



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 27, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

COUNCIL OFFICERS ELECTED

We are blessed to have the following officers elected to serve in 2021:

President: Karen Thomsen

Vice-President: Greta Willis

Secretary: Jenny Gibson

Treasurer: Bill Vance*

*Bill continues as our Treasurer until March 2021.
(see article on page 3)

We give thanks for these leaders and their willingness to serve! A special thanks to our outgoing president, Gary Calleo, for his faithful and dedicated leadership over the past two years.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

LESSONS AND CAROLS

TODAY (12/27) we feature a service of lessons and carols at **11:00 am** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). There will be NO 8:30 am service, Christian Formation, or fellowship today.

EPIPHANY SERVICES

EPIPHANY WORSHIP ON JANUARY 6

Every year on January 6, the twelve days of Christmas come to a close and the church celebrates the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the magi (wise men) who come to worship Jesus. Many cultures have specific traditions around Epiphany, including gift giving and blessing of homes for the new year. At Muhlenberg, we will celebrate Epiphany through a special livestreamed Holden Evening Prayer service, **Wednesday, January 6, at 7:00 pm** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). Join us!

The Virginia Synod is also hosting an Epiphany service on [Zoom](#) at **7:00 pm**. Several members of Muhlenberg will be sharing in storytelling in this service. The Zoom Meeting ID is 835 0408 1651; the passcode is "Epiphany."

If you can't decide which service to attend, feel free to do both! Worship on Zoom at 7:00 pm, then go to YouTube to watch the video of Muhlenberg's service.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

SUNDAY MORNING

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family Lessons & Carols this morning. The regular schedule resumes next week.

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

11:00 **Worship on [Facebook](#),
[YouTube](#), Wellstream Phone**

If you don't have a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

WELLSTREAM PHONE

We want all members to have the opportunity to "participate" in worship and hear The Word. **Wellstream Phone is a service that works from your home or cell phone — no internet required. Simply call the number below and select an option. Information will be available by 11 am each Sunday.** Contact Linda Depoy (434-3496) with any questions.

Wellstream Phone Number:

1-434-205-8777

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

While we aren't meeting in person, we are able to track our online viewership:

12/13	8:30 Communion	20
	11:00 Total Live Views	105
	Total Views this Week	555
	Hours Viewed this Week	140.5
12/20	8:30 Communion	15
	11:00 Total Live Views	144.1
	7:00 Longest Night Service	101

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$561,483	\$778,337	\$624,790
Total Receipts*	\$719,884	\$877,902	\$715,607
Expenses	\$727,723	\$891,130	\$748,891
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$7,839)	(\$13,228)	(\$33,283)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 27,874.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 8,623.55
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 36,497.55

Includes offerings for 12/13 & 12/20.

To give online, scan here →



GENEROSITY MATTERS

Now is the time for year-end giving! We've had to pivot more than once this year in how we do church, but the growth we've seen and connections we've made online continue to make a difference in the lives of people around the Valley and beyond. A year-end gift helps us continue to equip all people to live out the love of Christ wherever they are. Invest in the mission of the church by giving here: www.muhlenberglutheran.org/give.

We will accept 2020 offerings until **January 3, 2021**. Date your check and envelope for 2020. Please do not include 2020 & 2021 offerings in the same check.

For members who participate in **Simply Giving** and are changing the amount for 2021, document the change and email it to me.

2021 offering envelopes have been mailed. (We ordered fewer for 2021 - people with previous envelope numbers 276-300 have been changed to a new, lower number.) Contact me with any questions.

Tim Wessel (twessel@aol.com or 803-528-0239)

THIS WEEK

NEW YEARS' EVE:

“FIRST NIGHT MUHLENBERG”

On December 31, join your Muhlenberg friends for a fun "First Night Muhlenberg" on [ZOOM](#). We'll gather from **8:00-10:00 pm**. “Stop in” anytime for conversation and community as we say goodbye to 2020 together. Connect at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81922683909> OR to connect by phone, call 301-715-8592 and enter meeting ID 819 2268 3909.

Wednesday AM Bible Study and Holden Evening Prayer will not be held December 30. Both resume January 6.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ONLINE WINTER CELEBRATION

January 22-24, 2021

Winter Celebration is Virginia Synod's annual weekend faith-formation retreat for youth in 9th - 12th grades and adult leaders. This year we will gather online for large group experiences with lots of singing, skits and fun, and small group experiences with lots of new friends, games, conversation, and faith sharing! **Deadline to register is January 5, 2021.** To register after this date, please contact Rev. Dave Delaney (delaney@vasynod.org or 540-529-6893). For more information and to register online, visit

www.vasynod.org/event/winter-celebration.

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for our next congregational meeting: **January 24, 12:15 pm** via Zoom.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

TREASURER NEEDED

Our Treasurer, Bill Vance, will be moving to North Carolina this spring. We are grateful for all Bill has done to manage our finances this year! We are now looking for a new Treasurer, and it would be ideal to identify this person before Bill moves so he can help train them. Duties include preparation of monthly financials, bank reconciliation and journal entries; 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 Committee, 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 Congregation Council President Gary Calleo (vnccall@yahoo.com or 540-421-5463) if you're interested in learning more.

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.

A prayer from Creation Care ministry...
God of growth, we know that you water every single one of us with your nourishing word. During this time of waiting, help us to listen and observe what you are creating inside of us. Give us courage to look beyond ourselves and find the places we can try to make change, find peace, and take care of your world. May we connect with each other and the earth as you connect with us. Amen.

CARES ACT NEWS

SPECIAL \$300 DEDUCTION FOR DONATIONS IN 2020

Ordinarily, you can only deduct charitable contributions on your tax return if you itemize your deductions, but under the CARES Act, individuals can deduct \$300 in cash donations to a qualifying organization. This special deduction is an “above-the-line” deduction, which means that it reduces your taxable income even before you apply the standard or itemized deduction. Consider a special gift to Muhlenberg, which allows our ministry to happen and comes with a bonus tax deduction for you!

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.), contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoymuhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

THANK YOU

Children in JAMers (our elementary youth group) thank everyone who helped with Salvation Army Santa Bags, from those who contributed items/funds to those who sorted and filled the bags. On a cold Tuesday afternoon at Westover park, children, youth and adults worked together to use “Our hands to do God’s Work” and filled 40 bags that will bring joy to seniors in our community! We also thank all who brought gifts for the Salvation Army Tree and socks for our homeless brothers and sisters. Your spirit of giving and generosity will help to make this Christmas brighter for others.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 28 — January 3

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

- Mon.** Church Office Closed
- Thu.** 8:00-10:00 pm First Night Muhlenberg
- Sun.** Second Sunday of Christmas
[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)
- 8:30 am Communion Service
9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins
8:30 am Communion Service
9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins
9:30 am K – 3rd Grade Class
9:30 am 4th - 5th Grade Class
9:30 am Faith Lens Class
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
11:00 am Service Livestreamed
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

SPECIAL DEADLINE

Due to the holidays and lead time needed for mailing *The Chimes* to those without internet access, the deadline to submit article information for the January 3 issue is **8 am Tuesday, December 29**. Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy: (depoymuhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

