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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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January 7, 2023

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

HAPPY 175TH ANNIVERSARY

How It Began

Our anniversary year begins **TODAY (1/7)** with a journey back in time—to the late 18th century! Lutherans were settling in the Shenandoah Valley, and our namesake Peter Muhlenberg had taken leave from the congregation he served in Woodstock to command the Eighth Regiment of Virginia in the Revolutionary War.



Special guest Rev. Jonathan Boynton will be our guide to introduce us to the lives of early church leaders in the Valley, including Rev. Peter Muhlenberg and his friend, Rev. Christian Streit who served as the chaplain for Muhlenberg's regiment and later the first settled pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Winchester. You don't want to miss **Rev. Boynton's presentation in the Nielsen Room at 9:45 am!**

Worship today will be in the style of the time period, using resources from the first Lutheran hymnal and prayer book, dated 1795, that was printed in English. In the coming weeks, we'll continue our journey through history with worship in the style of various periods as listed below. *More history of the hymnal and of 1700's Lutheran worship can be found on the back of the bulletin.*

HISTORIC WORSHIP SERVICES

We'll start our yearlong celebration immersing ourselves in liturgy and music from throughout the history of the Lutheran Church in the Shenandoah Valley. Each week, we'll worship with Lutheran resources from a different era.

Today (1/7) 1790s *Hymn and Prayer Book: for the use of such Lutheran churches as use the English language*

Jan 14 1850s *Liturgy of the General Synod*

Jan 21 1920s *Common Service Book*

Jan 28 1960s *Service Book and Hymnal*

Feb 4 1980s *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Feb 11 2020s *All Creation Sings*

We look forward to experiencing these pieces of history as we learn more about our congregation's past.

~ See more about our 175th Anniversary celebration under "What's the Buzz? (cont'd)" on pages 3 & 4~

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



This Sunday is about Jesus being baptized by John the baptizer. The voice of God speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends like a dove. This story is also about us: we too have been baptized, we have heard God's loving call, and we have received the Holy Spirit and are sent out into our daily lives with the message of God's love and forgiveness.

EPIPHANY CHILI COOK OFF

TODAY (1/7), 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Join us for the third annual Epiphany Chili Cook Off in Wayland Hall and the Nielsen Room. Enter your favorite chili recipe — regular, white or vegetarian for the Muhlenberg Great Chili Cook Off! Or just attend and vote for the best chili with change and bills. Proceeds from voting will benefit Open Doors. **We will also need corn bread, salad and dessert as well as volunteers to help.** Contact Barbara Roadcap if you can help.



After dinner, there'll be a short service and Epiphany traditions like Chalking the Door and Burning of the Greens, **so bring a branch of your Christmas tree or wreath to add to the fire. Snow date: January 14.**

FOOD COLLECTION

TODAY we will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. No glass jars please. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

LAY COMMUNION

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning. They bring communion to homebound members once a month. If you are interested in receiving home communion, or if you are interested in serving as a Lay Communion Minister, please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Morrison (540-383-5085 or lindamm778@gmail.com).



You are invited to a ...

HYBRID CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28

beginning at 9:45

in person and via ZOOM

You may attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom. See next week's issue of *The Chimes* for details.

Annual Meeting Agenda:

- ✦ Review 2023 Year-End Reports*
- ✦ Elect Nominating Committee
- ✦ Recognize Outgoing Council Leaders
- ✦ Ratify changes to our Constitution*
- ✦ New Business

*Reports will be sent electronically. Hard copies will be available from the Connection Center and Connection Box (outside the Gathering Area).

Contact Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496) to have a hard copy mailed to you. *Watch The Chimes for more information and participation instructions.*

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

THE RINGING OF THE BELL



Throughout our 175th anniversary year, we return to the tradition of ringing the church bell at the start of our worship services. The sound of a church bell is a summons into a holy place, to gather in reverence to worship our Lord.

Our bell has a history almost as old as our congregation. The bell was cast by the foundry of Jones and Hitchcock in Troy, NY between 1852 - 1857 and originally installed in a church in Pennsylvania. In the late 1880s, the bell was brought to Muhlenberg and stored until it was placed on the new brick church built at N. Main and Wolfe streets. When the current building was built in the early 1950s, the bell was placed in a boiler room where it sat (except for a few years when Jim and Dolores Hoak stored it in their barn for safekeeping) until the building of the Gathering Area in 2009. In its now prominent position outside the Sanctuary, we can hear and appreciate its call to worship once more.

