



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 26, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

PASTOR ALEX AWAY

I will be on vacation December 26 - January 15, traveling with family to Egypt. I will not be accessible by phone or email during this time, so please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Depoy with any urgent needs. I'm excited to see you again in 2022! +*Pastor Alex*

FROM TREASURER TED SUDOL

I am grateful that the Congregation adopted the 2022 Fiscal Plan and on a personal note, I thank you for your endorsement of this plan for the new year. While it's been my honor to serve on Council and as Treasurer for the Congregation, I need to step away from these roles. As much as I try not to let my work interfere with my volunteer roles, it happens sometimes. This is one of those times. As you may know, I am a member of a global philanthropy and fundraising-focused consulting firm. I've been offered the opportunity to serve as lead counsel in an engagement with a new client in Chicago. It's an offer I do not want to pass on. I will need to be in Chicago quite a bit and I am abundantly aware I'll not have the time required for my Council and Treasurer roles as I take on this new engagement.

I've enjoyed the opportunity to work with the dedicated members of Council on behalf of the Congregation. I will work with Council and other Muhlenberg leaders in transitioning these roles. In the spirit of the holiday season, please know I am grateful that I've had the opportunity to be of service to Muhlenberg. Thank you ... and Merry Christmas!

CRYSTL WHITMIRE IS RETIRING

Several months ago, we began the process of preparing for my retirement from my position as Muhlenberg's Administrative Assistant, and now it's time for me to officially announce that my service will conclude December 31. I have loved my time in this service and grown in many ways under the tutelage of Linda Depoy. This service has been a true blessing to me personally, professionally and spiritually since beginning in February 2009! I value each person, staff, Pastor, and opportunity I have had. My husband Bill retired from JMU, and we are planning to spend more time together. I hope that God will continue to bless me in being able to volunteer my services here still for years to come!! -- *Crystl*

We will celebrate Crystl's retirement with her in worship on January 2.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will not meet Dec. 29. We will resume January 5 at 10:30 am via [ZOOM](#).

FOOD COLLECTION

NEXT Sunday, January 2 in the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products.

100 pounds of food and supplies were donated in November and 130 pounds in December! Thank you for your support.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

COMFORT MAKERS

Please join us **Thursdays, January 6 - April 7 anytime between 8 am - noon!** No sewing skills required. *For more information, contact Linda Morrison (glenn778@comcast.net or 383-5085).*

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

If you are new to the Muhlenberg community, or would simply like to learn more about the congregation, please save the date and join us for a *Welcome to Muhlenberg* experience **Sunday, January 16 at 9:45 am.** Meet leaders, hear about ways to get involved, and take a tour of our campus. We'll also share information about membership at Muhlenberg. If you're interested but unable to attend, please contact Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) so you can receive an invitation to our next event later in the spring.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

During the festive and busy holidays, your house can get messy and you might need to “spiff” it up in a hurry. Here are five quick ways to do this: Sort and file bills, coupons, and paperwork. Move items that are scattered around to where they belong. Collect any items that need to be repaired and fix them. Fill out any forms, school permissions slips or bills that must be completed. Throw out, donate to charity, give away or recycle any unwanted items.



We give thanks to Ramona Sanders for providing Creation Care Tips for many years. Ramona is taking a step back, but we will use our archives to continue providing weekly tips for your education and consideration. Thank you for your dedicated service, Ramona!

FINANCIAL SECRETARY NEWS

For more information, contact Financial Secretary Gary Calleo (vncall@yahoo.com or 540-421-5463).

YEAR-END UPDATE

Note: We will accept 2021 offerings until December 31, 2021. If you use Simply Giving and plan to change the amount for 2022, send Gary Calleo an email authorizing the change or put a signed note in his mailbox. *Note: Pledge cards do not provide authorization unless specified.*

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Area. If you wish to have yours left in the Connection Box (outside the Gathering Area), please email Gary or call the church office. Envelopes not picked up and still being utilized will be mailed early January 2022.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION DOES ALTERNATIVE GIVING

On behalf of the members of Muhlenberg, the Local and Global Mission team used some of its remaining budgeted funds to provide monetary support for a local and a global charitable organization. Checks in the amount of \$500 were sent to Our Community Place and ELCA Disaster Relief. The Local and Global Mission team is grateful to all Muhlenbergers for your continued support of our efforts to serve our neighbors both near and far.

VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

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

Let's take the last few 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 December 26, 2021 or January 2, 2022.** You can also make a monetary donation at www.hope4villages.org.

