



# 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 17, 2019**

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

You are invited to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation **TODAY, 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 Trustees\***: see today's insert for bio information

\*Plus any nominees from the floor.

## 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*



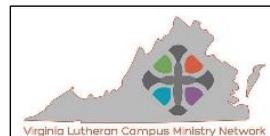
*our guest register. If you prefer, you may scan this QR code or securely register online at...*

*[muhlenberglutheran.org](http://muhlenberglutheran.org).*

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### VIRGINIA LUMIN NETWORK

At the 11:00 service, we welcome students of the Virginia Lutheran Campus Ministry Network



who are worshipping with us after their fall retreat at Caroline Furnace. Welcome students!

## 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.

## SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION



On the third Sunday each month, we collect specific items to help provide snacks for Second Home students. **TODAY** we 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.

## THIS WEEK

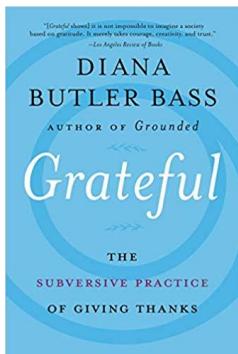
### GO-GO GROUP BREAKFAST (55+)

**THIS Tuesday, November 19, 8:30 am** at Thomas House in Dayton. *Contact Dan Werner at 433-3912 for more information.*

### 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!

### 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 **THIS Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Area.** *For more information, contact Pastor Lauren.*

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	71	Wed. Noon	12
9:30 Worship	156		
11:00 Worship	<u>140</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>		

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through <span style="color: red;">October 2019</span>			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$566,725	\$658,825	\$561,093
Total Receipts	\$650,160	\$749,608	\$643,389
Expenses	\$689,353	\$822,604	\$698,235
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$39,193)</b>	<b>(\$72,996)</b>	<b>(\$54,846)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 7,732.40
Giving to Other Designated Funds	<u>\$ 18,127.32</u>
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 25,859.72</b>

*See Connection Center notebook for details.*



To give online, scan here →

## SECOND HOME NEWS

### THANKSGIVING MEAL UPDATE

Join us for our Annual Second Home Thanksgiving Meal, **Wednesday, Nov. 20, 5:30 pm** in the MAC. Sign up at the Connection Center.



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 vegetables (squash, carrots, green beans, broccoli, cauliflower), or other side dishes (for at least 20 people), sign up at the Connection Center or *contact Krisztina Szekely (2ndhomedirector@gmail.com or 432-7989).* We need vegetable donations by noon Tuesday, 11/19, and side dishes by 5:15 pm Wednesday, 11/20. Thanks for all of your support.

## 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).

Conventional silver polish contains harsh chemicals such as ammonia. There are natural alternatives to give a sparkle to your best silver for Thanksgiving dinner. To clean a few small pieces of silver, use a dab of white toothpaste. Rub it onto the silver for instant polish. If you have a lot of silver to polish, boil a few strips of aluminum foil and two tablespoons of baking soda in water. Add your silverware and let it sit for a few minutes to remove the tarnish.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### ADVENT-URE SUNDAY PREVIEW



**TODAY** in the Gathering Area there is a display of some of the activities we will do as part of *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.

### GREENERY NEEDED

Christian Formation is looking for donations of fresh greens for the making of Advent wreaths during the Advent-ure Sunday event on December 1. You may deliver greens to the outside entrance of the MAC on that Sunday. *For more information, please contact Kathy Alexander (908-1857).* Thank you!



## 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.*

## CARE COMMITTEE NEWS

### CHRISTMAS CARD CHALLENGE: BE RELATIONAL

The Care Committee is challenging and encouraging each person or family to send a personal Christmas card to another person or family in the congregation:

- someone in your neighborhood Shepherd group, perhaps someone you do not know or know well
- a newer member
- one of the sick, bereaved, or homebound members (see Care & Prayer List at the Connection Center)

We suggest you include a personal note or prayer for their family. Pray for that person or family as you put it in the mail.

We will have materials available during *Advent-ure Sunday* if you want to make a “recycled card” for this purpose.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

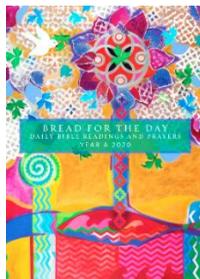
### STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We are discussing 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. **Next Sunday, November 24 is Stewardship Sunday.** 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.

## REMINDER

### “BREAD FOR THE DAY” RESOURCE



Starting January 1, we will discontinue publishing a daily lectionary in *The Chimes*. The appointed daily lessons are listed in our hymnal and devotional booklets will continue to be available in the Gathering Area.

If you would like another convenient resource for a Daily Lectionary, contact Pastor Alex **by December 2** to order *Bread For the Day* for 2020. You can use *Bread for the Day* for personal, household, or group devotions. This is the perfect resource for anyone to engage with God's Word on a daily basis, and to mark the changing of our church seasons with prayer.

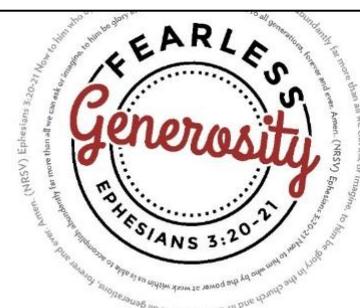
With a grateful heart for God's boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian stewardship, I make this commitment to Christ's church and the ministry of this congregation.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 Council 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 was 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.

## 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*

## JCREW

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### TODAY - JCrew lunch and service

Meet in the Campus Room after the Congregational Meeting for lunch and furniture shopping! Note: we will return to the church around 3:00 pm.

#### December 15 - Massanutten Waterpark Trip

Meet in the Campus Room at 12:30 pm. We plan to be back at the church by around 6:00 pm. The cost is \$38 per person plus whatever food you decide to buy. Sign up by texting or emailing Clay not later than November 30. Siblings/families are welcome to come along!

### 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 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.

## 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! You can also 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 are available from the table 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. Place your offerings in the offering plate by Christmas Eve, designating Habitat for Humanity on your check/envelope.



## 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.

### JAMERS REFLECTIONS

The Thanksgiving meal for JAMers and their  
families was a wonderful event. Children  
shared from their hearts things for which they  
are thankful: food and family, a home and  
clothes to wear, family safety in bad weather  
and helping others like gathering items for our  
People Helping People Thanksgiving box. Way  
to go JAMers!



## 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. Ephesians 4:25-5:2 Thu. Hebrews 9:23-28  
Tue. 1 Cor. 10:23-11:1 Fri. 1 Peter 1:3-9  
Wed. Matt. 23:37-24:14 Sat. Luke 18:15-17  
Sunday: Luke 23:33-43

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

November 18 - 24, 2019

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Congregation Council Mtg.  
Tue. 8:30 am Go-Go Group Breakfast  
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  
6:30 pm Pastors' Book Club  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir  
Sun. Stewardship Sunday  
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 Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496](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).