each month, we ask you to donate specific items to help provide snacks. For this month, we ask you to donate



*pretzels (larger bags preferred)* **Sunday, February 16.** 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.

### PASTORS BOOK CLUB



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. The Book Club meets **February 19, 6:30 pm** in the Gathering Area.

### 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](mailto:katydwessel@gmail.com) for more information.*

### MUHLENBERG NEWS

#### DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE SUMMARY

On Wednesday, January 22, Pastor Alex and several members of Muhlenberg attended the **Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy** “Day for All People” event. Bishop Bob Humphrey and his Assistant Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick also attended. A detailed summary is available at the Connection Center.

#### 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 Krisztina Szekely 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](mailto:gretakwillisa@gmail.com) or 502-500-4939).*

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Contact Fellowship Committee Chair Barbara Roadcap  
([bbroadcap@gmail.com](mailto:bbroadcap@gmail.com) or 540-830-1896)  
for more information.

### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

We welcome Barbara Roadcap as our new Chair of the Fellowship Committee. She hopes to have a team that works on planning events and another team that works on executing the plans for events. If you would like to be involved with either or both teams, contact Barbara.

### SHROVE TUESDAY



#### SHROVE TUESDAY

Gather your family and friends for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper **Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 pm** in the MAC! A freewill offering will help offset costs. Volunteers are needed; contact Barbara if you can help.

## REMINDERS

### 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.



## 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](http://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.

### UPDATED WEEKDAY CLOSING INFORMATION

Our parking lot remains icy for a while after a storm, and we want to ensure your safety. Please check as indicated above to determine if your weekday Bible study, meeting or activity will be held, **particularly if Harrisonburg City Schools are closed or delayed.**

## YOUTH NEWS

### JAMERS

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

### JAMERS (2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades)

We will meet **NEXT Sunday, February 9 4:00-5:30 pm** in the MAC to make blankets for those in need in our community. We will also play games! Come join the fun and fellowship as we work together and share our love for others.

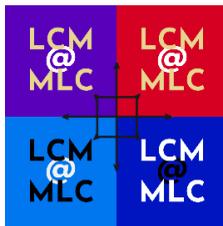
## CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

For more info, contact Pastor Alex Zuber  
(434-3496 or [zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto: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](mailto:sundesa@jmu.edu) or 540-383-8515). We need volunteers to provide meals February 12 and 19.



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer  
(434-3496 or [bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto: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 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS Deadline is TODAY!

7<sup>th</sup> Day, the Synod youth event for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://vasynod.org) (under Youth Ministry)

**Extended deadline: TODAY to return registration forms and checks** to Diane so they can be postmarked tomorrow, February 3 to receive the early bird discount. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg for half the registration fee (\$57.50) with 7<sup>th</sup> Day on the memo line.

### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS Is Your Child Interested?

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 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> 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 [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.*

From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America...

*Dear Muhlenberg Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for your gifts given to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in September 2019.*

*With your Spirit-filled generosity you bring help and hope to families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response make possible short- and long-term recovery, and rebuilding of lives and livelihoods.*

*Thank you for sharing the gifts God has activated in you!*

*In Christ,*

*The Rev. Robin Brown  
Mission Funding Director, Congregations*

## CREATION CARE TIP

*Be sure to check here every week to learn about ways you can help the environment! Contact Ramona Sanders ([rsanders9@verizon.net](mailto:rsanders9@verizon.net) or 433-1165) for more information.*



On your next few trips to the grocery store buy one or more durable bags; they're usually sold right at the checkout counter. You'll ultimately need around six bags when doing your grocery shopping. As you make your shopping list, write "Take Bags" at the top.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

February 3-9, 2020

- Mon. 2/3 – Mon. 2/10 — Host Open Doors**
- 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. 10:30 am Wed. Morning Bible Study**  
**12 noon Holy Communion**  
**1:00 pm Go-Go Group Lunch**  
**6:00 pm LCM Dinner Church**  
**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**  
**2:00 pm Table Talk: Human Sexuality**  
**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 Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496](mailto: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://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).