



The CHIMES

MUHLENBERG: A WELLSPRING OF 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

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

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org ✚ Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

Pastor Mark Radecke: radecke@muhlenberglutheran.org ✚ Pastor Paul Weber: weber@muhlenberglutheran.org

September 2, 2018

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our progress continues. I anticipate by mid-September we will complete visits and interviews with the pastors whom we are considering as top candidates. Once this step is accomplished, we'll have the opportunity to look closely at all we have learned and will prayerfully consider the next steps.

I also want to share something else. This process has been a re-affirming experience, one that has offered the Call Committee a view of our congregation from the perspective of others. What we are seeing is what we have long known, that we have created here a warm, friendly, and Spirit-filled community of faithful families and individuals. And, most of all, by your prayers and encouragement, you are with us on this journey. *Ted Sudol, Call Committee Chair*

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 to securely register online visit us at www.muhlenberglutheran.org.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

FIRST SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

TODAY 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 food pantries. **Lay Communion Ministers** will take Holy Communion to our sick and homebound members.

NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES TODAY!

BLESSING AND COOKOUT

We bless college students during the **10:30 am** service today. Students are invited to stay after church for a cookout! We will grill hamburgers and hotdogs and eat in the Campus Room.

See p. 8 for information about Campus Ministry.

SUMMER SCHEDULE EVALUATION

Please help us evaluate our summer worship schedule! If you missed participating, green evaluation forms and the box for completed forms can be found at the Connection Center. You may also return completed forms to the church office. We need to hear from you!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

RUTH SIGMON WOMEN'S CIRCLE

TOMORROW Monday, September 3, 6:30 pm in the Augsburg Room. Louise Johnson will present a program on prayer. We invite all Muhlenberg women and friends to join us. *For more information, contact Louise (gfriend07@verizon.net or 433-1047).*

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **TOMORROW, September 3, 7:00 pm** in the Kairos Room. *Contact Jennie Warner (mjwarner1@aol.com or 476-2020) for details.*

GO-GO GROUP (55+)

Meets for lunch **Wednesday, September 5, 1:00 pm** at Vito's (Port Road). *Call Dan Werner (433-3912) for more information.*

REGULAR SCHEDULE RETURNS
NEXT Sunday, September 9,
we return to three services:
8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 am.

BLESSING OUR TEACHERS

NEXT Sunday, September 9 we will bless those faithful servants who serve as Christian Formation teachers for children, youth and adults. Thanks be to God for their service!

JAMERS (GRADES 2-5)

Join your friends **NEXT Sunday, September 9, 12:15-2:00 pm** in Wayland Hall. We will have lunch (provided) and play fun group building games as we get to know each other better. We will also make ice cream sundaes.

See pages 3-4 for details about ELCA Day of Service and Christian Formation Festival.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:45 Worship	146	Wed. Noon	13
10:30 Worship	<u>142</u>		
Total	288		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2018

	Y-T-D <u>Actual</u>	Y-T-D <u>Budget</u>	Y-T-D <u>Last Year</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$399,183	\$474,038	\$429,365
Total Receipts	\$453,433	\$527,900	\$481,269
Expenses	\$479,360	\$563,777	\$506,207
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$25,927)	(\$35,877)	(\$24,938)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	7,932.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>1,435.53</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	9,637.53

See details in the notebook at the Connection Center.

To give online, scan here →



NEW MUSICAL SETTING

Beginning this fall we will learn a new musical setting of the liturgy composed by Pastor Paul. It was commissioned by Pastor Paul's first congregation in Pittsburgh and named for that small congregation, Holy Emmanuel. Muhlenberg is a fine singing congregation. You are encouraged to sing this new musical setting as if you have always known it! But please also be patient in the process as we experience something new. The music was inspired by Pastor Paul's setting of the Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy) found at ELW 189. By the way, Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh closed several years ago, so we will help to carry on their song and their mission in the use of the Holy Emmanuel Liturgy.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

ELCA DAY OF SERVICE

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. The **2018 "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is September 9** or a time that works best for individual congregations and their projects.

This event has quickly become an anticipated way to be "church together" and "church for the sake of the world." It is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let's do this work together!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Note time change – 10:00 am

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable.

