



# 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*

*Published Weekly by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church*

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**December 12, 2021**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Village 2 Village is an organization welcoming refugee families to our area. This season of giving will deplete their warehouse.

Let's take the last 12 days of this Advent season to gather **new or gently used toys, backpacks, school supplies, home items, and coats to restock their warehouse.** These items will be used to welcome refugees to our community in the coming months.

Items can be brought to Muhlenberg on Christmas Eve or the following Sundays after Christmas, December 26 and January 2, 2022. You can also give a monetary donation at [www.hope4villages.org/give](http://www.hope4villages.org/give).

Village 2 Village also has monthly collection days for items designated to this ministry. Collection date: 2nd Tuesday of each month. Collection location: 2136 Rawley Pike, Rockingham, VA 22801

At Dove's Camper Sales, we are the warehouse to the right when you pull into the parking lot.

Collection Times: 4:30pm - 6:00pm

\*\*\*This will be our only collection day each month\*\*\*

Please donate gently used items as there is limited storage space and the need is for "like new" things.

## **TODAY AT MUHLENBERG**

### **PARKER NOAH GOOD**

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

Welcome Parker Noah Good, son of David and Kelly Good, into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 11:00 service this morning!

Parker's sponsors are Todd & Suzanne Neumann. Welcome to the Lord's family, Parker!



### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED**

Participating in worship leadership can be a meaningful way to serve God. Whether it's helping the assembly focus on the cross of Christ as a crucifer, proclaiming the Word of God as a lector, or serving at the table of Holy Communion as part of the altar guild. We invite you to take this next step on your journey of faith. Join Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex **Today (12/12) at 9:45am** in the sanctuary to learn more about why we do what we do in worship, and how you can be a part of it!



## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT.)

### ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS



A letter from Financial Secretary Gary Calleo and Estimate of Giving cards are available at the Connection Center. Completed cards may be returned to the locked box at the Connection Center or the Connection Box outside, or put in the offering plate today.

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASS LOCATIONS

**Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (behind the church)

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

**Grades 6 -12** ~ Campus Room

**Devotional Classics Adult Class** ~ Join us in the **Nielsen Room** or via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>

**Faith Lens Adult Class** ~ reads the Narrative Lectionary and discusses how to live out & apply to our lives. This class meets in the **Kairos Room** or via Zoom using the link above.

† † † † †

*Devotional booklets for 2022*

*January-March are*

*available at the Connection Center*

† † † † †

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### MINISTRIES NIGHT

**Monday (12/12) at 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Join us via **ZOOM** tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

### WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us **each Wednesday at 10:30 am** for Bible study via **ZOOM**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

### ADVENT CHORAL EVENSONG

**Join us each Wednesday in Advent at 7:30 pm.** (see page 5 for details)

### CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS

#### PAGEANT (SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS)

**Next Sunday, December 19** at 12:30 pm join us for a "Red Carpet" movie premiere of the Christmas Pageant. This is a "watch party" in the Sanctuary. Get dressed up in your Christmas best and celebrate the hard work that brought our pageant together. We will have snacks in the Gathering Area. Then the children will walk down the red carpet into the Sanctuary where we will watch the Christmas pageant together. It will be a fun afternoon celebrating the youth of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church!



## THE ADVENT WREATH



One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen images of Advent found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. In many homes, the family gathers for prayer around the wreath.

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### “BE RELATIONAL”

#### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Think about sending a Christmas card or personal note (or two) this season to someone in our congregation! Pick a person or family that you have missed seeing in church, or that you know is probably alone this holiday, or just pick at random! Consider including a prayer in the card or a little information about yourself and your holiday season. If you just never send cards, just pick up the phone and give someone a call – or drop off cookies or fruit for someone living close by. Taking time for a simple act like this could be a great gift to the recipient.

*Muhlenberg Care Committee*

#### SERMONS AVAILABLE

Printed sermons are available on the table in the Gathering Area and upon request from Linda Depoy in the church office.

