

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 8, 2020

SECOND 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 have begun 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.

For additional Lenten information, see pages 4-5.

For Lenten Recital Series and upcoming concert information, see today's insert.

See page 3 to learn how you can help those impacted by the powerful tornado that hit Nashville earlier this week.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

BASKETS OF PROMISE

During Lent, we are sponsoring Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise appeal.



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

Next Sunday, 3/15, we will collect **TOOTHBRUSHES** (adult size in original packaging).



Look for a complete list of requested items at the Connection Center.

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!**

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 **TOMORROW, March 9, 6:00-7:00** in the Nielsen Room. Please come or *contact Katy Wessel* (katydwessel@gmail.com or 803-521-9984) if you would like more information.

SOPHIE MOELLER CIRCLE

Meets **THIS Tuesday, March 10, 1:30 pm** in the Kairos Room. The program is from the Gather magazine. Come join the group. *Contact: Marilyn Jarrells* (marilynnjarrells@gmail.com or 246-5753).

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	63	Wed. Noon	15
9:30 Worship	94	Wed. PM	54
11:00 Worship	<u>114</u>		
Total	271		

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	\$ 28,433.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	<u>\$ 19,684.53</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 48,118.03

See Connection Center notebook for details.

To give online, scan here →



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lecturers, 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/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.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Emily Carneal (emily.wicht@gmail.com) or 540-421-1994) for more information.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

At a moment's notice, natural disasters like the powerful tornado that hit Nashville this week can cause widespread destruction. Please pray for those impacted, including members of St. John's Lutheran Church which was heavily damaged.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

100% of your gifts given to LDR go directly to aid in disaster relief. Visit the Connection Center for more information. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** www.elca.org.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time).
- **Mail:** send checks made payable to Lutheran Disaster Response and designate for *Nashville Tornado* to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering plate:** make check payable to Muhlenberg and designate Lutheran *Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent Financial members can direct their Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com Disaster Response for details.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

PARTNERING WITH SECOND HOME

Muhlenberg cares for our neighbors in many ways. One of these is the licensed and academically focused before and after school care that Second Home provides to underserved families in the city. As a licensed child care facility, Second Home needs to adhere to strict regulations set by the Virginia Department of Social Services, including regulations on extra activities in the building while children are on the premises, and who and how people are allowed to be with the children.

Second Home is open until 6:00 pm. Most parents arrive between 5:30-6:00 pm to pick up their children, making the MAC a very busy place. When Muhlenberg events (e.g. Ash Wednesday and Lenten Dinner Church) are scheduled to start at 6:15 pm, members are asked to wait until 6:00 pm before entering the MAC. This helps reduce traffic and gives Second Home staff the time needed to clean up the gym without having to sacrifice the supervision and safety of our students.

If you need to arrive before 6:00 pm, please enjoy the serenity of the church Gathering Area while you wait. Event organizers and helpers who need to use the kitchen before 6:00 pm are asked to enter the kitchen through its outside entrance instead of the MAC's main entrance. If you need to come in through the main doors, please stop by the front desk, identify yourself, and inform the receptionist of your destination. We also ask that you follow the licensing regulations of no adults in the bathrooms while children are in there.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation to make this a safe environment for some of the most vulnerable among us.

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 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 were 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.

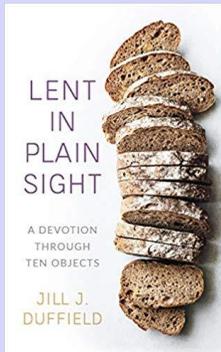
We’ll begin at 6:15 pm in the MAC and wrap up by 7:15 pm. This casual yet meaningful experience is great for all ages. Doors open at 6:00 pm (if you arrive early, please join others who may also be waiting in the Gathering Area).

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

THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 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.



NICARAGUA MISSION TRIP

The eleven members of the mission team sponsored by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church accomplished much during their February 14-22 time at CICRIN, a school and refuge for children and youth on Ometepe Island in Lake Nicaragua.

- A dental clinic staffed by the team's dentist and two hygienists treated 80 children and workers, providing restorative work, extractions, fluoride treatments, and sealants.
- Two adults who required more extensive work to save their front teeth were referred to dentists off the island, with funds provided to cover the cost of their treatment.
- Six members of the team primed and painted two new classrooms and the cafeteria at CICRIN's growing school.
- Two members conducted a Vacation Bible School exploring "Dios el Constructor" (God the Builder).
- The team also provided funds to replace ceramic tile floors in three rooms and purchase materials to continue work on the roof at CICRIN's entrance.
- The group enjoyed time with the children, taking them to a local pool and beach, and hanging out with them while not working.



This was the twentieth mission trip to CICRIN led by Mark and Tami Radecke, and the second trip sponsored by Muhlenberg. A similar trip is anticipated next year.



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 Krisztina Szekely* (2ndhomedirector@gmail.com or 432-7989).

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION

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

CREATION CARE TIP



Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or rsanders9@verizon.net.

God has designed most living things to breathe oxygen and to expel carbon dioxide as a waste product. But trees, and other plants as well as algae, absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and expel oxygen. So trees play an important part in ensuring a continuous supply of oxygen as well as the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Eager to plant a tree but don't know what variety to choose, or how to keep it growing once you get it in the ground? The Arbor Day Foundation has all the answers at www.arborday.org. **Bonus:** If you join the foundation for as little as \$10, you'll receive ten free trees.

YOUTH NEWS

ALPHA TEENS

Contact Rebecca Pettit (304-939-0528 or [pettitre4@gmail.com](mailto:pettetre4@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.

JAMERS

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

MEETING DATE CHANGE

Our meeting originally scheduled for today has been changed as Miss Diane and Miss Holly are attending *7th Day*. We will meet **Sunday, March 22, 12:15-4:00** in the MAC for lunch (provided), a movie, and games!

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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

First Communion Class will meet **NEXT Sunday, March 15 and March 29 & April 5 at 12:15** in the Nielsen Room. We ask that one parent/guardian attend.

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.

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.

✚ We lift in prayers Dianne Neumann and her daughter Danielle Held. Dianne and her family moved to Michigan, but still attend Muhlenberg when they visit. Danielle was involved in a car accident with a snow plow. She was severely injured and has required several surgeries with more needed in the future. Cards may be sent to Danielle Held, 1001 May Street, Apt 416, Charlevoix, MI 49720.

✚ Many thanks to everyone for the support and volunteerism at the successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the Fellowship Sunday coffee and donuts. Donations given will support the first Sunday Fellowship through June! If you have additional comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Barbara Roadcap

✚ The youth and adults who are attending 7th Day this weekend thank the congregation for prayers and support. We heard about the “The Wedding at Cana” in the Gospel of John 2:1-11. We sang, made crafts, did service projects, played games, made new friends, and most importantly grew in faith learning that as we can do **extraordinary** things when we ask, obey and Believe, sharing God’s love with others!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

The ELCA supports International Women’s Day. Gifts made **TODAY** to International Women Leaders will be matched up to \$100,000. These gifts will help emerging women leaders from our global companions pursue their dreams through scholarships at ELCA colleges, universities, and seminaries, and other institutions around the world. Visit the Connection Center for more information.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 9-15, 2020

- Mon. 6:00 pm Mission Trip Meeting**
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
6:15 pm Lenten Dinner Church
7:15 pm Jill Duffield Presentation
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir
- Thu. 8:00 am Comfort Makers**
12 noon Lenten Concert Series
- Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion**
9:30 am Christian Formation
12:15 pm First Communion Class

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).