



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

Published Weekly by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church

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January 15, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

WELCOME FLO NOJARRO-BERNAL!



We are happy to welcome Flo Nojarro-Bernal to our staff at Muhlenberg! Flo will serve as a part-time Evening Sexton alongside Jim Doyle. Our three sextons work together as a team, with Jeff Williams

serving as our primary daytime Sexton with oversight of our entire facility, Jim serving as the main housekeeper for areas used by Second Home, and Flo serving as the main housekeeper for areas used by Harrisonburg Rockingham Child Day Care Center.

Flo has worked as a teacher at H-R Day Care for over 10 years, and will continue in that role during the day. She brings her attention to detail, dedication and reliability, and care and compassion for all people to her role as Evening Sexton. If you see her around the building in the late afternoon or early evening, be sure to welcome her to Muhlenberg's staff!

The Church office will be closed
Monday, January 16 in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CONGREGATION COUNCIL INSTALLATION

Our 2023 Congregation Council members will be installed this morning! They have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in our parish family. Please keep them in your prayers and joyfully work with them as you are called upon and able.

- Cathy Copeland**
- Pastor Lauren Eanes**
- Joe Grandstaff**
- Bruce Hamilton**
- Gus Kagey**
- Brad Moyers**
- Rachel Peters** *Secretary*
- Russell Presnell**
- Kevin Stees** *Vice President*
- Sarah Sunde** *Treasurer*
- Karen Thomsen**
- Meg Wightman** *President*
- Pastor Alex Zuber**

Please note Council President Meg Wightman has a new email address:

[**mlccouncilpres@gmail.com**](mailto:mlccouncilpres@gmail.com)

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!!

Today (1/15) 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 event **TODAY (1/15) at 9:45 am**. Meet leaders, hear about ways to get involved, and take a tour of our campus. We'll also share information about membership. If you're interested but unable to attend, please contact Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496) so you can receive an invitation to our next event later in the spring.

SUNDAY CLASS LOCATIONS

Pre-K – 5th Grade meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (behind the church)

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

Grades 6 - 8 ~ Augsburg Room

Devotional Classics Adult Class ~

Nielsen Room

Faith Lens High School & Adult Class ~

Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10:30 am

We gather each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons and dive deeper into God's word. Led by Pastor Lauren, we meet via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

COMFORT MAKERS

Thursdays, 8:00 am - noon

If you can tie a knot, want to help keep your neighbors warm, and have an hour or 3 to spare for others, come join us in Wayland Hall. Contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085) for details.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

NEW PHONE SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Comcast informed us the holidays unfortunately slowed things down more than anticipated for creating and installing our new phone system. The good news is the installation is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 17**. We will send out a congregation email to let you know everything is up and running, but in the meantime, **our temporary solution is working well. Please DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL** our main number (540-434-3496) anytime.



CREATION CARE TIP

In most cases, natural products are almost always the greener option, but that's not the case when it comes to starting a fire. Artificial fire logs emit 75 percent less carbon monoxide and create 80 percent less particulate matter than real wood. The faux fireplace logs, giving off up to 15,190 BTU per pound, are more efficient at heating your home compared to oak which gives off 8,300 BTU per pound.



HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Greetings church friends,

Muhlenberg's Congregational Meetings occur at least twice a year in January and November. This year our January meeting will be **Sunday, January 29 at 9:45 am between services**, with Christian Formation canceled for grades 6 and up so all members are free to participate. Non-members are encouraged to come as well. As we have done in past years, we will hold a hybrid meeting, with in-person attendance in the sanctuary and remote attendance by Zoom or by phone.

I look forward to seeing you all!

Peace be with you,

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President



You are invited to a...

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 9:45 AM

You may attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom (online or by phone).

The Purpose of the Meeting:

- † **Review 2022 Year-End Reports, including the Treasurer's Report***
- † **Elect Nominating Committee**
- † **Elect this summer's Synod Assembly Representatives**
- † **Recognize Outgoing Leaders and VIPs**
- † **Hear Personnel Committee's plan for hiring our new Music Minister**
- † **New Business**

*Reports will be sent electronically and are available from our website starting Sunday, January 22:
www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting.

Hard copies will be available at the Connection Center and Connection Box (outside the Gathering Area) starting next Sunday, January 22. To have a hard copy mailed to you, contact Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

~see next page for participation instructions~

ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE:

Join us in the Sanctuary to attend the meeting in person.

ZOOM ONLINE ATTENDANCE:

STEP 1: ZOOM DOWNLOAD / PHONE OPTION

First, download the Zoom app. Go to <https://zoom.us/download> and follow the prompts for installation, as with any downloaded program. Click [HERE](#) 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 on Sunday, January 29 at 9:45 am.** Please logon approx. 5 minutes before the meeting using this 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 this meeting, you may be separated into different "breakout rooms" (small groups) for member voting. This will happen automatically – there's nothing you need to do. Each breakout room will have a moderator. For voting, please follow the instructions of the moderator so votes can be accurately tallied. You will then be automatically sent back to the main meeting room.

