



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 22, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Your Congregation Council had a packed agenda this month, full of the "start of the calendar year" details. Highlights include:

- Approving our new Personnel Committee Chair, Greta Willis.
- Approving our new Financial Secretary, Alison Raines (see introduction in next column) to work with Treasurer Sarah Sunde, Assistant Financial Secretary Pete Weaver, and staff Finance Manager Jane Eanes.
- Approving our Music Minister Search Committee: Greta Willis, Kevin Stees, Judith Ofcarcik, Liam Wightman, Malcolm Wilfong, and Pastor Lauren (details regarding the search process and job description will be presented at our January 29 Congregational Meeting).
- Raising awareness that 2024 will be the 175th Anniversary of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church's birth. Party Planning forthcoming.

Council President Meg Wightman

mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY

We're excited to welcome Alison Raines as our new Financial Secretary! Council approved Alison Raines to serve a 3-year term in this role. Alison is a retired budget analyst for the federal government, where her duties included pulling together lots of numbers for managers to use. A lifelong Lutheran, she's been a member of Muhlenberg since she and her husband retired and moved to Harrisonburg in 2015.



Alison steps into this position following Gary Calleo's retirement as Financial Secretary. We give many thanks to Gary for his faithful service over the past 2 years!

NEW ALTAR GUILD COORDINATOR



We're excited to welcome Darcy Tyrrell as our new Altar Guild Coordinator! Darcy brings incredible organizational skills to this role, where she'll keep track of supplies, schedules, and volunteers. Also a lifelong Lutheran, she's been a member of Muhlenberg since she and her husband

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WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

moved to Harrisonburg from New Jersey in 2014. They have four children and two grandchildren. Darcy shares that she looks forward to serving the church with current and new volunteers. (So you're invited to take the hint, and join the Altar Guild!)

WELCOME FLO NOJARRO-BERNAL!



We are happy to welcome Flo Nojarro-Bernal to our staff at Muhlenberg! Flo is serving 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.

Be sure to welcome her to Muhlenberg's staff if you see her around the building!

NEW PHONE SYSTEM INSTALLED

Our new phone system has been installed! Comcast was on site Tuesday and two technicians worked most of the day to install 20 new phones on Muhlenberg's campus.



So please call us, even if it's just to say hello! We miss hearing from you and, frankly, would like the practice answering our new phones.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

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

Meet weekly in Wayland Hall. Contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085).

LOCAL AND GLOBAL:

OUR COMMUNITY PLACE LUNCH

Friday, January 27, 11:30 am

Our Community Place (OCP) is a wonderful organization whose mission is to build a safe, loving community of restoration and hope for all, especially those facing homelessness and other adverse experiences. **You're invited to join with other Muhlenbergers and friends for lunch at OCP THIS Friday January 27.** The OCP Friday Lunch Restaurant is open

11:30 - 1:30 and serves a delicious 3-course meal for just \$10 per dinner. The restaurant provides work for OCP's Kitchen industries employees, meaningful training for OCP's community, support for OCP programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.

We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) at **11:30 am**. Please sign up at the Connection Center or contact Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431) if you plan to attend so we can make reservations. You can also let Karen know if you need a ride to OCP. Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Hope to see you on Friday at OCP!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP Saturday, February 4, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you basic stitches! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283).

MEET THE SHEPHERDS

Sunday, February 5, Between Services

Join the Care Committee in the Gathering Area for meet, greet, and get to know "your" visit area. Lists of area members, Shepherds, and the map itself will be available. If you are motivated, please talk to one of us about becoming an area Shepherd in 2023. It is a rewarding job with little stress and BIG rewards. Get to know people and help them as

the need arises! Nothing is too difficult and remember: you are never alone in this caring congregation!

