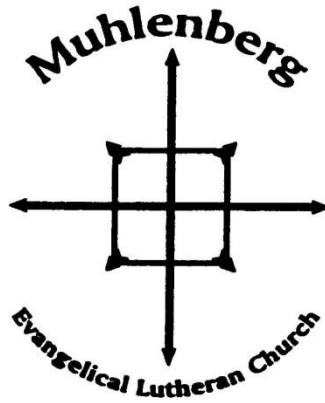


Who We Are,  
What We Offer,  
and  
How to Serve



**MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE**  
*Open † Authentic † Relational † Serving*

**MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**FALL 2015**

**MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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## **“LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!”**

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church is committed to growing in God’s grace and living out our baptism together in the Body of Christ. In worship we remember that we are God’s children, we hear Good News of God’s love and forgiveness, we receive strength in the Lord’s Supper so that we may be the Body of Christ, serve the neighbor in need and live out our vocations in the world. As we live together as members of the Body of Christ we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.

Responsible church membership results in a purposeful and lively interest in the work and mission of the church. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good work and give glory to the Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16) Because we are saved by grace, we are set free to serve and give our lives away in love. The Body of Christ is enriched and built up when each member shares their gifts and offerings in love. In the family of God at Muhlenberg we believe all God’s children have a place to belong and gifts to share.

This brochure, *Who We Are, What We Offer, and How To Serve* is our invitation to you to live out your baptism and share your gifts at Muhlenberg. May God’s Spirit empower you to share your gifts and let your light shine as you enjoy this wonderful Body of Christ!





*Make His  
Praise Glorious!*

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

### **Weekly Worship Opportunities**

- † **Sunday Holy Communion Services** ..... 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.  
*(Nursery provided 8:00 a.m. through 12:15 p.m.)*
- † Sunday Morning Christian Formation Groups..... 9:30 a.m.
- † Sunday Morning Children’s Church (September-May)..... 11:00 a.m.
- † Wednesday Holy Communion Service ..... 12 Noon - 12:30 p.m.

### **Worship Ministry**

Each Sunday, there are more than 50 people, in addition to the choirs, who serve in worship ministry. This past year, more than 300 people volunteered their time to serve all of us in these ways. The work of the Worship Ministry is to plan for meaningful services full of variety and celebrations of Word and Sacrament. Our mission is to provide a worship environment that speaks of the grace and glory of God. Our ministry also ensures that all the people needed to serve during the worship service are scheduled and instructed concerning their duties:

- † Altar Care (communion setup, clean-up, communion bread baking, candles, festival decorations)
- † Servants in Worship
  - Acolytes, Torch Bearers and Crucifers
  - Communion Assistants
  - Greeters
  - Lectors (readers)
  - Ushers
- † Lay Assisting Ministers
- † Sound/AV Team
- † Flower Guild - We provide the opportunity for two families to sign up each week to provide altar flowers in memory or honor of loved ones. Reservations can be made at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area. We request payment at the time of sign up.

## Music Ministry

Muhlenberg's choral, instrumental and handbell groups include the following and meet late August through early June:

† **Sanctuary Choir:** Sings weekly at one service, normally at the 11:00 service. Repertoire includes standard choral literature (Renaissance through 21<sup>st</sup> century). Rehearses Wednesday, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

† **Celebration Singers:** Folk-choir for 10<sup>th</sup> grade through adults. Sing at one or two services monthly, normally at 8:00 or 9:30. Rehearses Tuesday, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



† **Cherub Choir:** Vocal choir for 4 year olds to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Sing monthly for worship. Rehearses Wednesday, currently 4:45 to 5:15 p.m.

† **SonShine Singers:** Vocal choir for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade kids. Sing monthly for worship. Rehearses Wednesday, currently 5:15 to 6:00 p.m.

† **Gloria Dei Ringers:** Handbell choir for adults and teens with some ringing experience or a modest music background. Rings monthly for worship. Rehearses Tuesday 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.



† **Brass and Woodwinds:** For instrumentalists with solid skills (adults/college age and high school with advanced skills). Rehearsals are held at various times.



# CHRISTIAN FORMATION/EDUCATION

Groups for Everyone: Newborns to Adults!



Sunday mornings at 9:30 (unless otherwise indicated)

## Newborns and Elementary (Newborns — 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

There is no nursery in the traditional sense during this hour as we have faith formation groups for all ages. Little ones from newborns to 2-years old are invited to attend the Genesis group, 2-4 years old are invited to attend the Joys group, and 4-7 years old are invited to attend the Jonah's group.

