



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

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September 9, 2018

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Just as September marks the beginning of a new school year, I am confident that September also may be a time that we begin to take important steps as a congregation. I share with you today good news from the Call Committee. We have met with the candidates informally, we have engaged in a formal interview process with them, and they have had the opportunity to join us in worship. We have approached the call process with a profound appreciation for the needs and expectations that our congregation brings to this opportunity to call a new pastor to lead us in worship and sacrament. We know well that your prayers and good thoughts are with us. And so, we now will engage in a prayerful process of discernment as we consider our recommendation to Congregation Council. We are indeed looking forward to Spirit-inspired discussions as we move forward. We will keep you in our thoughts as we proceed with our work on your behalf.

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

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

REGULAR SCHEDULE RETURNS!

8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 am.

NEW MUSICAL SETTING

Beginning **TODAY** we learn a new musical setting of the liturgy composed by Pastor Paul for his 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. 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.

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 (CONT'D)

BLESSING OUR TEACHERS

TODAY we bless those faithful servants who serve as Christian Formation teachers and leaders for children, youth and adults. Thanks be to God for their service!

SUMMER SCHEDULE EVALUATION

Please help us evaluate our summer worship schedule! If you haven't participated, green evaluation forms are available from ushers or the Connection Center. Return completed forms to the box at the Connection Center or the church office. We need to hear from you!

JAMERS (GRADES 2-5)

Join your friends TODAY, **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.

THIS WEEK

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday Evening, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Help Muhlenberg continue to grow during this time of transition by joining in as we strengthen our ministries, plan new initiatives, and serve one another and the wider community! **All committees welcome new members.**

The Campus Ministry Committee will meet at 5:30 in the Campus Room.

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!

SECOND HOME SUNDAY

NEXT Sunday, September 16 is *Second Home Sunday!* Learn more about this before and after school program and hear from the Second Home choir at the 11:00 service.

We will also collect Ritz crackers (family size boxes) to serve as snacks to the students. Want to help but prefer to make a cash donation? Designate *Second Home food* on your check/envelope.



INSTALLATION

You are invited to the installation of Pastor Bill Nabers, **NEXT Sunday, Sept. 16, 4:00 pm** at St. Jacobs-Spaders Lutheran Church. A reception will follow in the new Spaders Community Center. *See bulletin boards for details.*

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:45 Worship	135	Wed. Noon	15
10:30 Worship	<u>140</u>		
Total	275		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2018			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
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/	(\$25,927)	(\$35,877)	(\$24,938)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	30,381.67
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>7,734.00</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	38,115.67

See details in the notebook at the Connection Center.

August Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$39

To give online, scan here →



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 **TODAY** or times that work 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!



BLOOD DRIVE

The Care Committee is sponsoring a Virginia Blood Services drive here **TODAY, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm**. What better way to serve than to give the gift of life!

Didn't sign up? Walk-ins are welcome. There are still times available to donate. Stop by the blood mobile parked in Gary's Piano lot.

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 **TODAY**. 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 tomorrow. *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.



As part of our Day of Service, nine Muhlenberg volunteers painted 24 doors at Minnick School.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FESTIVAL DAY TODAY 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. 7 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 (downstairs).
- **40-Day Journey:** Readings, Reflections & Spiritual Growth: an interactive class where Christian literature is read and discussed. Meets in the Kairos Room (downstairs).

Children's Church at 11:00 on the 1st & 3rd Sundays is for children 3-7 years old (*held downstairs in the Nielsen Room*). After Children's Time with the pastors, leaders will take children downstairs. They will join their families in the Sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace.

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

WELCOME THE STRANGER

The first annual Harrisonburg Sacred Arts Festival is 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 FINANCIAL**, 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). Your student is welcome to attend too! Refreshments will be served. See bulletin boards for details.*

PASTOR’S CLASS

God in Odd Places is the topic of a six-week course Pr. Mark will teach this fall. Participants will examine and discuss religious themes from various items in contemporary culture, including short stories, cartoons, songs, letters to the editor, TV, movies, and more. The class will meet **Tuesdays, Oct. 16 – Nov. 20, 6:00 – 7:00 pm** in the Nielsen Room. Members and friends are welcome.

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!**

MUHLENBERG NEWS

AUDIO SERMONS AVAILABLE

Did you miss worship? Did you miss something in the sermon or just want to hear it again? Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are available on our website starting with September 2. You can find them on our website using the path below, where you will also find links to sermon text. Hard copies are available in the administration hallway.

Worship + Community > Worship: What to Expect > Weekly Sermons + Sample Liturgy

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.



You can have a huge impact on the environment if you use public transportation, arrange a carpool, or have your kids ride the school bus instead of driving them. Depending

on how far it is to school, you might want to consider letting your kids ride their bikes or skateboards. A walking buddy is also a good option, especially if you can pair younger kids with an older student at the same school.

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 **NEXT Sunday, September 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 in your basket, please provide a contact name so we can thank the donor properly. 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!



MORE NEWS



*O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. Psalm 71:17*

FORWARDING FAITH CAMPAIGN

Youth ministry and faith formation have always been at the center of the ministries of the Virginia Synod, ELCA. Youth and faith formation activities of the Virginia Synod have led many of our members to positions as both lay leaders and rostered ministers in our churches.

In 2015, the Virginia Synod Council voted to create the *Forwarding Faith* campaign in order to raise \$2.5 million. The goal is to establish a permanent endowment to underwrite youth ministry and faith formation activities and programs in Virginia.

Over the next few weeks, Muhlenberg will participate in the *Forwarding Faith* campaign. You will find additional materials in *The Chimes* and in the Gathering Area that will provide you with more information about Muhlenberg's campaign and youth and faith formation ministries of the Virginia Synod. Our campaign will kick off **NEXT Sunday, September 16** and conclude with Celebration Sunday, October 14.

For more information, contact Kati Derrick (coachkati@hotmail.net or 433-0730).

CAMPUS & YOUTH NEWS

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

WELCOME COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Six campus students attended the beginning of the year cookout last Sunday! Members of the Campus Ministry Committee have visited James Madison University, Eastern Mennonite University and Bridgewater College for activity fairs and other events to meet students and invite them to grow and discern their faith during their time in college.

Are you faculty or staff at JMU? Mycah and a pastor are eating lunch at DHall on the first Tuesday each month. We're calling it *Lutherans who Lunch* - friends welcome! Next date is **October 2**.

We need church van drivers to pick up campus students from EMU & JMU Sunday mornings. We have many first year students with no car but eager to worship at Muhlenberg.

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.

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 depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the editor and pastors.

INVITATION FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



As part of our VBS program this summer, children and adults wrote prayers and drew pictures of faith on 2 x 4 framing boards to be used by Habitat for Humanity. There will be a groundbreaking **NEXT Sunday, September 16, 2:00 pm** at Roberts Court for the home for which we provided framing.

We invite children and adults who were involved in this project to attend the groundbreaking and meet the family that will live in the newly constructed house.

If you are interested in attending, *contact Diane Bayer* (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).



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. Heb. 11:29—12:2 **Thu. Heb. 11:17-22**
Tue. Heb. 12:3-13 **Fri. James 2:17-26**
Wed. Matt. 17:14-21 **Sat. Matt. 21:23-32**
Sun. Mark 8:27-38

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 10-16, 2018

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Campus Ministry Committee Mtg.
7:00 pm Ministries Night

Tue. 12 noon Sophie Moeller Circle
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
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
Second Home Sunday
9:30 am Christian Formation

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).

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.

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