



ELCA

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 14, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

HAPPY 175TH ANNIVERSARY The General Synod in the 1850's

Today's worship service continues our journey through history that was begun last week. We saw the foundations of this service in a liturgy freshly translated from German in 1795 last Sunday, and now we worship with a liturgy that reflects a new era of the Lutheran Church in America in 1847. This liturgy was likely used in the first worship services held by the Muhlenberg congregation 175 years ago. This liturgy will feel very strange, as there is almost no congregational response apart from the hymns. With more clergy available at this time, the General Synod, which governed the Lutheran churches of the 1850s, was much more focused on equipping the clergy rather than the laity. Many aspects of worship function as a teaching tool for the congregation to be shared by the clergy alone, so we invite you to share in conversation with others today about how you experience this different style of worship, and how it compares to worship today! *See the back of the bulletin for a more in-depth history of this particular liturgy. See the Connection Center for the complete 175th Anniversary Calendar of Events.*

THANK YOU, REV. BOYNTON

Special guest Rev. Jonathan Boynton joined us last week as our guide into the lives of early church leaders in the Valley - 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.

HISTORIC WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue our yearlong celebration by 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** 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 2 & 5 ~

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

FELLOWSHIP

Join us for fellowship between services.

CHURCH ENTRY SYSTEM

Requested PIN Numbers Available



The new entry system on one of the east side Gathering Area doors has multiple phases of installation. Currently we are completing Phase 2 (*issuing PIN numbers*) and preparing for Phase 3 (*rekeying the exterior church doors*). PIN Numbers requested in November/December have been issued and are available for pickup **TODAY** (1/14) in the Gathering Area (beside the Signature

Quilt table with Kelly Zuber). Anyone who still has a key to the church building is asked to turn in their key in the lock box at the table. We plan to rekey the main church in early February.

If you have questions, please contact me (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or Sexton Jeff Williams (sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org) or call us at the church office (540-434-3496).

Linda Depoy, Parish Administrator

CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES

TODAY (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 **THIS EVENING, 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. This class will focus on **The Prophets: Major, Minor, & How to Read Them**. Contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) with questions!

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

THANK YOU, MUHLENBERG!

A heartfelt thank you for the generosity of donations you poured into Muhlenberg in the final days of 2023! Every dollar helped decrease the deficit. We appreciate your commitment to the ministry of God's work in this congregation and community. *Sarah Sunde*

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. It 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.

QUILT: COLLECTING SIGNATURES

Just as our first congregation of worshipers signed their names to a document forming our congregation, we too will sign our names to a quilt. We are asking 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** (member join dates will be available).

~ continued on page 5 ~

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be **Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 9:45am** in the Sanctuary. I hope all voting members will make every effort to attend in person or by Zoom (non-members are very welcome to attend, but are unable to vote). Adult, Middle School, and High School Sunday School classes will be canceled the morning of the 28th, while Pre-K through 5th grade classes WILL happen as scheduled and the nursery will be staffed to enable all voting members to participate.

At this meeting we will review the 2023 Year End Reports, elect the nominating committee for 2024, elect the 2024 virtual Synod Assembly attendees, recognize outgoing Council leaders, and ratify approved changes to our congregation's Constitution from November 2023's Congregational Meeting. Please review the materials provided at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting (or pick up a hard copy at church).

A quorum of at least 50 voting members is required for a congregational vote to occur. But we hope *everyone* will plan to attend this gathering to participate in the life of our community here at Muhlenberg!

Peace be with you,
Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President

You are invited to a...

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 AT 9:45 AM

You may attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom (online or by phone). *See page 4 for Zoom instructions.*

The Purpose of the Meeting:

- † **Review 2023 Year-End Reports, including the Treasurer's Report***
- † **Elect Nominating Committee**
- † **Elect 2024 Virtual Synod Assembly Attendees** *see details on page 6*
- † **Recognize Outgoing Council Leaders**
- † **Ratify Changes to Our Constitution**

*The Annual Report and the New Constitution will be available by **January 21** at the Connection Center, Connection Box, and online at

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting

To request materials be mailed to you, call Parish Administrator Linda Depoy at 540-434-3496.

ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

Join us in the Sanctuary at 9:45 am to attend the meeting in person.

ZOOM ONLINE ATTENDANCE

STEP 1: ZOOM DOWNLOAD

First, download the Zoom app. Go to <https://zoom.us/download> and follow the prompts for installation. Visit the website highlighted on page 3 for a video tutorial about Zoom.

STEP 2: ATTENDING THE MEETING

Once Zoom is downloaded, you're ready to attend the meeting:

- The meeting is **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 at 9:45 am**. Please logon up to 10 minutes before the meeting using the "Sunday Mornings at Muhlenberg" Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>
- Follow the prompts to run Zoom, and then wait for the meeting host to let you in. If for some reason Zoom doesn't open, you can always open Zoom manually, select "Join a meeting" and enter this 11-digit Meeting Code: **847 3141 6878**.
- Once you are admitted by the host, select "Join with computer audio."
- For voting, please follow the instructions of the moderator so votes can be accurately tallied.

STEP 3: ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- To assist moderators, edit your name on Zoom to include the names of all voting members in your home.
- Mute your audio (click on the "Mute" option) until you are asked to unmute.
- Make sure video is turned on so the host can see you and know you're still logged in.

ZOOM PHONE ATTENDANCE

If you can't download the app, you can always join by phone. Call the number below 5 minutes before the meeting and provide additional information as prompted:

1-929-205-6099 (Meeting ID: **847 3141 6878**)

QUESTIONS/MORE INFORMATION

- If you have questions about Zoom, please **contact Communication Minister Christian Perritt** at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org or **540-810-3996**.
- Visit our website at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting for meeting materials and additional information. To receive materials in print form, visit the Connection Center or Connection Box or contact Linda Depoy at 434-3496.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ (CONT'D)

QUILT: COLLECTING SIGNATURES (CONT'D)

Young children are asked to sign a square as they are able or they may sign a piece of paper and we will trace their name onto the fabric. Parents can sign a square for the little ones too young to sign. Homebound members can also sign on paper if they are unable to sign directly on the fabric.