- † **Sunday Morning Faith Formation Groups:** use a Bible-based rotation curriculum that incorporates storytelling, videos, crafts and drama to reinforce multi-sensory learning, cooking and computer. Boys ages 7-10 years old: Eagles group; girls 7-10 years old: Doves group; all those 10-11 years old: the Ambassadors group.
- † **First Communion Class:** for 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents is held during the Lenten season. Younger children are welcome to participate following a parent/pastoral conversation.
- † **JAMers\*:** youth group for children in grades 2 to 5 (activities are usually held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays each month, 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the MAC). The focus is faith, fellowship and fun.

## Middle School

- † **Confirmation Program (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades):** a relational and covenanted ministry to prepare students to affirm their faith — Old and New Testament study, Luther's Small Catechism, worship, retreats, service and learning opportunities. All students in this group are invited to participate in the Alpha Teens youth group (see page 7 for more information).

*\* indicates the group meets September - May*

## High School

✠ Sr. High meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month September-May at 6 pm in the MAC. We gather for dinner and a different activity each time, including faith discussions, service projects, team building, and games. Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to come and friends are always welcome!

## Adults

### ✠ Sunday Morning Christian Formation Groups

- **Study the Gospel of Luke:** An in-depth Bible study using *Opening the Book of Faith*. Meets in the Kairos Room.
- **40-Day Journey: Readings, Reflections & Spiritual Growth:** An interactive class for adults of all ages where participants read Christian literature and discuss that perspective. Newcomers are always welcome. Meets in the Campus Room.
- **The 4 C's: Christ-Coffee-Conversation-Connecting:** A self/group-led discussion time for parents with children of all ages to come together as they review and study some of the ELCA Social Statements and support one another on the journey of being a parent. Meets in the Augsburg Room. This group is also looking at some of the ELCA Social Statements and discussing how they apply to faithful parenting. Meets in the Augsburg Room.

## Children's Church

**For Ages 3-7:** Sundays, 11:00-11:30. Children's Church is an introduction to worship and follows the Lectionary schedule. It begins in the sanctuary and then moves to the Nielsen Room (downstairs in the main church). Children rejoin their parents in the sanctuary during the offertory.



*\* indicates the group meets September - May*



## Bible Studies, Circles and Other Opportunities

- **Before Work Bible/Lectionary Study:** meets for a 50-minute look at the Lessons for the coming Sunday each Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. in Wayland Hall.
- **Ruth Sigmon Women’s Circle:** gathers for fellowship and speaker presentations, Bible study, etc. in the Augsburg Room starting the last Monday in August and then the first Monday of each month, October-May at 7:00 p.m.
- **Sophie Moeller Women’s Circle\*:** gathers for fellowship and Bible study from an identified book the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in Wayland Hall.
- **Mary/Martha Women’s Group\*:** gathers for fellowship and Bible study the first Wednesday in the “Upper Room,” and third Thursday of each month at a site announced by the hostess from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Nursery care is provided.
- **Women’s Monday Evening Bible Study\*:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 7:00 p.m. Meets in various members’ homes. All are welcome.
- **Joy of Living\*:** This women’s Bible study group meets on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Augsburg Room. It reviews and discusses weekly lessons you prepare in your home.
- **Men’s Bible Study:** This group meets every other Saturday morning at 7:30 pm in in the Augsburg Room. The group is studying the Gospel of John. More men are always welcome.
- **New Member Class:** Members invite visitors and friends to journey with us as we explore what it means to be a Christian, a Lutheran, a follower of Jesus and a member of the Muhlenberg family. Contact Linda Depoy or the Pastors in the church office. Classes normally meet on a Sunday after worship at 12:15 p.m.
- **Women’s Retreat:** Twice each year the women of Muhlenberg gather for a 24-hour experience of fun, food, fellowship, and faith development. The retreat includes singing, laughter, serious discussion, sharing, and time to cultivate friendships.
- **Library:** The library is not only a nice room in which to gather, it is also a place to borrow books, DVDs and other materials to help you with your Christian research and spiritual needs.

*\* indicates the group meets September - May*

## Vacation Bible School

† Vacation Bible School is held every June and centers on Biblical learning with service projects, crafts, games, drama, storytelling, and songs. Opportunities available for ages 3 years to adults. Members and non-members are both warmly welcomed.



**God's Love ...**

**See it!**

**Learn it!**

**Share it!**



# YOUTH AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

## Youth Groups

† **Alpha Teens\***: The youth group for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders usually meets on Sundays for fellowship, fun, learning, and service activities. The group also participates in Synodical Youth Gatherings and service events.



Alpha Teens

† **JCrew (Jesus' Crew)\***: The group for high school youth meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month at 6 pm for fellowship, planning and local mission work. The group also participates in Synodical Youth Gatherings and ongoing fund-raising to provide resources to support summer mission trip and service events.