MUHLENBERG NEWS

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

We need worship servants: lecturers, crucifers, communion assistants, ushers/greeters, sound techs, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center for **February**. Signing up really helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or contact Kathy Thompson (540-578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu). If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:



[Worship + Serve in Worship](#)

CREATION CARE TIP

Caring for GOD'S earth
Clean your refrigerator coils. The coils hold liquid that cools the air inside the refrigerator. It takes a lot more energy to cool the refrigerator when the coils are covered with lint and dust. Refrigerator coils should be cleaned at least twice a year. Pull the refrigerator out from the wall. Vacuum out all the dust, and then wipe down the coils with a damp cloth. In just a few minutes, you can cut your refrigerator's energy use by up to 6 percent!

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 **NEXT 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

NEXT 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:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting.

The Annual Report will be emailed and posted to our website this week. Hard copies will be available at the Connection Center and Connection Box (outside the Gathering Area) THIS Wednesday, Jan. 25. To have a hard copy mailed to you, contact Linda Depoy (540-434-3496 or depoj@muhlenberglutheran.org).

~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 NEXT 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](#) for meeting materials and additional information. Materials will be available in print form **THIS Wednesday (1/25)**, and can be picked up at the Connection Center, Connection Box or by contacting Linda Depoy.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS NEEDED



Each year, representatives from all 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 - Sunday, June 11** 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, please email Pastor Lauren a paragraph introducing yourself, your involvement with the church (both here and wider church) and why you'd like to serve as a Voting Member no later than THIS Wednesday, January 25. These bios will be shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting. If you'd like more information about Synod Assembly, contact Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) or Congregation Council President Meg Wightman (mlccouncilpres@gmail.com).

FAITH IN ACTION

CHILD CARE ACTION TEAM MEETING

Are you a parent, grandparent, or teacher who is concerned about the need for quality, affordable child care in Harrisonburg/Rockingham? Would you like to partner with others to see what our community can do to address this need? Join Pastor Lauren and others from Muhlenberg at the Faith in Action Child Care Action Team meeting Tuesday, January 31 at 5:30 pm at Massanutten Presbyterian. We'll hear about conversations that have happened so far, and start working for solutions together with people from other local faith communities. Please let Pastor Lauren know if you can attend.

VA SYNOD NEWS

MIDWINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT January 30 – February 1

Join members of our Synod online in an annual faith-sharing adult retreat. We will explore how you can bring the Beatitudes into the modern world with a fresh look at Jesus' words for you today through the morning devotions, digital workshops, and worship.

This is a free event. You can find more information [HERE](#) and register for the event [HERE](#). **Please register by THIS Thursday, January 26.**

A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS: PREPARING FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY TOGETHER

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*. The study will be held **Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, & May 22 from 7:00 - 8:15 pm on Zoom**. 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, 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).

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.

Last Sunday, we installed our Congregation Council for 2023. Please join us in thanking them for their service.



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

1/8	8:30 Holy Communion	82
	11:00 Holy Communion	73
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	29
	Total Views this Week	123
	Hours Viewed this Week	49.2
1/15	8:30 Holy Communion	63
	11:00 Holy Communion	66
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	33

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Praise be to God, the 2022 fiscal year ended with a surplus of \$11,287! Thank you for your contributions and support for the Muhlenberg ministries, we could not have done this without you! The surplus will support the deficit in the approved 2023 budget and what's remaining will be placed in the contingency fund account. Expenses remained comparable to past years.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 2022

	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget	2021 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$527,522	\$615,000	\$626,451
Total Income	\$669,403	\$703,750	\$715,180
Total Expenses	\$658,116	\$889,411	\$789,277
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$11,287	\$(185,661)	\$(74,097)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 10,917.54
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,319.89
Total Giving	\$ 12,237.43



To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 23 - 29, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Staff 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
Fri	11:30 am	Lunch at OCP
Sun		Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Congregational Meeting
	9:45 am	Christian Formation for grades 5 and under
	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:

Sonny and Jean Huffman, Jr
Howard Hulvey
Pastor Bob & Barbrea Humphrey
Jon and Beth Jarrells
Marilynn Jarrells

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