



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 21, 2024**

## **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

### **WHAT'S THE BUZZ?**

#### **HAPPY 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

#### **A Common Service Book in the 1920s**

Today's worship service continues our journey through history. We've experienced worship from 1795 and 1847; today we jump forward to a liturgy from 1917's *Common Service Book*, produced by the United Lutheran Church in America. While last week's worship felt sparse and clergy-focused, this week's worship reflects huge changes that came about through liturgical renewal in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, including a much fuller liturgy and far more congregational involvement. You can find a more in-depth history of this particular liturgy on the back cover of today's worship booklet.

Some hymnals we are using for this series are on display today in the Gathering Area, including original hymnals from 1854, 1896, and 1917 and 1919 and a reproduction of a hymnal from 1847.

*See the Connection Center for the complete 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar of Events.*

### **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** 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.

### **THANK YOU, MUHLENBERG!**

A heartfelt thank you for the generous donations poured into Muhlenberg in the final days of 2023! Every dollar helped decrease the deficit. We appreciate your commitment to our ministries of God's work.

Your eyes are not deceiving you; the 2023 deficit is a bit smaller than reported last week. We reviewed fund accounts and were able to transfer money from one of those into the 2023 operating budget to decrease the deficit. Thank you for your patience as we finalize and close the books on 2023. *Sarah Sunde, Treasurer*

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG

TODAY (1/21), 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 **TODAY (1/21) 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.

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](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)) so you can receive an invitation to our next event in the spring.

## CHURCH ENTRY SYSTEM

### Requested PIN Numbers Available



The new entry system on one of the east side Gathering Area doors is in Phase 2 of installation (*issuing PIN numbers*) and we're preparing for Phase 3 (*rekeying the exterior church doors*). PIN Numbers requested have been issued and are available for pickup **TODAY (1/21)** in the Gathering Area (beside the Signature Quilt table). 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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)) or Sexton Jeff Williams ([sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org)) or call us at the church office (540-434-3496).

*Linda Depoy, Parish Administrator*

## 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).

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.

## HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be **NEXT 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 28<sup>th</sup>, while Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 NEXT 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](http://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 **NEXT 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](mailto:perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) or **540-810-3996**.
- Visit our website at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting](http://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.

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

We give thanks for all who labored with great attention to detail on our updated Constitution which led to our first congregational vote in November 2023. Our plan had been to ratify this Constitution at next week's congregational meeting. However, this past week it was discovered that several small items that should have been in the version on which we voted were accidentally omitted.

While none of these minor omissions should be controversial or problematic to add in, we do want to follow the proper procedure, which requires the ratification vote to be done without change to the document approved at the first vote. Therefore, next Sunday's Constitution vote will be an approval vote on the (newly) updated Constitution, which will be identical to the one we approved in November except for these two small additions. A second ratification vote will be scheduled in the spring.

Thanks for your understanding, and thanks for your participation in these votes!

### THE WELLSPRING PODCAST Monday, January 22



**Tomorrow (1/22)**, the fourth episode of **the Wellspring Podcast** will be released. In this week's episode (004), Pastor Alex will be joined by Micah Krey, Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Cockeysville, MD 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.

New episodes can be found **each Monday** at [muhlenberglutheran.org/wellspringpodcast](http://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

Led by Pastor Lauren, this study gathers each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons and dive deeper into God's word. Meets 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](mailto:lindamm778@gmail.com) or 540-383-5085).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### HERE I AM

**February 17, Temple House of Israel  
Biblical Storytelling Lunch & Program**  
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

### 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 **NEXT 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](mailto:mlccouncilpres@gmail.com)).

### CREATION CARE TIP

 In 1967, Lady Bird Johnson said, “The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest. It is the one thing all of us share.” We should do our part to protect the planet for generations to come. Consider small, yet meaningful lifestyle changes that can help save the earth.

1. Use reusable grocery bags instead of plastic.
2. Use less paper when you can.
3. Invest in a reusable water bottle instead of buying water in disposable plastic bottles.

~continued next week~

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee is seeking people to join our committee. The committee plans and carries out social activities for the church including the Epiphany Chili Cook-off, Shrove Tuesday, church picnic and Sunday fellowship. Contact Barbara Roadcap (540-830-1896) to learn more. We would love to have you join us!

## 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 **THIS Saturday, January 27**.

## YOUTH NEWS

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

The Synod’s annual faith-sharing retreat for 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 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 **TOMORROW, Monday, January 22**.



## 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY March 2 - 3

The Synod's annual faith-sharing event for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take place at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. 7<sup>th</sup> 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:*

#### **2. We should expect to discover what can be called "the first language of faith."**

The Bible supplies us with a vocabulary to talk about God and what it means to be the people of God. It supplies us with a vocabulary for talking with God through prayer and worship. Biblical language conveys a different understanding of the world than does nonbiblical language. For example, think about how we describe nature or the natural world we live in. The Bible says that God created it. The Bible helps us view the world as a gift from God, and we are called to take care of that gift, for the benefit of others.

## REMINDERS

### FAITHFUL QUESTIONS

We offer the opportunity for you to ask faithful questions! In the pews and at the Connection Center, you'll find light purple cards, where you are invited to ask questions whenever one arises. Any question is welcome! Place your purple card in the Offering Plate or in the purple lock box at the Connection Center. Only the Pastors have access to this box. Questions can also be asked digitally using [THIS GOOGLE FORM](#). If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to the Pastors.



### ACCESS SERMONS ONLINE

Following the Narrative Lectionary allows us to tell a continuous story of faith week after week. If you missed or would like to revisit a particular sermon, you can find a [playlist on YouTube](#) that is updated weekly. Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) to see the sermons posted, and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#).

### PRAYER CARDS



Prayer Requests

You can find prayer request cards in the back inside cover of the worship book in your pew or at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area.

On the form, you will see that one option is to share the prayer request with the "prayer chain." Our prayer chain is an email group that receives and covenants to pray for requests, as well as holding them confidential. To receive prayer chain emails (average of 3 per week), contact Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

1/7	8:30 Holy Communion .....	Cancelled due to weather
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	80
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	60
	Total Views this Week .....	244
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	86.8
1/14	8:30 Holy Communion .....	62
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	95
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	32

### 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 Muhlenberg 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	\$774,951	\$824,976	\$658,115
Total Expenses	\$811,286	\$825,590	\$655,300
<b>Excess Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(36,335)</b>	<b>\$(614)</b>	<b>\$2,815</b>

### Funds Report 1/1/2024 – 1/14/2024

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 20,433.20
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 2,023.03
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 22,456.23</b>

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 22 - 28, 2024

*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 <a href="#">Zoom</a>
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thu	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sun		<b>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b>
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Hybrid Annual Meeting of the Congregation
	9:45 am	Christian Formation in person & via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>



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

*Yadie Febres*

*Linda Fischer*

*Elizabeth, Will, Benjamin, and Matthew Fletchall*

*Andrew and Grace Foote*

*William E. Fowler*

*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](mailto: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](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org) /540-434-3496)