## College Students

† **Muhlenberg Lutheran Campus Ministry**: The mission of campus ministry at Muhlenberg is to support a Lutheran ministry in higher education by inviting students into the life of the parish. The purpose of the ministry is to assist people in academic settings to discover and fulfill their vocation in Jesus Christ. Campus Ministry gathers together students and young adults to worship regularly in Word and Sacrament, participate in Bible studies, fellowship opportunities, local service projects and hosting local guest speakers. This group welcomes students from James Madison University, Bridgewater College, Blue Ridge Community College and Eastern Mennonite University and meets Wednesday evenings: worship service at 6:45 and fellowship at 7:15.



*\* indicates the group meets September - May*

# CHRISTIAN CARE SERVICES

## Pastoral Care

At one time or another, everyone confronts times of change, crisis and decision-making where going it alone is no longer an option. At those times, we need prayer and the care of a confidential listener and counselor to help us assess our situation and offer a healing word. The pastors are trained to do short-term counseling, pray and help in times of crisis. (Several Muhlenberg members have a wide array of skills and expertise to help individuals with longer-term counseling needs.)

## Pre-Baptismal Counseling and Scheduling

The pastors meet regularly with parents and candidates for Holy Baptism to share the joy and responsibility of our life in Christ.



## Pre-Marital Preparations and Weddings



Couples desiring to be married are encouraged to contact the church six to nine months in advance of their wedding day to schedule the needed facilities, receive Muhlenberg's Wedding Guidelines, meet with the pastors, and receive important information about premarital counseling.

## Funeral/Memorial Services and Advanced Directives

At the time of the death of a loved one, Christians gather to mourn, celebrate the life of their loved one and hear the promises of the Gospel. Please call the pastors at the time of a death so they may offer their presence and support, the consolation of faith and pastoral assistance in planning a funeral or memorial service. They can also provide an advanced directive form to help individuals and families carry out their wishes at the time of death, plan their funerals and other matters.

## Counseling and Care Ministry

† **Lay Communion Ministry:** Every first Sunday of the month, a devoted group of lay people gathers after worship to take consecrated Holy Communion elements to our homebound and hospitalized members.



† **Neighborhood Shepherds:** The congregation of Muhlenberg is organized into groups according to geographical areas. The neighborhood “Shepherds” provide extra support to church members in their area when needed and help spread the joy of good news.

† **Stephen Ministry** — “Christ Caring for People Through People”: Trained, equipped and commissioned lay people provide one-on-one care-giving and supportive ministry to lay persons in need. If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry, becoming a care-receiver, or training to become a Stephen Minister or Leader, please contact the Pastors or a Stephen Leader.



## Prayer Ministry

† **Prayer Chain:** This group confidentially prays for the needs of church members and their families. This ministry requires a specific request to the pastors or church administrative staff. When a request is received, it is sent to the list of subscribers via email. Requests include your name with desired detail — some requests are intentionally vague, simply for “health and healing” or “comfort during difficult times.”



† **Care and Prayer sheet:** Placement on this sheet is through individual request to the pastors or administrative staff. The sheet is available to fellow members at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area, or by requesting copies from the church office. This information is additionally used for prayers during worship services.

† **Prayer Petitions:** During Sunday services, you may offer individual prayer petitions during *Prayers* to pray for those who are ill, homebound or suffering in other ways.

# FELLOWSHIP

## Fellowship Committee:

This committee is responsible for planning events that bring the congregation together for fun, fellowship and sometimes food.

## Go-Go Group (for those over 55):



This group offers Christian fellowship for Muhlenberg's "older set." The group meets monthly for breakfast at the Thomas House in Dayton, but also has lunch get-togethers and organizes special tours to places such as Winchester or Washington, DC. Anyone over 55 is invited to attend, when they can, for lots of fellowship and fun.



## SERVICE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Service Agencies/Programs Affiliated with Muhlenberg

† **Second Home**, a before and after school educational program for latchkey kids, is a community ministry of Muhlenberg created to meet the urgent needs of impoverished families in our neighborhood. Its mission is to provide a safe, supervised, friendly place where reading and homework are required and care is available to every child in need. No child is turned away due to inability to pay. Second Home is funded through the United Way, grants, parent fees, and community donations. The program is fully licensed and staffed by certified teachers. Located in the Muhlenberg Activities Center, it is open from 6:00-8:00 am and from 2:45-6:00 pm when Harrisonburg city schools are open.



There are many opportunities for Muhlenberg members of varying interests and available time to serve: read to and listen to children read, help with homework, tutor math, greet parents and visitors at the reception desk, help with art and craft projects, work on grants, help with special events, take pictures, update the website, help prepare and set out snacks, help in the office, serve as advisers for marketing and business planning. Contact information: [secondhomeharrisonburg@gmail.com](mailto:secondhomeharrisonburg@gmail.com) or 432-7989.

