



# 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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**November 10, 2019**

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **WHAT'S THE BUZZ?**

### **COUNCIL NEWS**

Congregation Council met Monday, Oct. 28. Highlights from the meeting include ...

- Welcomed the Board President of Harrisonburg Rockingham Child Day Care for an update on their work and plans for a new facility. They are still on track to move into their new location in fall 2021.
- Received a report from the Organ Research Committee. *See p. 5 for more information.*
- Approved the 2020 budget for presentation to the congregation. *Copies are available at the Connection Center today.*
- Approved the order of another set of 24 niches for the columbarium.

### **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**

### **TANNER ROBERT RUNION**

#### **Baptized, A New Child of God**

Welcome Tanner Robert Runion, son of Andrew & Kacey Runion and grandson of Bob & Johanna Runion into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 8:00 service. Tanner's sponsors are Kristen & Kevin Linn. Welcome to the Lord's family, Tanner!



### **DEATH OF BILL ROSENOW**

We offer sympathy to the family of William "Bill" Rosenow following his death last Saturday. Bill was a retired ELCA Pastor devoted to his church and family.

A Service of Committal will be included in the 9:30 service with many of Bill's family members joining in worship. For more information, visit the Connection Center for a copy of an email sent earlier this week.

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7*

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### ADVENT-URE SUNDAY PREVIEW

TODAY in the Gathering Area there is a display of some of the activities we will do as part of our Advent-ure Sunday. Stop by, take a look and plan to join us **Sunday, December 1, 12:15** in the MAC as we prepare for Advent.

## THIS WEEK

### MINISTRIES NIGHT

**Monday Evening, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Help Muhlenberg continue to grow by joining in as we strengthen our ministries, plan new initiatives, and serve one another and the wider community. **All are welcome!**

### SOPHIE MOELLER CIRCLE

Meets **Tuesday, November 12, 1:30** in the Kairos room. The program will be from *Gather* magazine. Come join us! *For more info, contact Marilynn Jarrells ([marilynnjarrells@gmail.com](mailto:marilynnjarrells@gmail.com) or 246-5753).*

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Lauren for an in-depth study of the book of Job. We meet Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Nielsen Room. All are welcome!

### SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION



On the third Sunday each month, we ask you to donate specific items to help provide snacks. **NEXT Sunday, November 17**, we will collect *applesauce (large cans or individual cups)*. Place donations in the designated bin in the Gathering Area. If you prefer to make a cash donation, designate "Second Home food" on the memo line of your check and envelope.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	89	Wed. Noon	16
9:30 Worship	112		
11:00 Worship	<u>161</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>		

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through <b>September 2019</b>			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$511,077	\$595,808	\$507,425
Total Receipts	\$589,543	\$680,283	\$584,854
Expenses	\$628,194	\$747,098	\$622,068
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$38,651)</b>	<b>(\$66,815)</b>	<b>(\$37,214)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 27,953.60
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>3,776.43</u>
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 31,720.03</b>

*See Connection Center notebook for details.*

**October Choice Dollars: \$445**

To give online, scan here →



## SECOND HOME NEWS

### THANKSGIVING MEAL

Once again, Second Home is planning a Thanksgiving meal for our families and congregation members who would like to share a meal with us. Our partnership with JMU Campus Kitchen and other generous food donations make it possible to offer this meal free. If you are willing to donate turkeys, ham, or vegetables, please sign up at the Connection Center or *contact Krisztina Szekely ([2ndhome@director@gmail.com](mailto:2ndhome@director@gmail.com) or 432-7989).*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

The November selection for the Pastor's Book Club is *Grateful: The Subversive Power of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass. Pastor Lauren shares: "When I first came across this book, I didn't see the point in reading an entire book about something so simple as giving thanks. But Diana Butler Bass breaks open the spiritual practice of gratitude in a way that truly changed my experience of the world around me. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving this month, join me in conversation on this surprisingly subversive topic."

Whether you have come to a book club meeting or not, and even if you don't have time to read the book, you're invited to thoughtful conversation and meaningful fellowship **Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Area.** *For more information, contact Pastor Lauren.*

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND HYMN SING

**Sunday, December 15, 4:00 pm,**

children in Christian Formation classes (ages 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade) will present a Christmas program. Afterward, **Minister of Music Emeritus Don Smith** will provide music for an old-fashioned hymn sing. Our children and the Christian Formation team are excited to present this program and hope you will attend this evening of Christmas joy.

Have a favorite Advent/Christmas song you want to hear? **Write your selection(s) on the paper provided and place it in the basket on the table in the Gathering Area.** *Contact Diane Bayer at 434-3496 with any questions.*



## ANNUAL MEETING

*You are invited to...*

### The Annual Meeting of the Congregation

*Next Sunday, November 17  
at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary*

#### **The Purpose of the Meeting:**

- † Review and vote on the **2020 Spending Plan for Ministries** (copies available at the Connection Center)
- † Elect Congregation Council **Members\***: bio information available at the Connection Center
- † Elect Treasurer
- † Elect Trustees

**Ballots will be  
available next week.**

\*Plus any nominees from the floor.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### 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](mailto:rsanders9@verizon.net).