SIGNATURE QUILT CELEBRATES 175 YEARS

Quilting has been part of the history of the Shenandoah Valley for centuries. In fact, Harrisonburg is home to the Virginia Quilt Museum, and our own Comfort Makers have made thousands of comforts for those in need for decades. That's one of the reasons we have chosen to kick off our 175th Anniversary at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church by creating an heirloom "signature" quilt to commemorate this celebration. Signature quilts were first seen



in America in the mid-1800's about the same time Muhlenberg's congregation was formed. A family or group of friends would sign or embroider their names on small pieces of fabric which would be sewn together into a patchwork quilt.

Our first congregation of worshipers signed their names to a document forming our congregation. To mark this momentous occasion, we decided to ask members, staff and regular attendees to sign a small square of fabric which will be sewn into a much larger quilt. **We hope each member will sign a square with their first and last name and the date they joined the church.** (Lists with member join dates will be available.) Young children are welcome to sign a square if they are able or they may sign a piece of paper and we will trace their name onto the fabric. Homebound members can do the same if they are unable to sign directly on the fabric.

We view this quilt as "a moment in time" worth preserving in our church. The quilt will reflect the life and active participants of the church in 2023 - 2024 and will include all those who gather here, both young and old. Imagine 25 years from now when our then grown children can see themselves in this quilt as well as many of saints of Muhlenberg who have gone before them.

One of our newest members, Kelly Zuber, will coordinate the signing and put the quilt together. **TODAY** and continuing through January, you can visit the quilt signing table in the Gathering Area after the 8:30 am service and before and after the 11:00 am service. Kelly will sew the squares together and add embellishments such as our church logo, the Luther Rose, and ELCA emblems to the quilt next spring and summer. We hope you will sign your name just as our founders did to charter Muhlenberg 175 years ago.



MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH!

You're invited to celebrate Muhlenberg's 175 years of ministry throughout 2024!

175th Anniversary Calendar of Events

December 17, 2023: Anniversary Kick Off! We began our anniversary year with the launch of the Signature Quilt project. Sign a square for the quilt in remembrance of our ancestors in the faith who signed the charter forming Muhlenberg Lutheran Church.

January 7-February 11, 2024: Historic Worship Services We'll start the year immersing ourselves in liturgy and music from throughout the history of the Lutheran Church in the Shenandoah Valley. Each week, we'll worship with Lutheran resources from a different era, from the 1790s through today!

TODAY, January 7, 2024: Introduction to Peter Muhlenberg We welcome Pastor Jonathan Boynton to Muhlenberg for an engaging presentation on our namesake, Peter Muhlenberg, at 9:45am in the Nielsen Room.

Spring 2024: Historic Artifacts Displayed in Gathering Area See items and photographs from our past on display, and read stories of Muhlenberg throughout the years.

May 19, 2024: Happy Birthday Muhlenberg! On this Pentecost Sunday, we'll celebrate the birthday of the church with a party. We'll also welcome Virginia Synod Bishop Phyllis Milton to celebrate this milestone with us in worship.

June-July 2024: Muhlenberg's Pastors and Sons/Daughters of the Congregation Former pastors of the congregation, as well as those who have entered the ministry from Muhlenberg will be visiting throughout the summer.

Fall 2024: Tours of the Church Learn more about our history, buildings, and art with tours scheduled throughout the fall.

September 15, 2024: Homecoming Save the date for our Anniversary Homecoming Event! Gather with friends old and new for a celebratory banquet, remembrances from the past, and a look forward to the future. Every family will receive a special keepsake from this event.