- † **Harrisonburg Rockingham Child Day Care Center** for children of ages 2-5 during the school year and additionally ages 6-8 during the summer months. The mission of the day care is to provide full-day childcare with developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for children in a secure and nurturing environment with professional teachers. The Day Care is a non-profit, United Way funded agency licensed by the State of VA and can provide care for up to 111 children. Because of the United Way funding, the Day Care provides a sliding fee scale to help make tuition affordable for all families. Office located upstairs in the Church. Hours are Monday through Friday 6:30 am – 6:00 pm. Contact Director Delores Jameson at 434-5268 or [hrdaycare@verizon.net](mailto:hrdaycare@verizon.net) for more information or visit their website at [www.hrdaycare.org](http://www.hrdaycare.org).
- † **People Helping People:** Muhlenberg helped found this agency, which serves persons with emergency financial needs. It is housed on the first floor of the Muhlenberg Activities Center and is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. (433-7286)
- † **Refugee Resettlement:** This is an ecumenical ministry that helps resettle refugees from around the globe into our community and throughout Central Virginia. Tutors are needed, as well as individuals who can provide assistance, transportation, and support to new arrivals. The agency is located at 250 Elizabeth Street, Suite 109, Harrisonburg. Phone: 433-7942.
- † **Other Community Groups** such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, and Girl Scouts regularly use our facilities.

### **Liaison with Local Service Agencies:**

- † **Patchwork Pantry:** A number of Muhlenberg members are involved in this distribution of food, which occurs on Wednesday evenings at Community Mennonite Church. Food is collected during each worship service at Muhlenberg on the first Sunday each month to help supply this agency.
- † **Open Doors (formerly HARTS):** Muhlenberg participates in this rotating, weekly program that operates during cold weather months for homeless men and women in our community. Each willing church takes a week or more if they are able, hosting this event through the cold months of the year. Church members provide a home-cooked dinner, conversation and a listening ear, plus a warm place to sleep and breakfast.

- † **Friendship House:** Several times a year we provide a meal for Friendship House, which provides food for the homeless every Thursday at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.
- † **Clothes Closet/Trinity Presbyterian Church:** It has given away free clothing for more than 30 years. Muhlenberg members are responsible for the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- † **Salvation Army:** Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

In addition to these ministries, the congregation financially supports other good work such as Blue Ridge Food Bank, Blue Ridge Legal Services, CASA (Collins Center), First Step, Generations Crossing, Joy of Life, Kingsway Ministries, Mercy House, and Harrisonburg Pregnancy Center.

### **Other Congregational Programs:**

- † **Care Committee:** Nurtures and facilitates some of the avenues of care Muhlenberg members can give each other (such as coordinating funeral meals, congregational caroling, and shepherding area oversight).
- † **Comfort Making Project:** Over the past 20 years, Muhlenberg has made more than 2,500 comforters to give to local, national and international disaster relief projects. This project takes place during winter months on Thursdays.
- † **Rwanda School Project:** Muhlenberg member and ELCA Missionary Robin Strickler and her husband, Rev. John Rutsindintwarane, a Lutheran pastor from Rwanda, are living in Rwanda. Their mission is a junior-senior high school for boys and girls and community organizing in a rural area of Rwanda to help in the process of rebuilding that nation.
- † **Mission Trips:** Organized periodically to areas in need (as in the aftermath of hurricanes). Recent trips include Indian reservations, rebuilding houses throughout Virginia, assisting Habitat for Humanity, clean up in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, rebuilding houses in Mexico, and a recent trip to Rwanda.




## OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Property Committee:

- † **Workday:** Usually 1-2 times a year, the members of Muhlenberg gather to work on church projects, both indoors and outdoors. Painting, yard work and other maintenance-type tasks are tackled by this hardy group with energy, some expertise but lots of fun.
- † **Van Coordination:** Includes scheduling, maintenance & coordination of the church van.
- † **Grounds Maintenance:** Scheduled mowing and maintenance, especially April-October.

### Administrative Support:

- † **Muhlenberg Website:** The website is an excellent resource for members and visitors to learn about our ministries, upcoming events, missions, staff, church history and art. We also post newsletters and sermons.
- † **Social Media:** Muhlenberg has a Facebook page and Twitter following. Look for news, pictures, videos, events that detail Muhlenberg's rich history every week. Find us at [facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran) and follow us on Twitter @MuhlenbergLC.  
- † **Office Assistants:** This group of volunteers welcomes members and visitors to the church office and assists with general administrative support.
- † **Building Use Coordinator:** Schedules events, coordinates the campus schedule, and serves as liaison for community and support groups utilizing Muhlenberg's facilities.



## GET CONNECTED

- † Make sure we have a current email address through which you may receive electronic communications. Provide information to Linda Depoy at [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496.
- † If you do not use email, stay tuned to *The Chimes* and visit the Connection Center for updates.
- † Visit our website at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org) often for sermon postings, latest news, ministry events and more.
- † Like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran).

*Updated 7/28/15*



## **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***

