



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 23, 2020

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

SHARE THE PEACE, NOT THE GERMS!

We are in cold and flu season and invite you to consider ways to help everyone stay healthy. We encourage the practices your mother taught you: cover your cough, stay home if you're sick, wash your hands.

During the passing of the peace or greeting the pastors after the service, feel free to refrain from shaking hands. **Great alternatives are a fist bump, bumping elbows, or a simple bow.** We want to share the love of God, but not our germs!

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Today's festival of the Transfiguration of our Lord is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem.

We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Additionally, we sing "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" and say goodbye to saying Alleluia during the penitential season of Lent.

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)

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 TODAY to learn more.**

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

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	65	Wed. Noon	9
9:30 Worship	102		
11:00 Worship	<u>114</u>		
Total	281		

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	\$ 6,080.53
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>4,245.17</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 10,325.70

See Connection Center notebook for details.



To give online, scan here →

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

SHROVE TUESDAY

Note New Start Time: **6:15 pm**

Gather your family and friends for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper **THIS Tuesday, February 25, 6:15 pm** in the MAC! **Doors open at 6:00** (if you arrive early, feel free to wait in the Gathering Area). A freewill offering will help offset costs. Volunteers are needed. *Contact Fellowship Committee Chair Barbara Roadcap (bbroadcap@gmail.com or 540-830-1896) to volunteer or for more information.*



ASH WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

See details on next page.

LENT: EXTRAORDINARY



The forty days of Lent invite people of faith to follow Jesus more closely, and awaken to the work of the Spirit in our lives and in our world. Through this season, we will pay attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: **dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels,**

thorns, and stones. Using the devotional book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield, we'll consider Jesus' final days and journey to the cross, and see how God's extraordinary grace is at work through ordinary people and ordinary things.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: 7:30 AM, 12 NOON, 7:00 PM



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer where we receive the sign of ashes, an ancient symbol of repentance. Half-hour Ash Wednesday services with the Imposition of Ashes will be held at 7:30 am and noon. The complete Ash Wednesday liturgy will be spoken at 7:00 pm. A light meal will be served – details below.

HUNGER AWARENESS MEAL: 6:15 pm in the MAC

Prior to Ash Wednesday worship, Christian Formation will serve traditional Third World beans and rice from Africa, South America and Central America and share information about world hunger. Share God's love for us and for others as together we eat a meal that many around the world eat every day! **Doors open at 6:00 pm** (if you arrive early, feel free to wait in the Gathering Area).

EXTRAORDINARY LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Available in the Gathering Area are copies of *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield, a book that provides daily devotional reflections based on our weekly worship themes. We encourage each family to take one home and use it for individual or family devotional time. The cost is \$13 (place in offering plate or wooden box next to books), but if cost is a concern, please don't hesitate to speak with Pastor Lauren—we have copies available for all who'd like to make use of it this Lenten season. This book is also available on Amazon Kindle or Nook for \$9.50.

Meet Author Jill Duffield: Wednesday, March 11, at 7:15 pm, Muhlenberg welcomes pastor and author Jill Duffield to share reflections on her book, *Lent in Plain Sight*. Duffield is a gifted preacher who also serves as editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Join us as Duffield guides us along the way of the cross, drawing our attention to love, redemption, and God's promise through simple, ordinary things.

LENT: EXTRAORDINARY



WORSHIP CHANGES DURING LENT

The season of Lent brings with it opportunities for us to cultivate and let go of aspects of our liturgy and worship practice. Such changes are intended to highlight the journey we make to the cross and engage us in a time of repentance, introspection, and discipline.

- On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, we will let go of the word “Alleluia” for the season of Lent. Based on the Hebrew word, hallelu yah, meaning “praise the Lord,” alleluia has been a word of great praise to God in the life of the church. Because of the penitential character of the Lenten season in the Western church, singing or saying the word alleluia has historically been suspended during Lent’s forty days.
- On Ash Wednesday, worshipers are invited to receive the imposition of ashes.
- There are no flowers during this penitential season, and we receive unleavened wafers at communion.
- Through the season of Lent, communion will be received at the altar rail, either standing or kneeling, as you are able.
- In our worship we sing only the “Kyrie” and not the Hymn of Praise, “Glory to God.” We use a musical setting that is more chant-like. It may feel new, but actually comes from the 1958 Service Book and Hymnal.

The use of these options invites us to consider the presence of the holy in the midst of the ordinary. They also provide a refreshing break until we return to a fuller expression of worship in the Easter season.

MIDWEEK LENTEN DINNER CHURCH: WEDNESDAYS, 6:15 PM

On Wednesdays during Lent (Mar. 4-Apr 1), worship will take place around the table: the dinner table. Think of a good dinner party with a spiritual twist – and then add art (music, poetry, Scripture), robust conversation, and prayerful moments (embracing simple liturgy and silence). Together we’ll cultivate relationships with each other and with God.

We’ll begin at 6:15 pm in the MAC and wrap up by 7:15 pm. This casual yet meaningful experience is great for all ages. **Doors open at 6:00 pm** (if you arrive early, feel free to wait in the Gathering Area).

LENT: EXTRAORDINARY



MIDDAY RECITAL SERIES

Martin Luther said...

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

Please join us **Thursdays at noon** during the Lenten season as we feature a variety of incredible musicians. Each week this 30-minute program offers an opportunity to temporarily release the stress of the day and be rejuvenated through the power of music. Concerts are free and open to all. Artists performing this season...