Your refrigerator and freezer are responsible for about one-sixth of the energy use in your home, more than any other single household appliance. You can help your freezer run more efficiently by keeping it full. The more frozen items in your freezer, the less space there is to trap warm air when the door is opened.

## SUPPORT SECOND HOME

You are invited to support Second Home by eating dinner at Chick-fil-A **November 13, 5:00-7:00pm**. Mention this article during your purchase and a percentage of your meal will go directly to Second Home!



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

### STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Over the next few weeks, we will discuss the different aspects of being a disciple of Jesus Christ and the various ways we are called to take action. Giving (tithes & offerings) is a topic that many would rather keep private, but a healthy church is one in which members are not afraid to discuss all aspects of their faith in action. An open and honest discussion about giving allows us to dig deeper into what Jesus has to say regarding money and wealth; it takes away fears and concerns of the future, and it constantly reminds us to celebrate the abundance God has given us.

Below is the commitment card we will use this year. Please look it over and, if you have questions, please talk with one of the Pastors or Stewardship Chair Tim Wessel. On Stewardship Sunday, November 24, we will distribute cards to be completed and placed before the altar during a special time in the service. Between now and then, please prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give and submit your card during this solemn time as we come together to celebrate what God has first given us.

With a grateful heart for God's boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian stewardship, I make this commitment to Christ's church and the ministry of this congregation.

My/our commitment is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week, or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month, or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

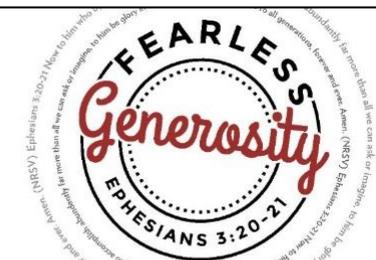
I understand that I may adjust this estimate of giving at any time by contacting the finance secretary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample



Please contact me/us regarding how to include this congregation in my/our will or estate planning.

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### HAVE YOU HEARD THE ORGAN BUZZ?

As reported by Congregation Council in *The Chimes* November 3, the Organ Research Committee made a presentation to the Council at their October meeting summarizing the committee's research and recommendations regarding our pipe organ.

While the glorious music that comes from our organ every Sunday may sound spectacular to some, the fact of the matter is that the music emanating from the instrument is difficult to produce at best. For nearly 30 years, we have struggled with an organ that was constructed by a reputable company that, unbeknown to us at the time, was on the verge of bankruptcy.

The organ was not designed properly for our space, and as a result is too loud. To compensate for the loudness, the wind pressure was lowered by the installer, leaving much of the organ nonfunctional. Additionally, since its installation, many components have failed, leaving the organ even less functional. Because the company went out of business, we have no recourse to improve this instrument. More than \$100,000 has been spent on repairs and tunings to help make the organ sound better, but regardless of what has been or can be spent in the future, it simply cannot be fixed.

For the last several years, Music Minister Elizabeth Williams and others, including Music Minister Emeritus Don Smith, former member Adair McConnell, pipe organ mechanic Bob Lent (who has worked on the organ since its installation) and current Organ Research Committee members Bill Wightman (chair), Tassie Pippert, Crystl Whitmire, Mark Byerly, and Council Member Hans Barthmus have been researching solutions to the problems, listening

to other organs, and soliciting proposals from three reputable organ manufacturers.

The committee has received three proposals to replace the current pipe organ with a new one, using as many of the existing pipes as possible.

Stay tuned for more information on this project as the Council reviews it in greater detail. Feel free to ask any of the committee members for additional information.

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## MORE MUHLENBERG NEWS

### 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 **December and Christmas Eve services**. 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](mailto: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.

### CROSSES & LINKS

The names of saints past and present adorn the sanctuary. White crosses represent our pastors. The red and white links represent names of individuals the congregation has named as important in their life of faith. The collection will be displayed through Sunday, December 1.

## ENDOWMENT NEWS

### ENDOWMENT GRANT

The Muhlenberg Endowment Committee is seeking proposals for grants requesting amounts up to \$7,500 for **projects aligned with Muhlenberg's mission** to be a Wellspring of God's Grace: Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving. The \$7,500 is made possible by the interest from the church Mission Endowment Fund, and we are hoping to award one or more grants to projects of the Muhlenberg congregation.

The purpose of these grants is to provide members support and resources to carry out plans, programs, ideas, and dreams as we are moved by the Spirit to help live out our mission. While we often support and fundraise for existing programs and initiatives, we really want to encourage church members to dream and think big, innovate, and take risks about ways that we can be a Wellspring of God's Grace. While the grants are only available to members of the congregation, we encourage you to identify ways to extend that Wellspring and Grace to our community beyond the Church.

Please visit the Connection Center for the necessary form to have your mission project considered for receiving Endowment monies. Details are included on the form. If you have any questions, please contact Council members Bill Compton, Tim Peifer, or Greta Willis.

### MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

- + *Open*
- + *Authentic*
- + *Relational*
- + *Serving*

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Local & Global Mission Chair  
Karen Matthias ([kfmatthias@gmail.com](mailto:kfmatthias@gmail.com) or 434-4625)  
for more information.

### OPEN DOORS: SAVE THE DATE!

Muhlenberg will host Open Doors at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in February 2020. Open Doors provides shelter from November - March for anyone over the age of 18 who is experiencing homelessness in our community. Thirty faith communities participate in hosting the shelter that is located in churches in the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County area. The shelter moves weekly to a new location.

From February 3-10, volunteers from Muhlenberg will be needed to provide dinners, snacks, breakfasts, and overnight oversight. Open Doors provides a sense of community, fellowship and connection to those in our community who are often forgotten, ignored and overlooked.

More information will follow about volunteer opportunities! If your small group, Bible study or class would like to prepare the meal for an evening or if you can volunteer to serve, please contact Susan Lawrence ([lawrensj@comcast.net](mailto:lawrensj@comcast.net) or 540-908-0073) or Emily Wicht Carneal ([emily.wicht@gmail.com](mailto:emily.wicht@gmail.com) or 202-805-3683).



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

*Christian Formation and Local & Global Mission ministry teams are offering many opportunities to make your Advent and Christmas a time of sharing with others. By providing these different opportunities, we hope you find one that touches your heart. Another way you and your family can take part is by praying for those who are in need in our world! Contact Diane Bayer ([bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496) with any questions about these projects.*

### ANGEL TREE



ANGEL TREE

We are sponsoring an *Angel Tree*. If you would like to help make this season of giving part of your Advent journey, **please stop by the Caring Corner TODAY** and take an angel from the Angel Tree. **There will be angels designated for Salvation Army, Second Home and Minnick School students.**

Your unwrapped gifts need to be **returned to the tree on Sunday, December 1**. Thank you for sharing.

### GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE

#### And Advent Devotional Calendars

There is a small tree in the Caring Corner with ELCA Good Gifts ornaments. The ornaments will have different opportunities to give to World Hunger. Remove an ornament and make a donation to **ELCA World Hunger** by visiting [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts). You can make a general gift by writing a check to Muhlenberg and designating World Hunger in the memo line! Also you can pick up an ELCA World Hunger Advent Devotional Calendar from the Gathering Area.



### SENIOR CITIZEN SANTA BAGS

#### Sponsored by JAMers

**Sunday December 8**, our JAMers (elementary youth group) will fill Senior Citizen Santa Bags for the Salvation Army. We are offering this as a giving opportunity for the whole congregation. Look for a complete list of items needed at the Connection Center. Bring items to church and place them in the baskets/boxes provided in the Gathering Area **no later than December 8**.



### ALTERNATIVE ADVENT



During Advent we are offering an opportunity to do something a bit different as part of your Advent devotions. Watch for boxes that will be available in the Gathering Area. Pick one up and each day during devotions, put something in the box (a can of soup or vegetables, a bar of soap, a toothbrush or toothpaste, etc.).

The boxes can be **returned December 22 or Christmas Eve**. We will bless the boxes and share them with those in need.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

#### FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

Devotional calendars and offering boxes are available from the tables in the Gathering Area. Make time each day for devotions as we all prepare and wait for God's most precious gift to be given – His own son Jesus Christ our Lord. Return **offering boxes to the Gathering Area by Christmas Eve**.



## JCREW

Contact Clay Arthur  
(434-3496 or [clay@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:clay@muhlenberglutheran.org))  
for more information.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Meet at 12:15 in the Campus Room for all dates:

**November 17** - JCrew lunch and service

**December 15** - Trip to Massanutten Waterpark

## 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 immediately following the 9:30 liturgy.

## CHILD MUSICIANS GRADES K – 5

Parents, if you have a child who can play an instrument, please contact Diane Bayer. We hope to assemble a group to be part of the annual Children's Christmas program Sunday evening, December 15. We would like to know how many children can participate and which instrument they play.

**Note:** Dec 1, 8 & 15, students PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be in the MAC at 9:30 to practice for the Christmas Program.

## JAMERS

**TODAY, 12:45-2:15**, we will host a Thanksgiving meal for JAMers and their families. We hope you can join your friends for a time of fun, food and fellowship as we thank God for all his gifts.

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

### PRAYING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

For individual and family use. Scripture citations taken from ELW's 3-Year Daily Lectionary, p. 1143 - 1153, (Year C).

**Mon.** 2 Peter 1:16-21      **Thu.** Romans 1:18-25  
**Tue.** 2 John 1-13      **Fri.** 2 Thess. 1:3-12  
**Wed.** John 5:19-29      **Sat.** Luke 17:20-37  
**Sunday:** Luke 21:5-19

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

November 11 - 17, 2019

**Mon.** 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting  
5:30 pm Executive Committee Mtg.  
7:00 pm Ministries Meetings

**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. AM Bible Study  
12 noon Holy Communion  
1:00 pm Go-Go Lunch  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

**Sun.** 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion  
Second Home Food Collection  
9:30 am Christian Formation  
12:15 pm Congregational Meeting

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](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://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).