Additional presentations and speakers are still being scheduled. More details about all of these events will be shared through *The Chimes*.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (1/8), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us tomorrow evening as we strengthen our ministries, plan new initiatives, and serve one another and the wider community! All are welcome in person, via [ZOOM](#) or by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

OPEN DOORS

January 7 – 11



Muhlenberg is providing meals for Open Doors which is being hosted by First Presbyterian Church on Court Square. Open Doors provides shelter for our community members in need of a safe place to stay. You can access the spreadsheet that includes the food needs and servers required to feed 50 people per night by clicking [HERE](#). Please consider helping our neighbors in need with a hot meal. For more information, please contact Sue Totty (svtotty@gmail.com or 540-478-3073).

THE WELLSPRING PODCAST

Monday, January 8, 2024

Tomorrow (1/8), the second episode of the **Wellspring Podcast** will be released. Join Pastor Alex and a weekly guest host as they break down a chapter of the book [*Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others*](#) by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky and offer an accompanying Bible study.



Last Monday, Pastor Alex introduced the new podcast in Episode 001, walking through the introduction of the book in a reflection called “*We’re All Traumatized*,” and this week in Episode 002 he is joined by **Ashley Saunders** to discuss how her work in community organizing brings perspective to “*The Collective Yes/And*” of joy and pain in meeting the needs of a community experiencing trauma.

New Episodes can be found **each Monday** at muhlenberglutheran.org/wellspringpodcast or wherever you access Podcasts! Reach out to Pastor Alex with any questions or if you’re interested in organizing a discussion group!

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10:30 am

This study gathers each week to look ahead to Sunday’s lessons and dive deeper into God’s word. Led by Pastor Lauren, meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

Or by phone ...DIAL IN – **301-715-8592** and enter Meeting ID / Passcode: **200491556#**

COMFORT MAKERS

Thursdays, 8:00 am - noon

If you can tie a knot and want to help keep your neighbors warm, come join us **Thursdays in Wayland Hall**. We work 8:00 am - 12:00 pm but welcome you any time during those hours. For more information, contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085).

FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, January 14

Join us for fellowship between services **NEXT Sunday, January 14**.

CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES

Next Sunday (1/14), 6:00 pm

All God's people are called to gather around the Word and grow together as Christ's disciples. To that end, everyone is invited to join us **NEXT SUNDAY, 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Nielsen Room** for Confirmation Class. **Dinner is provided**, and you'll have the opportunity to learn and grow while supporting our youth in this valuable season of growth. Next week's class will focus on **The Prophets: Major, Minor, & How to Read Them**. Contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) with questions!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**NEXT WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG
Sunday, January 21 at 9:45 am**

If you are new to the Muhlenberg community, or have been here awhile but would like to learn more about the congregation, please join us for a *Welcome to Muhlenberg* session **Sunday, January 21 at 9:45 am**. Learn more about the mission and ministry of the church, meet leaders, hear about ways to get involved, and take a tour of our campus. We'll also share information about membership.

Who should come to *Welcome to Muhlenberg*?

- Those who have been worshipping with us for a while and would like to officially join.
- Those who are new to the community and are considering membership, but aren't totally sure yet.
- Those who are simply curious about Muhlenberg but aren't ready to make a formal commitment.

If you're interested but unable to attend, please contact Pastor Lauren (540-434-3496 or eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) so you can receive an invitation to our next event in the spring.

HERE I AM

**Biblical Storytelling Lunch & Program
Feb. 17, 11:15, Temple House of Israel**

Temple House of Israel in Staunton and the Shenandoah Valley Biblical Storytellers Guild will provide a quick lunch and Biblical Storytelling program, *Here I am ... Hineni*. There will be four tellings with discussion afterward. To RSVP or for additional information, pick up a flyer from the Connection Center.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

Remember your baptism today. What does it mean to you to be baptized? Spend some time praying or journaling about what happens to this sacrament when the world's waters become polluted and inaccessible.

LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

**DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE
Wednesday, January 17**

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is hosting its Day for All People **Wednesday, January 17**. This is a great opportunity to learn about justice and make a difference in our laws! Join us in Richmond to meet with legislators about paid sick days, no cost communication in prisons, increasing affordable housing, and other important issues. Day for All People will run from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. **Registration** is \$40. Find more info and register at tinyurl.com/2024DfAP.

REMINDER

When inclement weather is in the forecast, we want you to remember "**SNOW**"!

Stay tuned to local news ([WHSV TV3](#) and [WSVA AM 550](#)) for church closing details, including Muhlenberg's information. Also, watch for MLC emails and social posts about cancellations, switching to online services, or other scheduled activities.



No driving when the weather is bad - it's not worth the risk, and we value our Muhlenbergs too much!

Online services will be provided as follows when in-person worship is cancelled:

- 8:30 service - we will gather by ZOOM using the "Sunday Mornings" link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>).
- 9:45 Faith Formation will likely be cancelled, but watch for specific info in church closing details. (For this Sunday, Jan. 7, the planned presentation by Pastor Jonathan Boynton will still happen via ZOOM using the link above.
- 11:00 service – we'll have two ways for you to worship online. First, you can tune in to our live-streamed service on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) as usual. (You'll see a ZOOM-led worship service by the Pastors, musicians, and lay ministers from their homes). Second, you can participate via ZOOM, using the "Sunday Mornings" link.

Write a check! Ok, maybe we're having a little fun, but we do encourage you to still make your offering by mailing your check or donating [online](#) - and thank you!

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

THANK YOU, LARRY BLADE!

Larry Blade has faithfully served as a Lay Assisting Minister (LAM) for 15 years! He's one of our "original" LAMs who has served since the role was formed. In this time, Larry has brought his many gifts of a strong and gracious presence, clear reading, attentive serving, thoughtful prayer writing, and conscientious leading. Larry is retiring from service as a LAM this morning, and we give great thanks to him for his worship leadership over the years. Well done, good and faithful servant!

CONFIRMATION CORNER

Confirmation isn't just for middle schoolers! All the baptized who have been confirmed are called to grow in faith and affirm God's promises in their life. You can support the hard work of our middle school students by reflecting on these Confirmation Corner thoughts each week. Here's a confirmation prompt for this week:

In Luther's Small Catechism with African Descent Reflections (2019, Augsburg Fortress) writers suggest that Baptismal instruction should include four things:

"*Ntesie* (hearing/keeping faith) begins the circle with word and sacrament. *Kusumadze* (the depth of things) continues the circle as one responds to the invitation through rites of passage (baptism, affirmation of baptism or confirmation, reception of new members). *Som* (service/ministry) involves one in congregational or community service so that gifts in the village are not lost. *Ekuraa* (God's village) completes the circle when one moves to full village life. Here one knows one's role, and mission/ministry occurs at all levels."

How have you experienced these things?

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent in-person and online viewership:

12/24	10:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	41
	4:00 Holy Communion	165
	7:00 Holy Communion	190
	7:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	47
	10:00 Holy Communion	55
	Total Views at 10:00 am	344
	Total Views at 7:00 pm.....	505
	Hours Viewed this Week	111.3
12/31	8:30 Holy Communion	45
	11:00 Holy Communion	57
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	31

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

In November, Gifts & Offerings and total income are higher than the previous year. We are trending in the right direction. However, expenses are higher than past years, due to increased costs to maintain and manage Muhlenberg's campus and ministries. As the year draws to a close, consider how you might make a year-end gift to support the ministry of God's work in this community.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2023			
	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budgeted	2022 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$505,128	\$ 581,167	\$467,809
Total Income	\$680,066	\$755,128	\$600,037
Total Expenses	\$747,838	\$757,340	\$588,703
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(67,722)	\$(2,212)	\$11,334

YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for your year-end gifts. We are still processing donations and December expenses and will have a final report to you next week. Thank you for your generosity to Muhlenberg.

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 8 - 14, 2023

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

Jan. 7 – 11 Open Doors

Mon	7:00 pm	Ministries Night
Tues	6:00 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via Zoom
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thu	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sun	Second Sunday after Epiphany	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation in person & via Zoom
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube



Each week, we will lift up five households from our congregation in prayer. Our prayer families for this week are:

Lora Dugard

Jacob Dunlap and Victoria Herring

Alan, Brittany, Sierra and Myles Dyer

Nate, Pastor Lauren, Donovan, Keira Miller,

Brendan Miller and Ana Eanes

Joe and Diana Eney

Please note: if you notice an unintentional omission in our list or prefer your name not be listed, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (540-434-3496 or depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)

The **weekly deadline** for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Thursday at 8:00 am**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy: (depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)