## LETTER FROM PASTOR HESS

Dear friends of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church,

As we begin the Advent season and start a new church year, the time has also come for me to say goodbye and transition into a new role, serving as a supply pastor in a small congregation further up the Valley, as well as continuing serving and working at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center.

While this transition is sooner than planned, I give thanks for each of you and the time we've had together. It has been a joy and honor to have joined the Muhlenberg community and serve alongside the other amazing Muhlenberg Pastors and Staff. You welcomed me into your lives with open arms and for that I am humbled and thankful. We have shared stories, studied the Bible, worshiped, and journeyed together. Through it all, God was present.

As I leave and say goodbye, I want to encourage each of you to reach out, check in, visit, or introduce yourself to someone at church. Over the last few months in my visits with you, I often heard “I wish our church members connected with each other more” and almost always followed by “I wish I reached out more to the folks at church.” The last few months the church staff has been imagining new ways to bring individuals together and care for one another. There is no day like today to call someone, reconnect, or visit one of our elders.

I pray that as we enter into this new church year each of you continues to encounter God as you walk together in faith. I pray that in this season of Advent you know God as Immanuel, God with us. Thank you all!

With peace and hope,  
Pastor Daniel Hess (He/Him/His)



## 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 [rsanders97@verizon.net](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net).*

## GOING GREEN AT WORK:

Make it a policy to buy Energy Star certified light bulbs and fixtures.

Make it a policy to invest in energy-saving computers, monitors, and printers.

Make sure old equipment is properly recycled.

Make it a policy to buy chlorine-free paper with a higher percentage of post-consumer recycled content. Recycle toner and ink cartridges.

Make it a policy to post employee manuals and similar materials online.

Make it a policy to use reusable dishes, silverware, and glasses. Switch to Fair Trade and organic coffee and tea, made with filtered water.

Make it a policy to encourage telecommuting and consider alternative transportation.

Make it a policy to buy furniture, carpeting, and paint that are free of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

## MUSIC NEWS

### MOSAIC HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Muhlenberg's own Kath Wissinger is the Artistic Director of Mosaic Handbell Ensemble, and she invites you this holy season on a musical journey through "A Nativity Story." This lovely program features 9 ringers using 3 octaves of bells (and more) and 5 octaves of chimes – presenting thoughtful, well-crafted music that spans from Prophecy to Epiphany. Celebrate the Angel Gabriel's message, hold your breath in wonder at the manger-side, gaze in awe at the miraculous star in the heavens, plod on camels in search of the Savior... and

brace yourself for a surprising twist at the end that will lift your spirits! See Kath Wissinger or visit [www.MosaicBells.com](http://www.MosaicBells.com) for more information. **All concerts are at 7:00 pm.** Masking requirements follow venue protocols (bring one!). \*Donations at the door.

- **Friday, December 10\*** – Harrisonburg Baptist Church
- **Saturday, December 11** – Massanetta Springs (dinner and concert – contact Massanetta Springs for Reservations)  
<https://massanettasprings.org/programs/christmas>

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY NEWS

*For more information about any of these articles, contact Gary Calleo at 540-421-5463 or [ynccall@yahoo.com](mailto:ynccall@yahoo.com).*

### SIMPLY GIVING UPDATE

If you use Simply Giving and plan to change your amount for 2022, please send me an email authorizing me to do so or put a note in my mailbox. *Note: Pledge cards do not provide authorization unless specified.*

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

In an effort to reduce costs and become aligned to the reality that quite a few members don't use their envelopes, we will have envelopes available in the Gathering Area to those attending Sunday services for the next few Sundays. Please pick them up then if possible. If you wish to have yours left in the "Pick Up" Connection Box outside the Gathering Area, please email me ([ynccall@yahoo.com](mailto:ynccall@yahoo.com).) or call the church office to make arrangements.

Envelopes not picked up and still being utilized will be mailed early January 2022.

