



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 24, 2019

CHRIST THE KING

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

Below are highlights from last Sunday's Congregational Meeting. *Visit the Connection Center for Council member and Trustee bios.*

- All 8 nominees for Council were approved; there were no nominees from the floor.
- John Mulder and Jennie Warner were elected to serve as Trustees.
- The 2020 spending plan was approved as presented.
- Council President Gary Calleo informed the congregation that after 25+ years of service, Terry Looney is resigning as Treasurer at year end but will stay on into January. Council will begin the search for a new Treasurer. Sandra Harbin remains Assistant Treasurer.

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.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Below are highlights from this past Monday's meeting:

- Council received a presentation by Ramona Sanders regarding Creation Care and the ways we can be more intentional about caring for the earth, particularly through recycling and reducing single-use plastics.
- Council continued their conversation about developing a safety plan for the congregation and facility. A Harrisonburg police officer has done a thorough review of the facility. His written report and an in-person conversation will be received at the January Council meeting.
- Council approved a motion to bring the organ replacement to the congregation for a vote at the January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Council and the New Organ Acquisition Team will work together to provide more information to the congregation about this project over the coming weeks. *See p. 5 for more information.*
- October minutes were approved.
Copies are available at the Connection Center.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY

We have been 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.

TODAY is Stewardship Commitment Sunday. Ushers are distributing Commitment Cards to be completed and placed in the basket by the font as you leave the Sanctuary. Please prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give, and submit your card as we come together to celebrate what God has first given us.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, **there will be no Wednesday Morning Bible Study nor noon service this Wednesday, Nov. 27.**

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the **deadline for *The Chimes* next week is Tuesday, 11/26 at 8 am.**



FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	77	Wed. Noon	10
9:30 Worship	82		
11:00 Worship	<u>129</u>		
Total	288		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 2019			
	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
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$39,193)	(\$72,996)	(\$54,846)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 5,353.34
Giving to Other Designated Funds	<u>\$ 14,564.68</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 19,918.02

See Connection Center notebook for details.

To give online, scan here →



ADVENT

Next Sunday, December 1, begins the season of Advent. The word *Advent* means “coming,” and during these four weeks leading up to Christmas, we anticipate the coming of Christ. But it's not just the coming of Jesus into the world at Christmas that we're preparing for; it's also the approaching return of the risen Lord in all his heavenly splendor.

While Advent is a season of waiting, this year in worship we'll explore the theme “*What Can't Wait?*” Is idle waiting what God wants of us? What demands our attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can't wait for?

This Advent, we invite you to join us in imagining, prioritizing, and preparing. As we wait, what can't? A devotional guide to the season and family Advent calendar are available in the Gathering Area.

THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

ADVENT-URE SUNDAY

Next Sunday, December 1 at 12:15 in the MAC. Christian Formation invites everyone to start the Advent season by joining us for Advent-ure Sunday. We will begin with lunch and then make crafts, including making Advent wreaths with fresh greenery. If you have one, bring your straw wreath form from past years to redecorate. If not, we will have wreaths available. *Call Kristy Peifer (438-9167) with any questions.*



We are looking for donations of fresh greenery for making Advent wreaths. Please deliver them to the outside of the MAC next Sunday morning. *For more information, contact Kathy Alexander (908-1857).*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

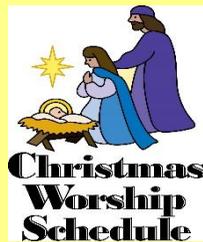
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND HYMN SING

Sunday, December 15, 4:00 pm, children in Christian Formation classes (ages 2-5th grade) will present a Christmas program. Afterward, **Minister of Music Emeritus Don Smith** will provide music for an old-fashioned hymn sing. Our children are excited and hope you will attend.



Have a favorite Advent/Christmas song you want to hear? Write your selection(s) on the paper provided today, and place it in the basket on the table in the Gathering Area.

Parents, if you have a child who can play an instrument and is interested in participating in the Children's Christmas Program, please contact Diane Bayer. Note: Dec 1, 8 & 15, students PreK - 5th grade will be in the MAC at 9:30 to practice for the Christmas Program.



**12/24 – Christmas Eve Services
4:30, 6:30 & 9:00 pm**

**12/25 – Christmas Day
5:30 pm Community Meal
(no service)**

11TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER!

DECEMBER 25, 5-8 PM IN THE MAC Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in collaboration with volunteers from across Harrisonburg will host the Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day. This downtown tradition has served hundreds of our friends and neighbors over the past 10 years, and we are proud to now be spearheading the effort at Muhlenberg.

Mark your calendars to celebrate with everyone...families, those alone for Christmas, those who can't make their own holiday meal, older folks, younger folks, the less fortunate and anyone else who wants to enjoy good food and fellowship with others for Christmas.

If you are interested in helping plan the event, volunteer before or during, and/or donate to the dinner/activities, *please contact Cannie or Paul Campbell (HarrisonburgCCD@gmail.com or 578-4155)* or attend a brief interest meeting **TODAY** at 12:30 in the Gathering Area. Watch *The Chimes* for more detailed information. Sign ups to come!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

TABLE TALKS: HUMAN SEXUALITY

The final Table Talk is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 pm** at the home of Tim and Stefanie Eye. If you're interested in attending and haven't yet signed up, there are still a few spots available—contact Pastor Lauren ASAP.

If you haven't been able to attend a Table Talk this fall but are interested in sharing thoughts with either of the pastors, please contact Pastor Lauren or Pastor Alex. They are eager to engage with all who wish to be a part of the conversation.

MARY/MARTHA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Karen Dotson will host the annual Mary/Martha Christmas party **Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:30 pm** (we will carpool from church at 6 pm). She will provide main food items; you may bring a dish to share if you wish. There will be a Christmas sock exchange this year, and we will collect feminine products for First Step. *For more information or to RSVP for seating purposes, contact Karen (karendotson12@gmail.com or 540-333-2753).*

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.

You'll probably have lots of leftover turkey and mashed potatoes. Every year, Americans use enough plastic wrap to cover all of Texas. Instead of sending your guests home with leftovers piled on paper plates and covered in plastic wrap, ask them to bring their own containers.

CARE COMMITTEE NEWS

CALLING CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

December 8 we plan to go Christmas Caroling to some of our fellow members who are not able to get to church. Do you have a couple of hours and a winning smile? Did you notice we are not asking for award-winning singers, though they are certainly welcome to join us?

We'll start with lunch at 12:15 in the Nielsen Room and then spend approximately an hour visiting and sharing some holiday spirit. What a wonderful way to spread some cheer – *come on, you know you want to do it!* Sign up at the Connection Center so we can prepare for lunch. All ages are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CARD CHALLENGE:

BE RELATIONAL

The Care Committee challenges and encourages 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 do not 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.

Materials will be available during *Adventure Sunday* if you want to make a “recycled card” for this purpose.



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. Feel free to ask any of the committee members for additional information.

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 or 434-3496) with any questions about these projects.

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 next 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. 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, 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 should be **returned Sunday, 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.



REMEMBER & HONOR

LOVED ONES



Want to remember or honor a loved one with a poinsettia? **Cost per plant is \$15.** To reserve your poinsettia, do the following:

1. **Sign up** at the Connection Center in the notebook under the “Flowers” tab.
2. **Pay** for poinsettias (write “Poinsettias” on the memo line of your check). Place your check in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. **Payments reserve poinsettias.**

Poinsettias may be picked up after the 9:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.

Sign up deadline is Sunday, December 8
(no additional flowers will be ordered after that date).

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ALTERNATIVE GIVING OPPORTUNITY

If you wish to remember a loved one in a different way during this Holy Season, we offer a local opportunity in **Patchwork Pantry** (a mission of Community Mennonite Church) and a global opportunity in **ELCA Disaster Response** (an ELCA mission).

1. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center (**blue forms in the front of the book**).
2. **Make your contribution.** Ensure correct credit/designation by indicating “**Patchwork Pantry Christmas Gift**” or “**Disaster Response Christmas Gift**” on the memo line of your check. Place your check in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. We will publish the name of your loved one(s) in an insert during the Christmas season (as we do for poinsettia donations). **Sign up deadline is Sunday, December 15.**

JCREW

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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 no later than November 30. Siblings/families are welcome to come along!

CONFIRMATION/ALPHA TEENS

Contact Pastor Lauren Eanes
(434-3496 or eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)
for more information.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

There will be **no class** for 6th & 7th graders **NEXT Sunday, December 1**. Plan to attend worship with your family and join in Adventure Sunday festivities.

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 immediately following the 9:30 liturgy.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

✚ We would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their expressions of love and support in the wake of Riley's death. We remain humbled and blessed by the outpouring of comfort and care, not only at the memorial service, but since that time, by many notes and calls we received. Muhlenberg remains a special place, and we are thankful that Riley is at rest in the columbarium. *Steve & Lori Reich*

✚ The William Rosenow family sincerely thanks everyone who took the time to call, email, send cards, deliver flowers, make contributions, or personally visit with the family as we remember the life of a special man in our lives. The family is doing well, but we continue to ask for your prayers for those tough moments that are sure to pop up in the future. God is good, and we are blessed to be surrounded by a loving congregation.

“BREAD FOR THE DAY”

Starting January 1, we will discontinue publishing a daily lectionary in *The Chimes*. The appointed daily lessons are listed in our hymnal. 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 prayerfully engage with God's Word on a daily basis and mark the changing of our church seasons.

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 A).

Mon. Revelation 21:5-27 Thu. James 4:1-10
Tue. Revelation 22:8-21 Fri. Hebrews 11:1-7
Wed. Luke 1:1-4 Sat. Matthew 24:1-22
Sunday: Matthew 24:36-44

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

November 25 – December 1, 2019

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting

Tue. 4:45 pm SonShine Singers
5:30 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Celebration Singers
7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers

Wed. No church activities

Thu & Fri Thanksgiving Holiday
Church Office Closed

Sun. First Sunday of Advent
Food Pantry, Lay Communion and
Name Badge Sunday
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Christian Formation
12:15 pm Advent-ure Sunday

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).*

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).