Grace Lutheran Church has invited Muhlenberg to join them and 11 other churches in the Southern Valley Conference for a *Rise Against Hunger* event **THIS Saturday, September 8, 10:00 am** at Kate Collins Middle School, Waynesboro. Last year we sent 12 volunteers; we hope to send 15 this year. Youth are welcome. The goal is to assemble and package 15,000 or more dehydrated meals for distribution to disaster locations at a cost of \$0.35 per meal. Local & Global Mission is donating \$300 toward the cost of food. *For more information, contact Karen Matthias (kfmatthias@gmail.com or 434-4625).*



BLOOD DRIVE

The Care Committee is sponsoring a Virginia Blood Services drive here **NEXT Sunday, September 9, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm**. What better way to serve than to give the gift of life! Sign up at vablood.org. Click on *Blood Drives*, then *Schedule An Appointment*. On the scheduling page, scroll down to choose "Muhlenberg" and "select" below. Choose the time you'd like to donate and fill in your information. If you prefer, sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center. *Contact Linda Morrison (glenm778@comcast.net or 383-5085) with any questions.*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Christian Formation's Day of Service activity will be packing lunches for Second Home students **NEXT Sunday, September 9**.



Following Children's Time at the 9:30 service, children Pre-K to 3rd grade will join 4th & 5th grade students and adults in the MAC. The lunches will be sent home with the students Monday, September 10. *For details, contact Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).*

HURRICANE RELIEF TRIP

We have reserved the workweek of November 5-9 for our Florida adult mission trip. Can't go on the trip but want to help? Monetary donations can be made to Muhlenberg, designating Adult Mission Trip on your check and envelope.

Visit the information table in the Gathering Area **Sunday, September 23** to learn more and purchase/order your Muhlenberg sweatshirt. Proceeds will help defray the cost of the trip. *Contact Herb Amato (amatohk@jmu.edu or 540-830-7910) for more information.*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FESTIVAL DAY

Next **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 AT 9:30 AM**

Class information for September 2018 – May 2019

SHARING GOD'S WORD



Christian Formation is *Sharing God's Word* by providing Bible studies, women's groups, an elementary youth group, fellowship, and Sunday morning Christian Formation groups. Here are opportunities for all ages, birth to adults:

Newborns to 2-year-old children meet in the nursery. The Nursery Coordinator will bring children into worship for Children's Time with the pastors and then return them to the nursery where they will listen to simple Bible stories and songs.

Children 3 years to 3rd grade begin in the Sanctuary. After Children's Time with the pastors, children go to their classes listed below:

- Preschool children go upstairs to the Teddi Nelson Education Wing.
- Children K-3rd Grade will go to the MAC (Muhlenberg Activities Center – behind the church) on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, they will go to the Nielsen Room for Children's Church and then return to their parents in worship.

Children in grades 4-5 start at 9:30 upstairs in the MAC.

~ **Special project Sept. 9: K-5th graders take part in ELCA Day of Service.** See details p. 3 ~

All children should be picked up from their classes immediately following the end of the 9:30 service.

Grades 6-12 – see p. 8 for Confirmation and high school class information.

All adults are invited to take part in one of these adult classes that meet downstairs:

- **No Experience Necessary:** An in-depth Bible study suitable for everyone. You need have no experience, and all are welcome. Meets in the Library.
- **40-Day Journey:** Readings, Reflections & Spiritual Growth: an interactive class where Christian literature is read and discussed. Meets in the Kairos Room.

Children's Church at 11:00 on the 1st & 3rd Sundays is for children 3-7 years old (*held downstairs in the Nielsen Room*). Children will join their families in the Sanctuary during the Offering Song.

You are encouraged to pick up a green **Christian Formation brochure** from the Connection Center. It includes information about all our Christian Formation opportunities. We hope you will find one or more that fulfills your needs as we grow together in faith!

*Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer
(bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) for more information.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SOPHIE MOELLER

This women's circle kicks off the year **Tuesday, September 11 at noon** in the Kairos Room with a covered dish lunch. We will make plans for programs and events this year. **All women are welcome!**

INSTALLATION

You are invited to the installation of Pastor Bill Nabers, **Sunday, September 16, 4:00 pm** at St. Jacobs-Spaders Lutheran Church. *See bulletin boards for details.*

WELCOME THE STRANGER

Join us for the first annual Harrisonburg Sacred Arts Festival, September 21-22. The theme this year is "Welcoming the Stranger" and the event includes art, music and more!