Advent 2021

# Presence

## PRESENCE ~ Our 2021 Advent & Christmas Theme

As the vibrant fall gives way to the bleak cold of winter, it is easy for each of us to draw inward and isolate. Refrains of disconnection and loneliness have been offered by so many in our community and in our world over this past year, but this is especially true during the winter time. Historically, God's people have gathered around the warmth of the Advent candles—with Advent wreaths and hymns of hope—to tell God's story of faithfulness through this dark and mysterious season. So in this particular season of Advent, it is only right that we gather our hearts around stories of God's *Presence*.

Whenever we feel alone, God's spirit is binding us together in the warmth of love. Our Narrative Lectionary lessons remind us that God's presence brings life, even in barren and trying times. In exile, among dry bones, as a child, God's presence surrounds us in surprising ways, reminding us that we are never truly alone. God will go to any length to show love, even becoming flesh and dwelling with us.

Presents under the tree are fleeting, but God's presence is eternal. Join us this Advent as we gather ourselves around this word of hope.

### ADVENT CHORAL EVENSONG ~ WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 15 & 22, 7:30 PM

We are pleased to offer a service of Advent Choral Evensong each Wednesday evening during Advent **at 7:30 pm**. This service will be available in person as well as livestreamed each Wednesday during Advent. Choral Evensong has a long history dating back as far as the Reformation. The service itself is rather short (30-40 minutes) and is mostly if not entirely sung by the choir and presiding minister, allowing the listener an opportunity for reflection and prayer. Some of the more traditionally sung portions of the service include settings of the Magnificat (song of Mary), the Nunc Dimittis (song of Simeon), as well as one of our earliest hymns dating back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, "Phos Hilaron" (Greek, meaning, "O Joyous Light"). This particular hymn setting can be found in our hymnal, ELW 229. The use of candles with minimal lighting will enhance the service experience and trustfully foster a feeling of peacefulness and nearness with God during this Advent season, as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

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# Christmas 2021 Presence

## CHRISTMAS NEWS

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ~ *DO NOT BE AFRAID: A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT* DECEMBER 19



We are doing *Do Not Be Afraid: A Christmas Pageant* from Illustrated Ministry. The pageant is centered on the narratives surrounding Jesus' birth from the gospels of Matthew and Luke and will premiere in person and online **Sunday, December 19**. If your family is interested in participating, contact Children's Minister Ashley Saunders as soon as possible at [saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org). Videos need to be submitted by December 5.

#### **Red Carpet Premiere of *Do Not Be Afraid: A Christmas Pageant***

(Red Carpet event ~ 12:30-1:00; Movie Time ~ 1:00)

Join us December 19 for a red-carpet premiere of our Christmas Pageant. Get dressed up in your Christmas Best and celebrate the hard work that brought our pageant together. We will have snacks in the Gathering Area, and then the children will get to walk on the red carpet into the sanctuary where we will watch the Christmas pageant together on a big screen. It will be a fun afternoon celebrating the youth of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church! The Pageant will be available on Facebook and YouTube later that afternoon.

#### **LONGEST NIGHT COMMUNITY WORSHIP**

The longest night of the year is December 21, and it has become a meaningful time to recognize that the Christmas season is often not all brightness and fun. In particular this year, we have much to grieve and many losses to acknowledge. The Harrisonburg Community Longest Night service will be **hosted this year at Trinity Presbyterian Tuesday, December 21, 7:00 pm**. This service of word and song will provide an opportunity to be honest about our pain and be reminded of Christ's light that shines into dark places.

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## Christmas News (cont'd)



### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

**2:00 pm Fireside Christmas Eve Service** will be an opportunity to gather for worship outside. As Christ's presence warms us on Christmas, we'll gather around the warmth of the fire-pits as we share an abbreviated Christmas Eve liturgy. We'll have the opportunity to hear the Christmas story, share holy communion, and sing *Silent Night* together. Hot cider and cocoa will be available, and you can pick up candles to take home for our live-streamed service at 6:30 pm.

