



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 28, 2024**

## **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

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

#### **HAPPY 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal***

Today's worship service continues our journey through history. We've experienced worship from 1795, 1847, and 1917; today we jump forward to the liturgy from 1958's *Service Book and Hymnal*. For some, this will feel like a return to an old familiar friend! We've replicated almost in its entirety a worship service that happened at Muhlenberg on January 21, 1968. We're using the same liturgy and hymns from that day, as well as the same special music, including the prelude, postlude, and choir anthem! We're also welcoming back the guy who led our music that day, Minister of Music Emeritus Don Smith. (Unfortunately, the acolyte from 1968 is out of town this weekend; we'd hoped to have him give a repeat performance!) You can find more information about the *Service Book and Hymnal*, as well as a reproduction of the bulletin from January 21, 1968, in today's worship booklet.

Hymnals we are using for this series are on display in the Gathering Area—check them out to hold a piece of history in your hands!

*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** 1958 *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.

### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL NEWS**

Our Congregation Council has been working long hours this past week. Beginning with a half-day Council Retreat in which we got to know each other better, as well as the roles and responsibilities of a Council. We adopted a Council Covenant, laying out our promises to God, the Congregation, and each other. We began the process of determining how God is calling us to focus our energies this coming year.

~continued on page 4~

## HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be **TODAY (1/28) at 9:45 am** 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 this morning, 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 TODAY (1/28) AT 9:45 AM

You may attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom (online or by phone). *See page 3 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** *see details on page 4*

\*The Annual Report and the New Constitution are available at the Connection Center, Connection Box, and online at

[www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting)

To request an Annual Report by mail, 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 **TODAY (1/28) 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.

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — AN UPDATED UPDATE!

Last week, we shared that we discovered a few minor omissions in the copy of the revised constitution that was presented to the congregation in November. Because of this discovery, we anticipated needing to delay our ratification of the constitution. However, upon further research and review, including legal review from the VA Synod, we are confident that the accidental omissions can indeed be corrected at our congregational meeting this Sunday, and a ratification vote can appropriately occur. A thorough explanation of the minor additions (things like a missing asterisk, and a simple line in the “confession of faith” section that is in our current constitution but through a clerical error was accidentally deleted from the updated copy that went out to the congregation) will be given at the meeting before any vote takes place. You can read through the final version of the amended constitution on our website at [muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting). Please contact Brad Moyers, Cathy Copeland, or Pastor Lauren if you have any questions before the meeting.

### QUILT: COLLECTING SIGNATURES

Please remember to stop by the Gathering Area today to sign a small square of fabric which will be sewn into a much larger quilt for our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 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 hope to get everyone to sign a square by the end of February so we can start constructing the quilt, so please find Kelly Zuber, at 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.

### WHAT’S THE BUZZ (CONT’D)

#### CONGREGATION COUNCIL NEWS (CONT’D)

At our January 22 Congregation Council meeting, we:

1. Voted to approve a new term as Assistant Financial Secretary for Pete Weaver
2. Voted to approve a standing resolution for our standing committees, ministries, and task forces and assigned council liaisons for 2024
3. Voted to approve a slate to serve as Nominating Committee
4. Voted to approve a slate of 4 of the 6 April 27 Synod Assembly Representatives
5. Determined together how to proceed with our Muhlenberg Constitution ratification and intend that Muhlenberg Bylaws will be updated this coming year
6. Planned for the Congregational meeting

Peace be with us all as we walk together in love as a congregation and Congregation Council

Meg Wightman

Congregation Council President

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

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### THE WELLSRING PODCAST

Monday, January 29



In the fifth episode of the **Wellspring Podcast**, Pastor Alex will be joined by Karen Barnes 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. 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 – 12 noon

Join us **Thursdays in Wayland Hall**. For more information, contact Linda Morrison ([lindamm778@gmail.com](mailto:lindamm778@gmail.com) or 540-383-5085).

### PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

Saturday, February 3, 10:00 am

Muhlenberg's Prayer Shawl Knitting Group continues to knit/crochet hats for Open Doors along with prayer shawls during February. We invite Muhlenberg knitters, knitting at home, to join us in this project. Hats and prayer shawls may be brought to the church when finished or

call Jackie Wells (540-434-6283) if you wish to have them picked up at your home.

### FOOD COLLECTION

**NEXT SUNDAY (2/4)**, we will collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. Also needed are paper products, cleansers, diapers, and personal hygiene products. Check the [Giving Page](#) on our website for a full list of acceptable items. Monetary donations are also appreciated; make checks payable to Muhlenberg noting *Patchwork Pantry* on the memo line.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday, February 13, 6:00 pm



Pancakes will be flipping! The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be February 13, starting at 6:00 pm. Join us in the MAC for an evening celebration and information in preparation for Lent. Volunteers welcomed!! Contact Barbara Roadcap (540-830-1896 or [bbroadcap@gmail.com](mailto:bbroadcap@gmail.com)) if you can help.

### 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 **TODAY (1/28)**. 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

~continued from last week~



Lady Bird Johnson said in 1967, "The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest. It is the one thing all of us share." Consider small, yet meaningful lifestyle changes that can help save the earth.

- Eat less meat.
- Compost your food waste.
- Choose quality clothing & repurpose them!
- Consider alternative transportation options.
- "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle."

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The Fellowship Committee is seeking people to join us. 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](#).

## 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](#).

## 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:*

**We should expect a language rich in metaphor.** In the Bible we find many metaphors, such as the "lamb of God," the "rock of our salvation," the "bread of life," and the "way." We should not expect to read the Bible simply as a textbook. The Bible uses languages and stories rich in metaphors that point to God. That lively language enlivens our sense of ourselves in relation to our neighbors and the world.

## REMINDER

### SERMON AND WORSHIP NOTES

One element of the Confirmation process is a responsibility to be engaged with worship. This call to gather around word and sacraments is essential for all baptized, so we are delighted to equip our community with tools for engaging in deeper reflection. On a table in the Gathering Area you will find templates of Sermon and Worship Notes. There are three styles:

**Comic Style:** *Bam! Pow! Thwip!* Like a comic book, this page is for jotting down quick thoughts, reflections, or doodles as they help you reflect on what you heard! Comic books use few words to share big ideas, so use this space well! "*With great power comes great responsibility.*"

**Journal Style:** For those who like to write out thorough notes, the journal style Sermon Notes offer space for thoughtful reflection. Bring your previous knowledge and new revelations as you consider how you will carry the gospel into your daily life. For those worshipping digitally, this style of Sermon Notes is a [Google Form!](#)

**Artistic Style:** If a picture's worth a thousand words, you'll pack a lot of words as you freely draw your reflections on any part of worship that resonated with you. Then share your art with someone after worship, and discuss why you chose to express your reflections in this way! Art can be a powerful tool for a deeper reflection than words can encompass.

Confirmands may turn their notes in to the Confirmation mailbox in the Administrative Hallway or hand it to Pastor Alex on the way out. Your thoughtful response to God's word is deeply appreciated.

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

1/14	8:30 Holy Communion .....	62
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	95
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	32
	<b>Total Views this Week .....</b>	<b>188</b>
	<b>Hours Viewed this Week .....</b>	<b>54.7</b>
1/21	8:30 Holy Communion .....	61
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	75
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	39

### 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>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 8,560.83
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 248.44
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 8,809.27</b>

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 29 — February 4, 2024

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

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 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Food Pantry, Lay Communion &  
Name Badge Sunday

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 in prayer five households from our congregation. Our prayer families for this week are:

*Steve Frysinger*

*Jeremy, Lauren, Isla, Tucker, Rowan,  
and Oliver Fuller*

*Gary and Pat Furr*

*Sarah Furr*

*Helen Gaiewski*

*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)