Join the *Organ Crawl*, a tour of three beautiful, local organs that includes 30-minute presentations. Muhlenberg is the first stop **Saturday, September 22, 1:00 pm**. The group will travel by bus to Asbury United Methodist Church and Otterbein United Methodist Church. *For details, contact Elizabeth Williams (williams@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496), visit HburgSacredArts.org, or see bulletin boards.*

COLLEGE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Mark D. Knauff, College Planning Specialist at Thrivent, will host workshops **Tuesday, September 25 at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm** in the Nielsen Room. *For reservations and questions, contact Sherry Ritenour (sherry.ritenour@thrivent.com or 540-325-4233) or Walt Morgan (walt.morgan@thrivent.com or 540-459-9257).* Your student is welcome to attend too! Refreshments will be served.

See bulletin boards for details.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER LUNCH & ORIENTATION

Have you recently joined the church? Are you considering membership? Are you curious or just want to learn more about us?

We invite you to explore with us what it means to be a Christian, a Lutheran, a follower of Jesus and a member of the Muhlenberg family. We invite you to meet with us for a **Prospective Member Lunch & Orientation, Sunday, September 30, 12:15 – 2:30 pm** in Wayland Hall. We'll discuss more in depth the mission and ministries of Muhlenberg and how you can be part of the life of this congregation as a member or associate member.

New members will be received Sunday, October 7 during the 11:00 service, followed by a reception.

If you are interested in attending the Prospective Member Lunch and Orientation, please sign up at the welcome desk or in the activities notebook at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area. *For more information, talk with Kathy Thompson, Chair of the Evangelism Team (thompskb@jmu.edu or 540-578-4830), Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496), or the pastors.*

**Who We Are and
Christian Formation brochures
are available at the
Connection Center today!**

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS



Welcome Cherub Choir Director Rachel Peters to our staff! Rachel is a lifelong musician, educator, and Lutheran. After graduating from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 2012 with her Bachelors of

Music in Music Education, she worked for Fairfax County Public Schools as an elementary school general and choral music educator. She also worked for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA as their youth choir and handbell choir director.

Rachel and her husband, Chris, moved to Harrisonburg in the summer of 2016 and joined Muhlenberg soon after. She is currently working at Ruckersville Elementary in Greene County as the general music and instrumental specialist, pursuing her M.Ed in Educational Leadership at JMU, and plays flute with Valley Winds. She is excited to join the music ministry team here at Muhlenberg!

WE HAVE A GROUP FOR YOU!

If you interested in our choral groups, please contact Music Minister Elizabeth Williams (williams@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

Celebration Singers (10th grade and up)

Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 pm

Sanctuary Choir (10th grade and up)

Wednesdays, 7:15–8:45 pm.

SonShine Singers (grades 3–6)

Tuesdays beginning Sept. 4, 4:45-5:25 pm.

Cherub Choir (ages 4–2nd grade)

Tuesdays beginning Sept. 4, 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Gloria Dei Ringers (Handbell Choir)

Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30 pm. Contact Handbell Director Kath Wissinger (longwalk3@aol.com). See p. 7 for details.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

MINNICK SCHOOL PAINTING

Nine Muhlenberg members participated in an early *Day of Service* project Saturday, August 18. Thanks to everyone who joined in to send students at Minnick School - Harrisonburg back to school with 24 freshly painted doors! (Minnick School is a Lutheran Family Services school which helps students achieve academic, behavioral and developmental goals so they may return to their home public school or pursue a path to meaningful work. You can contribute to Minnick School at any time via the offering plate. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, indicating Minnick School-Harrisonburg on the memo line and envelope.)

SECOND HOME DONATIONS

Thanks to our generous donations of school supplies, our 100 Second Home students and staff members have been well equipped to begin the school year. In addition, we raised \$450 for items needed throughout the year. We also collected 460 granola bars to help stock the pantry during our 3rd Sunday Second Home food drive. (Second Home is an affordable before and after school child care program located in the MAC. You can contribute via the offering plate at any time. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, indicating Second Home on the memo line and envelope.)

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.



Come up with a list of ideas for green gifts. A batch of homemade chocolate chip cookies, a jar of homemade preserves, or a bouquet of fresh flowers from your garden makes a great birthday present or housewarming gift. Edible and perishable gifts result in little, if any, waste. Best of all the recipient knows the gift came from the heart.