**4:30, 6:30 & 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Services** will feature a full traditional liturgy, singing of beloved hymns, the proclamation of the birth of Christ, Biblical Storytelling, Holy Communion, and a candlelit singing of *Silent Night!* The 6:30 pm service will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube so you can worship digitally wherever you are.

*We recognize that Christmas Eve will be a time where more people are likely to join us for worship and it will be difficult to maintain the same physical distancing that we do on Sunday mornings. Properly fitting masks will be required and our pre-packaged Holy Communion practices will remain the same for in-person worship. It is **strongly** encouraged that you are fully vaccinated before attending worship, and we fully support each family discerning together the best and safest option for worship attendance. With a continued downward trend in COVID-19 cases and an increase in vaccination rates, we plan to resume some congregational singing during Advent and Christmas.*

### DECEMBER 26 ~ 10:00 AM SERVICE

**Sunday, December 26** will be a continuation of our Christmas celebration! We will have one service of Holy Communion at 10:00 am, with readings and carols proclaiming the birth of our Savior.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

|       |                                   |      |
|-------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 11/28 | 8:30 Holy Communion.....          | 48   |
|       | 11:00 Holy Communion .....        | 68   |
|       | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 38   |
|       | Total Views this Week.....        | 210  |
|       | Hours Viewed this Week.....       | 95.7 |
|       |                                   |      |
| 12-01 | Choral Evensong .....             | 22   |
|       | Wellstream Viewing .....          | 155  |
| 12/05 | 8:30 Holy Communion.....          | 44   |
|       | 11:00 Holy Communion .....        | 92   |
|       | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 46   |

### FINANCIAL REPORT

| Through July 2021     |                   |                   |                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                       | Y-T-D<br>Actual   | Y-T-D<br>Budget   | Y-T-D<br>Last Year |
| Gifts & Offerings     | \$324,075         | \$470,326         | \$333,574          |
| Total Receipts        | \$387,348         | \$525,881         | \$432,960          |
| Expenses              | \$457,127         | \$565,080         | \$451,756          |
| <b>Excess Income/</b> | <b>(\$69,779)</b> | <b>(\$39,199)</b> | <b>(\$18,796)</b>  |

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Giving in support of our Spending Plan | \$ 18,366.00        |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds       | \$ 4,789.00         |
| <b>Total Giving for the Week</b>       | <b>\$ 23,155.00</b> |

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg has not suspended its ministry through this unprecedented time. In fact, in some ways our outreach and ministry have been strengthened and enhanced. Regardless of the worship opportunities you choose, we ask you to continue your financial contributions. We also want to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. You can make a one-time or recurring donation through our [website](#), place your offering in the basket on Sunday morning, or mail your check to the church: 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg 22801.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**December 13 - 19**

*If viewing electronically, you can click the links below to access meetings and services.*

- |             |                         |  |         |                    |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|---------|--------------------|
| <b>Mon</b>  | 2:00 pm                 | Staff Meeting  | 7:00 pm | Ministries Night   |
| <b>Tues</b> | 6:30 pm                 | Celebration Singers  | 7:00 pm | Gloria Dei Ringers |
| <b>Wed</b>  | 10:30 am                | Wed. Morning Bible Study via <a href="#">ZOOM</a>  |         |                    |
|             | 6:30 pm                 | Sanctuary Choir  |         |                    |
|             | 7:30 pm                 | Advent Choral Evensong   |         |                    |
| <b>Sun</b>  | Fourth Sunday of Advent |  |         |                    |
|             | 8:30 am                 | Holy Communion in person   |         |                    |
|             | 9:45 am                 | Christian Formation Classes  |         |                    |
|             | 11:00 am                | Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a> |         |                    |
|             | 12:30 pm                | Children's pageant – Red Carpet preview in the Gathering Area                                      |         |                    |
|             | 1:00 pm                 | Movie time   |         |                    |

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:*

[depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

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