Mar 5 ~ Muhlenberg Members

Instrumentalists/vocalists from the Muhlenberg community

Mar 12 ~ Kevin Stees, tuba

James Madison University Music Faculty

Mar 19 ~ Kyle Knappenberger, bass; Jeremiah Padilla, piano accompanist

Both Kyle and Jeremiah are Doctorate of Musical Arts Candidates at James Madison University

Mar 26 ~ Linlin Uta, piano

Doctorate of Musical Arts Candidate at James Madison University; Music Ministry Accompanist at Muhlenberg

April 2 ~ Edward Gant, cello

James Madison University Music Faculty

MUHLENBERG NEWS

BASKETS OF PROMISE

During Lent, Christian Formation (through the JAMers elementary youth group) and Local & Global Mission are sponsoring Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise appeal. We will collect items for personal care kits starting **NEXT Sunday**.

Sunday, March 1, we will collect **BARS OF SOAP** (individually wrapped with original wrapping).

March 8, we will collect **BATH TOWELS IN DARK COLORS** (lightweight, 52" x 27"). *We ask for lightweight towels because they dry quicker in the sun!*

Look for a complete list of requested items at the Connection Center. *Contact Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) with any questions.*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Following the congregation's vote to form a committee to develop a plan for a capital campaign for a restored organ, Council is seeking members with gifts in the areas of communications, finance, and fundraising to serve as members of a Capital Campaign Committee. If you have gifts to share, please *contact Council President Gary Calleo (vnccall@yahoo.com or 540-421-5463).*

MISSION TRIP MEETING

If you are interested in the Southwest Virginia Mission Trip, scheduled July 26-August 1, there will be a Q&A session on **Monday, March 9, 6:00-7:00** (location to be announced). Please come or *contact Katy Wessel (katydwessel@gmail.com or 803-521-9984) if you would like more information.*

MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

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 **April, including Holy Week when we will need lots of helpers.** Signing up helps the schedulers avoid time calling and emailing. One-on-one

training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson* (thompskb@jmu.edu or 578-4830). 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.

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

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

ACTS SPRING FORMATION RETREAT

March 20-21

This study explores “sound” Biblical leadership practices. Topics include:



- For Such a Time as This: Esther as Courageous Leader
- Home by Another Way: The Magi as Wise Leaders
- At Water’s Edge: Miriam as Dancing Leader
- Held and Holding On: Jacob as Transformed Leader
- Cliffhangers/Bridge Builders: Jesus-Fearless Leader

Together we will explore these ancient stories. **Registration closes March 6.** Visit vasynod.org/ministries/acts to register or for more information. Scholarships available.

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

July 9-11

Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for people of all ages who wish to explore God’s call to service through joyous worship, Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, games, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders—teachers, music directors, choir members, council and committee members, family life consultants, deacons, pastors, and others—will find Power in the Spirit nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry.

Registration opens April 1. For details ...

- visit vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit
- contact Diane Bayer bayer@muehlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496
- visit the Connection Center
- watch *The Chimes*

SECOND HOME NEWS

GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER



Second Home was chosen by the Harrisonburg Women's Service League as the beneficiary of its **May 1** Charity Classic Golf Tournament. Save the date, bring a friend, 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.

We are looking for sponsors for the event. Sponsorship levels and more information can be found at the Connection Center. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor at any level, contact Director Krisztina Szekely (2ndhome_director@gmail.com or 432-7989).

YOUTH NEWS

ALPHA TEENS

Contact Rebecca Pettit
(304-939-0528 or pettitre4@gmail.com)
for more information.

CARE BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS Sunday, March 22

After the 11:00 am service, we will walk to Benny's for lunch (you can also pack a lunch if preferred). We will come back to the church and assemble Care Bags with soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.



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!



ADULT FORMATION CLASSES

Living & Learning through the Lens of Faith ~ read the Lectionary Bible passages for the week and discuss how to apply their message to our lives. All are welcome. Meets in the library.

40-Day Journey: Reading, Reflections & Spiritual Growth ~ an interactive class where participants read Christian literature and discuss from that perspective. Meets in the Kairos Room.

Young Families ~ We will discuss how to raise our children in faith. 3rd Sundays are fellowship. Meets in the Campus Room.

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.

- ✚ Congratulations to Kyle and Jacqui Knappenberger on the birth of Charlotte Elizabeth born February 8.
- ✚ Congratulations to Vito and Katharine Pellerito on the birth of twins, Gabriella and Gianluca born February 16.
- ✚ We are delighted that **285,120 meals** from the Rise Against Hunger event in September have been shipped. They will be received by in-country partner American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa in Somalia. As the meals you packaged reach the hands of those in need, we invite you to continue your impact by donating at riseagainsthunger.org. Every contribution enables people in need around the globe to rise! Thank you for generously giving your time for Rise Against Hunger. Local & Global Mission is grateful for your dedication and for sharing our vision of a world without hunger.

CREATION CARE TIP

Check here every week for ways you can help the environment! Contact Ramona Sanders (rsanders97@verizon.net or 433-1165) for more information.



Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and intentional sharing. Let's heed the call to be stewards of God's Creation. Let's be mindful of the ways our daily habits impact our common home and all those with whom we share it. On behalf of future generations, may we answer God's call.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

February 24 — March 1, 2020

- Tue. 4:45 pm SonShine Singers**
- 5:30 pm Cherub Choir**
- 6:15 pm Shrove Tuesday Supper**
- 6:30 pm Celebration Singers**
- 7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers**
- Wed. Ash Wednesday Services**
 - 7:30 am, 12 noon & 7:00 pm**
 - 10:30 am Wed. Morning Bible Study**
 - 6:15 pm Hunger Awareness Meal**
 - 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir**
- Thu. 8:00 am Comfort Makers**
- Sun. First Sunday in Lent**
 - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion**
 - Food Pantry, Lay Communion and Name Badge Sunday**
 - 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 (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.