



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 29, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

PRAYERS FOR WINTER CELEBRATION

We remember in our prayers today the youth and adult leaders who are representing Muhlenberg at the Virginia Synod's youth event, Winter Celebration. Thanks to Jacob Dunlap, Victoria Herring, and Pastor Alex for shepherding our youth this weekend!

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Join us **TODAY at 9:45 am** for the Annual Meeting. *See pages 2 - 3 for details.*

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 Congregational Meeting today).
- 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 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE CHAIR

We welcome Greta Willis as our new Chair of the Personnel Committee. Greta recently finished serving on council (including 2 years as Secretary, 2 years as Vice-President, and 1 year as President!) and now brings her leadership gifts to



our Personnel Committee. Thank you, Greta! And many thanks to the outgoing Personnel Committee Chair Mark Warner for his 3 years of faithful service in that role.

~continued on page 4 ~

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

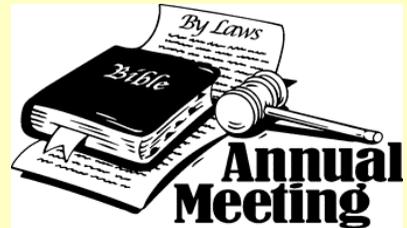
Greetings church friends,

Muhlenberg's Congregational Meetings occur at least twice a year in January and November. This year our January meeting is **TODAY 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

TODAY (1/29) 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 was emailed and posted to our website last week. Hard copies are available at the Connection Center and Connection Box (outside the Gathering Area). 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 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 are available in print form, 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.

Bios from those interested in attending Synod Assembly will be shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

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)

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

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 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!)

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. Comforts are made with sheets. Anyone wishing to donate gently used sheets, contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085).

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).

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER

Next Sunday, February 5



We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all-purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DO YOU WANT TO BE A SHEPHERD?

Annual Shepherds' Meeting

February 12, 9:45 am

The Care Committee has a "Shepherd" ministry. Muhlenberg members are divided into geographical areas, each having a Shepherd or co-Shepherds (*fellow members who live in that area*). We work to build connections and relationships, and get to know each other as well as support each other as needed.

If you are interested, please contact Care Committee members Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085) or Sandy Randolph (cerprek@gmail.com or (540) 820-9654), or consider joining us **Sunday, February 12, 9:45 – 10:45 am** in Wayland Hall for the Annual Shepherd meeting. If you're interested in attending via Zoom, please let Linda or Sandy know.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

NEW PHONE SYSTEM INSTALLED!



Our new phone system has been installed! Comcast was on site January 17 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.

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

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.

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.

YOUTH NEWS

VIRGINIA SYNOD YOUTH EVENT 7th Day, March 4 - 5

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

Seventh Day includes Large Group and Small Group gatherings with lots of singing, energy, comedy, worship, and a presentation on our event theme. Our own Billy Perritt is on the planning group for the event, so we hope you'll come! You can find more information [HERE](#) and register for the event [HERE](#). **Early registration ends Monday, February 6.**

VA SYNOD NEWS

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).

RESERVING ALTAR FLOWERS

We offer the opportunity to reserve your special dates to remember or honor a loved one by providing funding for altar flowers! We ask you to sign up for both flower vases at **\$60 per week**. You are welcome to partner with another family to share the cost and worship booklet designation.



Please sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center or online by clicking [HERE](#). If you have questions, please contact Louise Layman (louiselayman@yahoo.com or 540-442-1524) to sign up. **Note: Sign-ups close on Sundays for the upcoming week.**

We request payment at the time of signup. Please make checks payable to Muhlenberg with *Altar Flowers* on the memo line. Place your check in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the church office.

REMINDER

DIAL 988

MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS ASSISTANCE



You can now dial 988 and get directly connected to a counselor who can assist you in a mental health or substance abuse crisis. This new easy dial hotline became universal across the United States in July. A 911 phone call still connects you to a dispatcher for police, fire, and ambulance calls. Read more about 988 through this link to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

1/15	8:30 Holy Communion	63
	11:00 Holy Communion	66
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	33
	Total Views this Week	184
	Hours Viewed this Week	46.7
1/22	8:30 Holy Communion	57
	11:00 Holy Communion	70
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	46

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	\$ 7,929.06
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 2,009.43
Total Giving	\$ 9,938.49



To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 30 – February 5, 2023

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

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
Sat	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group
Sun		Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
		Food Pantry Sunday
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
		<i>Between Services ~ Meet the Shepherds</i>
	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:

Louise & TW Johnson

Buddy Jones

Scott Jost & Kathy Holm

Roger & Gus Kagey

Bill & Jody Keller

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)