



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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March 1, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

- ✚ The minutes for Congregation Council's January meeting have been approved and are available at the Connection Center.
- ✚ At its February meeting, Council continued its work on our Strategic Plan. If you have ideas about how God is calling Muhlenberg to serve, please give your feedback to any Council member.
- ✚ The following members have agreed to serve on our Capital Campaign Committee: Bill Wightman (chair), Mark Byerly, Chris Kyle, Tassie Pippert, Wylie Walton, Crystl Whitmire, and Pastor Lauren.

Conversations are beginning and the Committee will keep you posted on their progress along the way.

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



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.

See p. 3-4 for additional Lenten information.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

FIRST SUNDAY ACTIVITIES



Enjoy coffee and donuts this morning and every first Sunday of the month, provided by the new Fellowship Committee.

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.

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



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.

TODAY we 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.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	72	Ash Wed. AM	14
9:30 Worship	99	Ash Wed. Noon	48
11:00 Worship	<u>140</u>	Ash Wed. PM	<u>90</u>
Total	311		152

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	\$ 7,544.75
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 14,149.85
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 21,694.60

See *Connection Center notebook* for details.



To give online, scan here →

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **TOMORROW, March 2, 7:00 pm** in the Kairos Room. For details, contact *Jennie Warner* (mjwarner1@aol.com or 476-2020).

GO-GO GROUP (55+)

Join us for lunch **Wednesday, March 4, 1:00 pm** at **Dayton Tavern**. Contact *Dan Werner* (433-3912) for details.



Go-Go
Group

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 comfortable.
- 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.

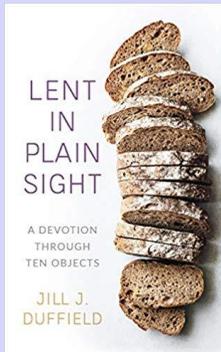
We’ll begin at 6:15 pm in the MAC and wrap up by 7:15 pm. This casual yet meaningful experience is great for all ages. Doors open at 6:00 pm (if you arrive early, feel free to wait in the Gathering Area).

LENT: EXTRAORDINARY



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



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...

This Thu., 3/5 ~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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 **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.

SOPHIE MOELLER CIRCLE

Meets **Tuesday, March 10, 1:30 pm** in the Kairos Room. *Contact: Marilynn Jarrells* (marilynnjarrells@gmail.com or 246-5753).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. For more information, contact Ramona Sanders (rsanders97@verizon.net or 433-1165).

Plastic pollution is a global issue that poses threats to the health and productivity of our environment. Plastic bottles and bags can take hundreds of years to breakdown, or potentially thousands of years when compressed in landfills. Plastic items never truly completely decompose. Chemicals and microplastics will linger in the environment for centuries. Chemical leaching and the accumulation of microplastics through the food chain has been linked to disease, cancers, and the disruption of reproductive and immune systems in both humans and wildlife.

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Re-purpose and Recycle. Refusing single use plastic items is the best way to reduce plastic pollution. Gift a friend or colleague a reusable item like a metal straw, reusable grocery bags, or a to-go coffee mug.

FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTER

UPCOMING CHORAL CONCERT LENOIR-RHYNE A-CAPPELLA CHOIR

Lenoir-Rhyne A-Cappella Choir will perform here **Sunday, March 22, 7:00 pm**. This will be one of several concerts they perform as part of their Spring Tour 2020. Director Ryan Luhrs will conduct the group of 59 singers.

The Choir has performed extensively, making appearances in over 22 states and 12 foreign countries. Since it was established in 1935, Dr. Luhrs is only the fourth conductor of this group. Prior to Dr. Luhrs, our former Pastor Paul Weber served as conductor for 25 years!

Tickets are not required, but a free-will offering will be accepted to help defray the cost in transporting 59 students and instrumentalists, as well as attending faculty.

Overnight housing is also needed for the students, and this is where I need your help! I am in need of families willing to open up their home for one night and house 2 (or more) students. Currently, we are about 1/3 of the way there. Please, contact me if you would be willing to help out. It is such a small price to pay to hear such glorious music!

I do hope you will mark their calendar and plan to attend what will be a most wonderful concert. You do not want to miss it!



LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

A Cappella Choir & Brass Ensemble

SPRING TOUR 2020



Sunday, March 22

7PM

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church

281 E Market St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

This performance is free and open to the public. No tickets required. A free-will offering will be received. For more information and the full tour schedule, visit lr.edu/publicevents.

LENOIR-RHYNE
UNIVERSITY



For more information or
to help with student housing, contact
Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister

williams@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

ACTS SPRING FORMATION RETREAT

This study will be held **March 20-21** and explores “sound” Biblical leadership practices. **Registration closes this Friday, March 6.** Visit vasynod.org/ministries/acts to register or for more information. Scholarships available.

SECOND HOME NEWS

GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

The Harrisonburg Women's Service League chose Second Home as the beneficiary of its **May 1** Charity Classic Golf Tournament. We are looking for sponsors. Details can be found at the Connection Center. If interested, *contact Director Krisztina Szekely* (2ndhome_director@gmail.com or 432-7989).

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION

For this month, we ask you to donate *cereal* (*Honey Cheerios/Rice Krispies*) **Sunday, March 15.** 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.

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, 12:15 pm, we will walk to Benny's for lunch (pack a lunch if you prefer). We will return 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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Starting today, First Communion Class will be led by Pastor Alex and Diane Bayer right at **12:15** in the Nielsen Room. Classes are scheduled for Sundays, March 15 & 29 and April 5. We ask that one parent/guardian attend the class with your child.



On Saturday, April 4, students will bake Communion bread in the MAC and then review the service for their First Communion in the sanctuary.

Students will receive Communion with their families at the Maundy Thursday service, April 9.

ATTENTION JAMERS

Meeting Date Change

Our March 8 meeting has been changed as Miss Diane and Miss Holly will be attending *7th Day*, the Synod youth event for 5th & 6th graders.

We will meet Sunday, March 22, 12:15-4:00 in the MAC for lunch (provided), a movie, and games!

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.

✚ 75+ members volunteered to make the week that Muhlenberg hosted Open Doors a success. We fed and fellowshiped with appreciative guests who had a warm, safe place to sleep. Each night a Muhlenberg member spent the night with the more than 40 guests who came to Blessed Sacrament Church to seek shelter. On Wednesday night, the Suitcase clinic saw guests with health concerns. On Friday night, a group from Loads of Love took guests' laundry to a laundromat. It was a busy week, and we are grateful for the support, love, and prayers from the congregation.

Local & Global Mission

✚ Please remember those attending 7th Day (the Virginia Synod youth event for 5th & 6th graders) in your prayers: students Jake Driver, Joe Driver, Caroline Eppard, Will Fletchall, Kat Kolodinsky, Abigail Kyle, Ansley McConnell, Keira Miller, Billy Perritt, Molly Wells; and advisors Diane Bayer, Sarah Eppard, Holly Haney, and Pastor Lauren.

The group will travel to Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg this Saturday and return home Sunday afternoon. Thank you for your support in the faith formation of our youth.

✚ The team that went to Nicaragua is home safely and had a great trip. Look for an update in next week's issue of *The Chimes*.

TIME CHANGE THIS WEEK

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour THIS Saturday night before you go to bed. You don't want to be late for church on Sunday morning!



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 2-8, 2020

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
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
6:15 pm Lenten Dinner Church
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir
- Thu. 8:00 am** Comfort Makers
12 noon Lenten Concert Series
- Sat. – Sun. 7th Day, Synod Youth Event**
- Sun. First Sunday in Lent**
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
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 Parish Administrator 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).