We have about half the squares needed for the quilt already signed. We hope to get everyone to sign a square by the end of February so we can start constructing the quilt.

Please find Kelly Zuber, who is coordinating the signing. Stop by the quilt signing table in the Gathering Area after the 8:30 am service and before or 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.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

THE WELLSPRING PODCAST

Monday, January 15, 2024

Tomorrow (1/15), the third episode of **the Wellspring Podcast** will be released. In this week's episode (003), Pastor Alex will be joined by **Kristee Trumbo** as they break down a chapter of the book [Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While](#)



[An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While](#)

[Caring for Others](#) by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky and offer an accompanying Bible study.

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).

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG

NEXT 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 **NEXT Sunday, January 21 at 9:45 am** in Wayland Hall (downstairs). 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.

~ continued on page 6~

NEXT WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG (cont'd)

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HERE I AM

**February 17, Temple House of Israel
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

Turn off the tap! You can save 10 gallons of water every morning by simply turning off the tap when you're brushing your teeth, washing your face, or shaving.



SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS NEEDED

Each year, representatives from all ELCA congregations in the Virginia Synod gather in an Assembly to experience and express what it means to be called to be church together as the Body of Christ.

Instead of being held in the summer as in the past, the 2024 Synod Assembly will take place **Saturday, April 27, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm via Zoom**. At this assembly, we will gather for worship, hear reports from our officers, elect voting members for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, approve the 2025 Investment in Ministry Plan, approve the 2025 Compensation Guidelines, and elect Synod Council members. Muhlenberg may elect up to 6 voting members to attend the assembly, and we will hold this election at the Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28. If you are interested in attending Synod Assembly or would like more information, please contact Pastor Lauren or Congregation Council President Meg Wightman (mlccouncilpres@gmail.com).

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.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

- ✦ We collected 100 pounds of food and other goods for Patchwork Pantry last Sunday. In December, we collected 234 pounds of food and supplies for the Pantry. Thank you for your generosity, Muhlenberg!
- ✦ Many thanks to those who brought chili and fixings for the Epiphany Chili Cook Off. The Golden Ladle winners for 2024 were Pastor Lauren for Ancho Vegetarian Chili, Kelly Zuber for White Chicken Chili and Elizabeth Fletchall for Cincinnati Chili. A free will offering of \$70 was collected for Open Doors! Contact Barbara Roadcap (540-830-1896) to volunteer for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Hope to see you there!

VA SYNOD NEWS

MID-WINTER *POWER IN THE SPIRIT* February 5 - 7, 5:45 – 7:15 pm

Join members of our Synod online in an annual faith-sharing adult retreat. We will celebrate the ministries of Business/Philanthropy, Compassion for Others, and Servant Leadership via Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe.

The event is free. More information is available [HERE](#). Register for the event [HERE](#). **Please register by Saturday, January 27.**

YOUTH NEWS

VIRGINIA SYNOD YOUTH EVENT *Winter Celebration, February 2 - 4*

The Synod's annual faith-sharing retreat for 9th - 12th graders will take place at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg.

Winter Celebration includes Large Group and Small Group gatherings with lots of singing, energy, comedy, worship, and a presentation on our event theme. Find more information [HERE](#). Register for the event [HERE](#). **Register by Monday, January 22.**

7TH DAY

March 2 - 3

The Synod's annual faith-sharing event for 5th and 6th graders will take place at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg.

7th Day includes a brisk 24+ hours of songs, crafts, games, stories, and friend-making, all built around a biblical story that has been selected by the youth on our Planning Group. Find more information [HERE](#). Register online for the event [HERE](#). **Early registration ends Wednesday, February 7.**

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:

From What Should We Expect When We Read the Bible? by Dr. Darrell Jodock:

We should expect to encounter God. The Bible is like a window. It is not intended to call attention to itself. It is intended to allow us to look through it and see what God is like. The words of Scripture are like windows to help us see even more than they can say. Most basically, we should expect to find Christ there--that is, to hear what God has done for us, how God has adopted us, and how God has promised to be with us into the future.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

12/31	8:30 Holy Communion	45
	11:00 Holy Communion	57
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	31
	Total Views this Week	202
	Hours Viewed this Week	56.5
1/07	8:30 Holy Communion	Cancelled due to weather
	11:00 Holy Communion	80
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	60

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

All income and expenses have been tallied and accounted for in 2023. In closing the books, there was a significant increase in gifts and offerings compared to 2022, thank you for believing in God's mission at MLC and generously sharing your financial resources. Expenses also increased and outpaced income. Despite all of our efforts in the final days of December, we are ending the year with a large deficit and will need to look to our reserve funds. *Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 2023

	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budgeted	2022 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$585,477	\$634,000	\$516,235
Total Income	\$769,951	\$824,976	\$658,115
Total Expenses	\$811,104	\$825,590	\$655,300
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(41,153)	\$(614)	\$2,815

Funds Report 12/25/2023 – 12/31/2023

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 19,861.98
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 2,621.38
Total Giving	\$ 22,486.36

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 15 - 21, 2023

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

Mon	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Meeting
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	Third Sunday after Epiphany	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Welcome to Muhlenberg
	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:

Wayne Engel

Jesse, Sarah, Emily, Will, and Caroline Eppard

Joan Eye

Tim and Stefanie Eye

Kim Fawley

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 depoy@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: (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)