MORE NEWS

RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ABUSE IN PENNSYLVANIA DIOCESES

As a congregation, we share the shock and sadness felt by many at the news of rampant clergy abuse of children in six Roman Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania, subsequent institutional indifference to the harm done to child victims, and efforts to cover up their abuse. Specifically, we hold in prayer the victims and survivors as they struggle for healing and hope in their lives. We pray, too, for predators to be brought to justice, and for institutional reforms that will protect the most vulnerable in communities of faith, especially children and youth.

We also remind **members and friends of Muhlenberg that we are a flagship member of the Safe Church program**, by which we commit proactively to policies and procedures designed to prevent the



abuse of children. Information on *Safe Church* can be found on their website at SafeChurch.com. To see a copy of our policy, "Safeguarding All God's People," contact *Diane Bayer* (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

HANDBELL CHOIR

Handbell rehearsals have started up for the fall, and Gloria Dei Ringers welcomes new members. If you read music and have a good sense of rhythm, we can teach you everything else. If you've rung before - bonus points! Rehearsals are held **Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm** and we play one Sunday per month (all services). Our music fellowship offers a supportive, personal connection in a small group. Interested? *For more information, contact Kath Wissinger* (longwalk3@aol.com or 540-289-6973).



SECOND HOME GALA

Second Home will hold its fundraising Gala **September 27, 6:00 pm** at Bluestone Vineyard. Tickets will be available in the Gathering Area **TODAY** and **September 9, & 16**.



If you are interested in **sponsoring a basket for the silent auction**, scan the QR code to sign up for a theme basket or contact Tammy Offenbacher-Koogler (tammyok123@gmail.com). There will also be a sign-up sheet at our ticket table in the Gathering Area. If your item is too big for a basket, we will still gladly accept it. Feel free to partner with someone to sponsor a basket! Items should be new and in excellent condition. If you include donated gift cards, please include a contact name so we can thank them separately. We can provide baskets and wrapping! Baskets are due no later than Sunday, September 23 in the MAC. Please turn yours in sooner if it is ready or needs wrapping!



CAMPUS & YOUTH NEWS

For more information, contact Mycah McNett
(mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

WELCOME COLLEGE STUDENTS!

We are glad you are here! You are invited to connect with each other and the congregation as a part of Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM). Generally, LCM meets weekly for a meal, fellowship, service and faith building. The Campus Room (downstairs) is open to LCM students anytime. Like “Lutheran Campus Ministry at Muhlenberg” on Facebook.

CAMPUS MINISTRY HOSTS NEEDED

Lutheran Campus Ministry is looking for host families to provide a meal for our college students on four Wednesdays in October: 3, 10, 17, 24. We would like to have at least two families host for each night. Paper goods and drinks will be provided.

CONFIRMATION (6TH – 8TH GRADES)

Confirmation Class is held **Sundays at 9:30** in the MAC (building behind the church), room 210. This fall, the class will go through the books of the New Testament, learning about the history of that part of the Bible. In the spring, we will move on to *Lutheran Living and Questions*. On the 2nd & 4th Sundays throughout the year, several students will be in Children's Church helping teach the lesson.

SENIOR HIGH (9TH – 12TH GRADES)

For more information, contact Clay Arthur
(clay@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-758-3208).

High School Christian Formation class meets Sundays at 9:30 in the Campus Room (downstairs). The topic changes from week to week, usually focusing on a faith conversation based on current world and local events.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

PRAYING OUR FAITH TOGETHER!

For individual and family use. Scripture citations taken from ELW's 3-Year Daily Lectionary, p. 1132-1143, (Year B).

Mon. 1 Timothy 4:6-16 **Thu. Romans 2:1-11**
Tue. 1 Peter 2:19-25 **Fri. Romans 2:12-16**
Wed. Mark 7:9-23 **Sat. Matt. 15:21-31**
Sun. Mark 7:24-37

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 3-9, 2018

Mon. Labor Day – Church Office Closed
6:30 pm Ruth Sigmon Circle
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. 12 noon Holy Communion
1:00 pm Go-Go Group Lunch
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

Sat. 10:00 am Rise Against Hunger

Sun. Regular Worship Schedule Returns!
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
ELCA Day of Service – Blood Drive
9:30 am Christian Formation Festival
12:15 pm JAMers

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 (depay@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)