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

We give a special thanks to Muhlenberg member Bob Crittenden for donating the green legal paper used to print today’s issue of *The Chimes*. Bob retired and closed his printing business and has donated a lot of special paper to us that we will be using in the coming months and even years. Thank you, Bob!

FINANCIAL NEWS

CONSIDER A CHRISTMAS GIFT

A letter was mailed recently asking the congregation to consider the gifts we’ve already *received* this year. Perhaps those gifts don’t seem immediately obvious in a year filled with the continuing uncertainty of a global pandemic, the pain of political and societal divisions, and devastating natural disasters.

And yet each of us can likely name blessings that have come about in this challenging year as well: the joy of reconnecting with loved ones, the beauty of the changing seasons, the renewed sense of community in our church family. Perhaps it’s as simple as a roof over our heads and food to eat. As a church community, we continue to be blessed by the Word of God spoken in our midst and the body and blood of Christ in our communion meal. **Even in the midst of challenges, God continues to provide.**

In response to God’s gifts to us, we invite you to consider a special Christmas gift to Christ’s church. Christmas gifts can be brought during worship, mailed to the church (281 E. Market St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801), or given online at muhlenberglutheran.org/give. **The deadline for receiving 2021 offerings is December 31.**

Extra copies of the complete letter are available at the Connection Center.

RECENT ATTENDANCE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 12/12 8:30 Holy Communion..... | 59 |
| 11:00 Holy Communion..... | 86 |
| 11:00 Wellstream Worshipers | 42 |
| Total Views this Week | 216 |
| Hours Viewed this Week | 92.9 |
| 12/15 Choral Evensong | 22 |
| 12/19 8:30 Holy Communion..... | 53 |
| 11:00 Holy Communion..... | 72 |
| 11:00 Wellstream Worshipers | 38 |

FINANCIAL NEWS (CONT'D)

UPDATED NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

As we celebrate Christmas and the spirit of joy and giving that the season elevates in a special way, *The Chimes* includes an updated Treasurer's Report, providing for you our actual year-to-date experience through December 21. Also, to offer a comparative reference, the report includes year-end totals (through Dec. 31) for our 2021 Budget and our 2020 actual experience. This updated 2021 Report reveals good news and a special opportunity. As you review the report, you'll see that, with the appropriation to 2021 revenue of part of a very generous testamentary gift, our net deficiency for the year is now down to **\$14,137**. As we give prayerful consideration to our final gifts for 2021, a strong finish this year can send us into the new year in a healthy fiscal position. Merry Christmas! *Ted Sudol*

UPDATED FINANCIAL REPORT

| Through December 21, 2021 | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| | Year to Date Actual (thru 12/21/21) | Year-End Totals Budget (thru 12/31/21) | Year-End Totals 2020 Actual (thru 12/31/20) |
| Gifts/Offerings | \$587,118 | \$867,332 | \$651,830 |
| Total Revenue | \$706,217 | \$966,562 | \$739,727 |
| Total Expenses | \$799,450 | \$966,562 | \$814,339 |
| Income/Expenses | (\$93,233) | \$0 | (\$74,612) |
| Testamentary Gift | \$79,095 | — | — |
| Gov. Subsidy (Payroll Protection Prog.) | | | \$85,989 |
| (Deficiency)/Surplus | (\$14,138) | \$0 | \$11,380 |

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 19,503.00
 Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 970.00
Total Giving for the Week \$ 20,473.00

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 27, 2019 — January 2, 2022

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

Mon Church Office Closed

**Sun Second Sunday of Christmas
 Food Pantry Collection**

8:30 am Holy Communion in person
9:45 am Christian Formation Classes
**11:00 am Holy Communion in person
 and Livestreamed via
[Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)**

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASS LOCATIONS

There will be no Christian Formation Classes today. Adult classes resume January 2; children's classes resume January 9.

WINTER CELEBRATION RETURNS!

Winter Celebration is the Virginia Synod's annual weekend faith-formation retreat for **youth in 9th - 12th grades and adult leaders**. This year we are gathering in person **January 21-23** at Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg. There will be Large Group experiences with singing, skits and fun and Small Group experiences with new friends, games, conversation, more games, and faith sharing!

You can register online [HERE](#) or email **Pastor Lauren** (eanesr@muhlenberglutheran.org) if you have any questions or need assistance in covering the registration costs. There is also the option of attending the event via Zoom for those who are concerned about COVID safety or have other mobility limitations. The cost is \$35 for online participation.