STEP 3: ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- To assist moderators, edit your name on Zoom to include the names of all voting members in your home. Click [HERE](#) for a video tutorial about Zoom.
- Mute your audio (click on the "Mute" option) until you are asked to unmute for voting, etc.
- 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 Congregational Meeting website starting next week, Sunday, January 22, for meeting materials and additional information. Materials will be available in print form, and can be picked up at the Connection Center, Connection Box or contact Linda Depoy.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS NEEDED

Each year, representatives from all of the ELCA congregations in the Virginia Synod gather to experience and express what it means to be called to be church together as the Body of Christ, through attending to necessary items of business, experiencing corporate worship, and engaging in fellowship and faith formation. This year also includes the special business of electing a new bishop, as Bishop Bob Humphrey retires. Synod Assembly will be held Friday, June 9 through Sunday, June 11, 2023 at Roanoke College. Muhlenberg may elect up to 6 voting members to attend the assembly, and we will hold this election at the congregational meeting January 29. If you are interested in attending Synod Assembly or would like more information, please contact Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) or Congregation Council President Meg Wightman (mlccouncilpres@gmail.com).

A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS: PREPARING FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY TOGETHER January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, & May 22 from 7:00 - 8:15 pm on Zoom

As Virginia Lutherans prepare to gather for the 2023 Synod Assembly, everyone is invited to join in a five-session bible study to explore the theme, *The Way in the Wilderness*. God is always with God's people, including joining us in all the wildernesses of life. Jesus calls us in various ways to share God's expansive love in our unique contexts. We are united in the wilderness, even if our journeys are different.

In each session, participants will hear a story about God's presence in the wilderness, learn how that story has impacted a synod leader, and have the opportunity to share their wilderness stories too. Each session will help prepare our hearts and minds for the Synod Assembly, assured of God's presence with us as individuals and together as a synod.

Everyone is welcome to attend: Lay and rostered, voting member or visitor. Even if you won't be onsite for the Assembly in June, you are welcome to join the conversation. Portions of the sessions will be recorded and shared.

Session leaders include Bishop Bob Humphrey, Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick (Assistant to the Bishop), Pastor John Wertz Jr. (Director for Evangelical Mission), Charles Downs (Synod Council President), and Blythe Scott (Synod Council Secretary).

YOUTH NEWS

VIRGINIA SYNOD YOUTH EVENT Winter Celebration, January 27-29

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. You can find more information [HERE](#) and register for the event [HERE](#). **Please register by THIS Monday, January 16.**

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 (540-434-3496 or depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

- ⋮ Please pray for the family of Janet Yeich who passed away December 28. Jan and her husband John became associate members in 2017. A service of remembrance will be held on All Saints Day at Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market where they also held membership.



DIGITAL MINISTRY

*To help share information from our social media with those who don't have access or may have missed it, we are starting this new column in *The Chimes*. Here is some recent information from Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) page.*

Here are some of our Christmas Memories, to remember the fun we had together!



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thank you, Muhlenberg, for your help in welcoming our neighbors for a Community Christmas Dinner. Over 100 guests were served a lovely Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Thirty-one volunteers were present to help cook, plate, and serve the food. A very special "Thank You" to Linda Morrison and Barbara Roadcap for planning the menu, purchasing the food and making sure that everything was cooked to perfection. Many more of you who couldn't be present on Christmas Day donated cookies, gift cards, and small items for our prize table. The games played were a huge hit and enjoyed by everyone young and old. We made some new friends and strengthened our ties with Our Community Place and Open Doors. Thanks to you, Muhlenberg, our Community Christmas Dinner was a joyful event.

EPIPHANY CHILI COOK OFF

The Chili Cook Off held on Epiphany was a huge success with 10 pots of chili, the judging of which benefited People Helping People with approximately \$170 in donations! Golden Ladle awards were presented to Krisztina Szekely and Paul Boisen for vegetarian chili, The Perritt family for the meat chili and to The Carneal Family in the white chili category. Thirty-five folks enjoyed good food and fellowship. Some people stayed for the Chalking of the Door and Burning of the Greens as well. Hope to see you there next time!



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

1/1	10:00 Holy Communion	65
	10:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	24
	Total Views this Week	148
	Hours Viewed this Week	42.6
1/8	8:30 Holy Communion	82
	11:00 Holy Communion	73
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	29

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Thank you for your generosity in November as we saw an increase in gifts and offerings and are hopeful that will continue in December and the new year. As the end of the fiscal year approaches, I believe Muhlenberg is in a position to finish the year with a balanced budget if expenses remain stable and gifts and offerings increase this month. Please prayerfully consider Muhlenberg for additional year end contributions.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2022

	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget	2021 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$470,929	\$581,167	\$529,634
Total Income	\$585,087	\$704,711	\$614,904
Total Expenses	\$579,562	\$799,558	\$716,028
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$5,525	\$(94,847)	\$(101,124)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 14,159.60
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1539.89
Total Giving	\$ 15,699.49



To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 16 - 22, 2023

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

Mon	Church office closed 6:30 pm Congregation Council Meeting
Tues	6:30 pm Celebration Singers 7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am Bible Study via Zoom 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir
Thu	8:00 am Comfort Makers
Sun	Third 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:

Carl Holyfield

Sam, Katy, Grayson, and Kendall Hopkins

Barry and Rose Horner

Mark and Stephanie Hudy

Jo Ann Huffman

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) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran)