



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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December 1, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

Below are highlights from the 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.

What's the Buzz continued on p. 2.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

ADVENT

Today 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.

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.



ADVENT-URE SUNDAY

Start the Advent season with Advent-ure Sunday starting **12:15** in the MAC. We will have lunch and make crafts, including Advent wreaths. If you brought greenery, please leave it outside the MAC door area.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

FIRST SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

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.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ (CONT'D)

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Below are highlights from the Nov. 18 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. *Visit the Connection Center for 5 for more information.*
- October minutes were approved.
Copies are available at the Connection Center.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	76
9:30 Worship	96
11:00 Worship	<u>117</u>
Total	289

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	\$	8,282.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>8,613.29</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	16,895.29

See Connection Center notebook for details.

To give online, scan here →



HELP WANTED: TREASURER

Following the retirement of Terry Looney as our faithful treasurer at the end of this year, we will be in need of a new treasurer. Duties include preparation of monthly financials, bank reconciliation and journal entries; online payments of federal and state payroll taxes; preparation of federal and state quarterly payroll reports and annual W-2's and Form 1099; preparation and presentation of the annual spending plan; and serving as a voting member of the executive board, finance committee, and congregation council. Duties are shared with an assistant treasurer. Ideally, the treasurer will be someone with education and experience in accounting. The time commitment is approximately 10-15 hours a month. Contact Gary Calleo, congregation president, if you're interested in learning more.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **TOMORROW 7:00 pm** in the Kairos Room. Contact Jennie Warner (mjwarner1@aol.com or 476-2020) for details.

TABLE TALKS: HUMAN SEXUALITY

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

If you haven't been able to attend a Table Talk 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.

GO-GO GROUP (55+)

Join us for lunch **Wednesday, December 4, 1:00 pm** at **Bella Mia** (1647 E Market St, Harrisonburg). Contact Dan Werner (433-3912) for details.

MARY/MARTHA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Karen Dotson will host the annual Mary/Martha Christmas party **Thursday, December 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).

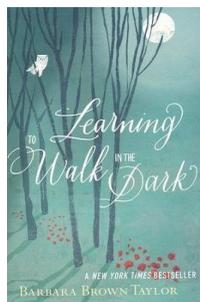
CALLING CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

NEXT Sunday, December 8 we will go Christmas Caroling to some of our fellow members who are unable to come 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 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 are welcome!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB



Pastor's Book Club continues in December with *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. We'll meet to discuss this moving exploration of all that God has to teach us "in the dark" **Wednesday, December 18** at 6:30 pm in the Gathering

Area. You may purchase the book on your own, or order one by contacting one of the pastors.

Like to read ahead? Our selection for our January 15 Book Club meeting is *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler.

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE



The Christmas season is often marked by expressions of joy, excitement, and happiness. However, this time of joy and expectation can often overshadow the pain and hurt many experience during this season, when the world's merriment puts our grief and sorrow in stark relief. If this Christmas season is a difficult one for you or others you love, you are invited to attend a special **Service for the Longest Night** at Trinity Presbyterian Church **Thursday, December 19 at 7 pm**. This is a community service with participation by people of Methodist, Presbyterian, UCC, and Lutheran traditions. Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex will be giving the sermon, and special music will be offered by members of Muhlenberg. If you need a ride to this service, please contact Pastor Lauren, as we have drivers lined up and ready to bring you!

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. Doors open at 5:00, with dinner starting at 5:30. 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). Watch *The Chimes* for more detailed information. Sign-up sheets to come!

MUHLENBERG NEWS

PASS THE PEACE, NOT THE GERMS

As we enter into cold and flu season, we invite you to consider ways to help everyone stay healthy. We encourage the practices your mother told you to do: cover your cough, stay home if you're sick, wash your hands. During the passing of the peace or greeting the pastors after the service, feel free to refrain from shaking hands. We want to share the love of God, but not our germs!

CREATION CARE TIP



Make a list of the things you need and look for them at secondhand stores. At this time of year, the aisles of thrift shops are filled with gently used holiday decorations. You will find all of the things you need to trim your tree at a fraction of the price and help keep boxes of ornaments and other items from going to the landfill.

CARE COMMITTEE NEWS

CHRISTMAS CARD CHALLENGE: BE RELATIONAL

We encourage you to send a Christmas card to another person in the congregation. Include a personal note or prayer. Pray for that person or family as you put it in the mail.

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

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

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.**

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 – EXTENDED DATE



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 8.** 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.



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

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 **TODAY**. Plan to attend worship with your family and join in Adventure Sunday festivities in the MAC!

ALPHA TEENS

Mark your calendar for upcoming events! All youth in grades 6-8 are invited.

Dec. 22 Time: TBD (afternoon) Christmas party with a service event and fun holiday activities.

Jan. 25-26 Church Lock-In Dinner and service event, games, movies, *some* sleep, and church in the morning. Call/text/email Rebecca Pettit (304-939-0528 or pettitte4@gmail.com) for more information.

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.

“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 TOMORROW, 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.

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION

On the third Sunday each month, we ask you to donate specific items to help provide snacks. For this month, we ask you to donate **graham crackers Sunday, December 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.



JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

✚ **Fearless Generosity:** A big thanks to the 60+ families who submitted Commitment Cards for 2020. Extra cards are located at the Connection Center for those who still wish to submit a card. Please place completed cards in the offering plate, or in the mailbox of Janet Simmons, Financial Secretary, in the office hallway.

✚ 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.



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. Romans 6: 1-11 Thu. Acts 1:12-17, 21-26
Tue. Hebrews 11:32-40 Fri. Acts 13:16-25
Wed. Matthew 24:23-35 Sat. John 1:19-28
Sunday: Matthew 3:1-12

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 2-8, 2019

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

Sun. Second Sunday of Advent
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Christian Formation
12:15 pm JAMers
12:15 pm Christmas Caroling

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).