



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 9, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Below are highlights from our Congregational Meeting January 26:

- 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 Matthias and Mark Kipps.
- The following individuals were elected to attend the Virginia Synod Assembly 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.

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



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

TABLE TALK: HUMAN SEXUALITY

One last Table Talk on the topic of human sexuality is scheduled for **TODAY, 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.

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 3rd or 4th 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 (bayer@muehlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) no later than NEXT Sunday, February 16.*

YOU DID IT!

Muhlenberg successfully predicted the winner of last Sunday's Super Bowl — the bin for the Kansas City Chiefs was overflowing! We collected **355 pounds of food and non-perishable items**. Here's the breakdown:

Chiefs: 186 pounds

49ers: 45 pounds

Not Patriots: 124 pounds

The real winners are those in the community served by Patchwork Pantry. Thank you for your generous contributions to help others.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	62	Wed. Noon	4
9:30 Worship	99		
11:00 Worship	<u>149</u>		
Total	310		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$49,917	\$57,430	\$48,402
Total Receipts	\$54,946	\$64,182	\$54,516
Expenses	\$67,258	\$103,314	\$82,975
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$12,312)	(\$39,132)	(\$28,459)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 25,260.16
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 8,364.03
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 33,624.19

See Connection Center notebook for details.

To give online, scan here →



THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

A note from Thrivent Financial...

Due to the installation of our new granting system, the January and February Thrivent Choice® grant payouts are delayed. Rest assured that we are diligently working to ensure these grants are accurately paid out as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience as we complete this important system upgrade.

If you are a Thrivent member, be sure to designate your Choice Dollars. Visit the Connection Center or contact Treasurer Bill Vance or Parish Administrator Linda Depoy for more information.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday Evening, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Share your gifts and talents to help strengthen our ministries, plan new initiatives, and serve one another and the wider community. Join us tomorrow evening – **all are welcome!**

SOPHIE MOELLER CIRCLE

Meets **Tuesday, February 11, 1:30 pm** in the Kairos Room. The program is from *Gather* magazine. 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. Contact: *Linda Morrison* (glenm778@comcast.net or 383-5085).

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. This month, we ask you to donate **pretzels** (*larger bags preferred*) **NEXT Sunday, February 16.** Place donations in the designated bin in the Gathering Area.

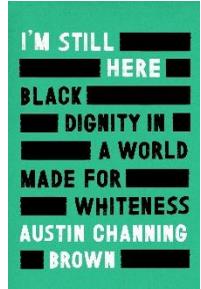


If you wish to help and prefer to make a cash donation, designate “Second Home food” on the memo line of your check and envelope.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 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.

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, to develop 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 NEXT Sunday, February 16 and February 23 to learn more.**

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

NICARAGUA MISSION TRIP

Please pray for Pastor Mark and Tami Radecke and the group going to Nicaragua February 14-22. We pray for safe travels and a blessed experience for the group and those they will serve.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Contact Fellowship Committee Chair Barbara Roadcap (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. If you would like to be involved with either or both teams, contact Barbara.

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.



THANKS FROM SECOND HOME

Second Home would like to express huge appreciation for receiving Council's support and funds from the Muhlenberg Endowment Grant. It is with the community's support that we have been able to serve our underprivileged neighbors for the past 13 years. Our goal is to continue to strengthen this service for many years to come.

Krisztina Szekely, Executive Director

SECOND HOME NEWS

GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

Second Home is excited to announce that the Harrisonburg Women's Service League has chosen us as the beneficiary of the **May 1** Charity Classic Golf Tournament. Save the date, bring a date and golf your heart out! This event was great fun last year, and Second Home received \$7,000. We are hoping for even more proceeds this year.

At this time, we are looking for sponsors for the event. Sponsorship levels and more information can be found at the Connection Center or the Second Home office in the MAC. Please take a look and let us know if you are interested in becoming a sponsor at any level.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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 or 434-3496). In compliance with state regulations and Safe Church policies, there is an interview and application process.

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

EPIC CONFERENCE

Eighty-four congregational leaders, including several staff and Council members from Muhlenberg, attended the Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations (E.P.I.C.) conference held on our campus last Saturday. The development conference was designed to strengthen congregational leaders for their ministry in their congregations and the world.

The morning session discussing Vision, Mission and Values was led by Bishop Bob Humphrey and Assistants to the Bishop John Wertz and Kelly Bayer Derrick. Leaders explained the Synod's core values, *Christ + Peace + Community + Compassion*, and how those values serve as the foundation of who we are as God's people.

The Synod has a new vision and mission statement, *Faithful + Bold + Serving*. Leaders shared that because God is faithful, we are bold to speak and act in love for God and in love for one another.

Eight workshops were offered and geared to different areas of ministry. Participants had the opportunity to attend two, but most wish they could have attended more. It was a great day and wonderful opportunity for Muhlenberg to host our brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you are interested in learning more or reviewing the materials distributed, visit online at www.vasynod.org/epic/resources or talk with a staff or Council member.



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 payment reminders as needed. Thank you in advance for contributing to the worship experience.

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 March & April, including Holy Week when we will need lots of helpers.** 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.

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.

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)
for more information.

JAMERS (2nd – 5th Grades)

We will meet **TODAY, 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).

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 **THIS Wednesday, February 12** and February 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.

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!



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

See p. 2 for details.



CHILDREN'S BUSY BAGS

Special busy bags for children are available from ushers.

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.

✚ For all the prayers, cards, calls, and good wishes before and since my shoulder surgery, I am very grateful. I am beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel... I hope it's not a train. *Janine Miller*

From Patchwork Pantry ...

To Members,

This letter is to acknowledge with gratitude the gift of \$1,740 and the non-cash contributions which you made to the operation of the Patchwork Pantry during the past year.

Because of congregations such as yours, we are able to continue to help needy members of our community with food and non-food items when they come to us on Wednesday evenings.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your consideration and from all of us who come together as a "patchwork" of community help. We could not serve them without the support of individuals like you.

Sincerely,

*Betty Hoskins, Corresponding Secretary
Patchwork Pantry*

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 or 433-1165) for more information.



This Valentine's Day why not show your love to the natural world by planning a nature-friendly garden? Consider growing a variety of plants of differing heights and types, such as herbaceous flowers and grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees. Add a bird bath or a pan of water, and you will have created a wildlife sanctuary.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

February 10-16, 2020

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mon. | 6:00 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. | 10:30 am | Wed. Morning Bible Study |
| | 12 noon | Holy Communion |
| | 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 |
| | | Second Home Food Collection |
| | 9:30 am | Christian Formation |

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).