



# 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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281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 † Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: [info@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org) † Website: [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: [eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: [zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)

**December 29, 2019**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

† We are blessed to have the following officers serve in 2020:

**President .....Gary Calleo**  
**Vice President .....Greta Willis**  
**Secretary.....Jenny Gibson**

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

**PERCY GALEN FAIRCHILD**  
**Baptized, A New Child of God**



Welcome Percy, son of Erin and Charles Fairchild, III into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 11:00 service!

Welcome to the Lord's family, Percy!

## NO SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

All children are invited to remain in the sanctuary and join their family for a special service of Lessons and Carols.



## WHY A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS?

As we gather, we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we *rejoice* that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to *adore* Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord. Today, we have the opportunity to rejoice and show our adoration in songs of praise!

Our Service of Lessons and Carols blends God's story of love with our faithful response in praise. The promise of Christmas is that God is with us, and as we leave worship today with a Christmas tune in our hearts, we may just find ourselves sharing Christ's presence with those we meet.

## 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:*



[muhlenberglutheran.org](http://muhlenberglutheran.org)

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### CALLING ALL COMFORT MAKERS!

If you can tie a knot, please join us Thursdays through April 2. Come anytime between 8 am and noon to join in the fun and fellowship! Contact Linda Morrison with any questions ([glenm778@comcast.net](mailto:glenm778@comcast.net) or 383-5085).

### EPIPHANY EVENT & CHILI COOK-OFF



**CHILI COOK-OFF**

Fire up your crock-pots! Join us for an Epiphany event and chili cook-off **NEXT Sunday, January 5,**

**4:00 – 6:00 pm** in the MAC. Bring chili, salad or bread to share. Plan to vote for your favorite chili.

We'll share in Epiphany traditions like Chalking of the Door and Burning of the Greens, so bring a branch from your Christmas tree or a wreath to place in the fire and we will enjoy fellowship on a cold winter night. We need help with set-up and clean-up, so please contact Pastor Lauren if you're able to assist.

## 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](mailto:rsanders9@verizon.net).



Make a New Year's resolution to be even more eco-friendly next year. What steps can you take to further reduce your impact on the earth next year? Plan in advance for big projects like installing solar panels or establishing a green roof. Be sure to make a toast to congratulate yourself for all the changes you made this year!

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	65
9:30 Worship	102
11:00 Worship	<u>139</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2019			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$624,790	\$739,229	\$629,570
Total Receipts	\$715,607	\$837,221	\$717,730
Expenses	\$748,894	\$901,285	\$766,109
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$33,287)</b>	<b>(\$64,064)</b>	<b>(\$48,379)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 15,395.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	<u>\$ 15,587.48</u>
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 30,982.48</b>

See Connection Center notebook for details.

November Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$15



To give online, scan here →

## FINANCIAL TIP

### DO YOU NEED TO TAKE A REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION FROM YOUR IRA?

If you are 70 ½ years old and need to take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you have an opportunity to support Muhlenberg and save money on your taxes. Under the current tax law, a gift made directly from an IRA to a qualifying charitable organization counts toward your required IRA minimum distribution requirement. Making a gift directly from your IRA to Muhlenberg allows you to support ministries you love and to lower both your adjusted gross income and your taxable income, resulting in a lower overall tax liability. Talk to your tax advisor to find out if this strategy will work for you.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### EPIC CONFERENCE



EPIC (Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations) is a one-day leadership development conference designed to strengthen congregational leaders for their ministry in the congregation and in the world. Muhlenberg is hosting this Virginia Synod event **Saturday, February 1, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

Workshops will include topics such as Congregational Vitality, Ministry with Older Adults, Creating a Good Digital First Impression, and Resources for Difficult Discussions. The cost is \$15 per person, with lunch included. Register at [vasynod.org/epic](http://vasynod.org/epic).

### DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy will hold the 2020 Day for All



People **Wednesday, January 22, 8:30 – 3:00 pm** in Richmond. Register online; don't miss the January 13 deadline!

We'll meet for a day of fellowship, education and advocacy. The morning will include a welcome address and policy briefings, after which we will meet with our senators and delegates. We will meet at the church to carpool. *Contact Diane Bayer (434-3496) with any questions.*

### REMEMBER ... NEXT SUNDAY

#### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTED

*(no glass jars, please)*

## ALPHA TEENS

Contact *Rebecca Pettit*  
(304-939-0528 or [pettitre4@gmail.com](mailto:pettetre4@gmail.com))  
for more information.

**Jan. 25-26:** Church Lock-In. (Staying the night is not required. You are welcome to join us for just the evening events.) Pack a sleeping bag, pajamas, clothes for church, personal hygiene items, and favorite games.

- Taco dinner starting at 6:00 pm. *Please notify Rebecca of food allergies/restrictions*
- Service project: make cards for hospitalized children
- Movies and games
- 8:00 am worship on January 26

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact *Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer*  
(434-3496 or [bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto: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 following the 9:30 liturgy.

### JAMERS (GRADES 2-5)

Meet **Sunday, January 12, 4:00 in the MAC** to celebrate Epiphany. Join the fun and fellowship as together you serve others.

### ALTERNATIVE ADVENT



If you haven't returned your box yet, please bring it to church next Sunday so they can be blessed and delivered to those in need.

## JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

*Dear Muhlenberg Family,  
We thank everyone for your outpouring of affection and for the many remembrances you have given to us. We are blessed to be part of the faithful Muhlenberg family. May our ministry together continue to be a blessing for all. Thank you, and God's blessings on each of you.*

*The Staff of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church*

## FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

We will accept 2019 offerings until **January 5, 2020**. Date your check for 2019 and be sure your envelope indicates 2019 as well. It is most helpful if you do not include 2019 & 2020 offerings in the same check.

For members who participate in the **Simply Giving** program and are planning to change your giving for 2020, please document your change and submit it to me by email or by placing a signed note in my box.

Also, I have mailed the 2020 offering envelopes. If you did not receive yours and would like a packet, or have questions about your offerings, please contact me.

*Janet Simmons*

([gandjsimmons@gmail.com](mailto:gandjsimmons@gmail.com) or 434-5258)



## DAILY DEVOTIONS

### PRAYING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*For individual and family use. Scripture citations taken from ELW's 3-Year Daily Lectionary, p. 1121 1132 (Year A).*

**Mon. 1 John 5:1-12**      **Thu. 2 Cor. 4:16-18**  
**Tue. Matthew 18:1-14**   **Fri. John 8:12-19**  
**Wed. Luke 19:41-44**    **Sat. Psalm 147:12-20**  
**Sunday: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 30, 2019 — January 5, 2020

**Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting  
**Tue.** New Year's Eve  
**Wed.** New Year's Day  
Church Office Closed  
**Sun. Festival of Epiphany**  
**8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am** Holy Communion  
Food Pantry, Lay Communion &  
Name Badge Sunday  
**9:30 am** Christian Formation  
**4:00 pm** Chili Cook Off &  
Epiphany Event

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](mailto: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).