



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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May 30, 2021

THE HOLY TRINITY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our new summer schedule with in-person worship opportunities continues today! See pages 3-7 or visit our [WEBSITE](#) for details.

8:30 am Hybrid Service
in the Sanctuary AND on Zoom

10:00 am Outdoor Service

Ott St. Parking Lot (behind MAC)

11:00 am Worship
on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

Council met May 17 and report the following:

- Council elected Gary Calleo to a 3-year term as Financial Secretary beginning July 1, 2021. Thank you, Gary, for your willingness to serve Muhlenberg in this role.
- Council heard from Personnel Committee Chair Mark Warner about the ongoing work of the committee to review and make recommendations for revisions to the Staff Policy Manual. Council looks forward to reviewing the Personnel Committee's recommendations at future meetings.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

THE HOLY TRINITY

Holy Trinity Sunday is a day the church meditates on the mystery of our God, one divine unity of three distinct persons. Each way in which we speak about the Trinity is inadequate. Christian writings of the first century give only the beginnings of what became the developed doctrine of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit. In our text from Ephesians this morning, we are swept up into God's cosmic activity in the world, as God lavishes us with grace, sends the promised Holy Spirit, and gathers up all things through Christ. We respond with glory and praise as we are drawn into the mystery of faith we call "The Holy Trinity!"



MUHLENBERG NEWS

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE?

Thank you to all who participated in the conversations about Muhlenberg's strategic plan! Our Communication Minister Christian Perritt did an excellent job facilitating these lively, thoughtful conversations. The energy and excitement about our future was palpable! Our pastors are busy compiling all the feedback received, and our Congregation Council will be reviewing and recommending changes at their June meeting. We want to hear from you! If you have thoughts about the Strategic Plan, don't hesitate to reach out to the pastors and/or council members with your hopes and dreams for Muhlenberg moving forward.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

Last Sunday we honored our 2021 Graduates, surrounding them with our prayer and love for all the future holds! Please join us in celebrating these graduates.

High School

<i>Ruby Arndt</i>	<i>June Holm</i>
<i>Grayson Campbell</i>	<i>Abby Moyers</i>
<i>Taylor Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Cody Saunders</i>
<i>Alyson Harmes</i>	<i>Conor Wells</i>

College

Anna Derrick, Bachelor of Science in Biology,
Roanoke College

Sarah Furr, Associates in Arts and Sciences,
Blue Ridge Community College

Samantha Lewellen, Bachelor of Arts in
History, James Madison University

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/16	8:30 Communion	18
	11:00 Total Live Views.....	77
	Total Views this Week	267
	Hours Viewed this Week	74.8
5/23	8:30 Communion (in person-47 + Zoom-12)...	59
	10:00 Outside/Communion.....	66
	11:00 Total Live Views.....	52

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$175,203	\$267,999	\$198,024
Total Receipts	\$213,912	\$304,777	\$253,214
Expenses	\$288,489	\$335,740	\$272,056
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$74,577)	(\$30,963)	(\$18,842)

*Offering information not available this week.
See next week's issue of The Chimes.*

April Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$15

To give online, scan here →



UNDESIGNATED CHECK RECEIVED

We recently received a retirement fund distribution check from BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware through National Financial Services. We would like to make sure it gets credited to the appropriate contribution statement. If this was your contribution, please contact Finance Manager Elizabeth Fletchall at fletchall@muhlenberglutheran.org or call her at the church office (434-3496).

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The pandemic has so changed our world that there's no simple way to "go *back* to normal." But we are very excited to be moving *forward* with two new in-person worship opportunities at Muhlenberg! **Beginning last Sunday** and continuing throughout the summer, our Sunday morning worship schedule will be:

8:30 AM HYBRID SERVICE: IN THE SANCTUARY AND ON ZOOM

No matter how you connect to this service, we'll be one community together sharing in a 30-minute, spoken word worship with communion.

In-Person Attendance

- In-person attendance will be limited, and **advanced registration at rsvp.church/r/2vUWXSEz will be required** to give us your name, the number attending and a confirmation email address (see graphic on right). At the beginning of each week, registration will open for the following Sunday. If you do not have internet access, you may call Karen Thomsen at 540-421-4431 to register by phone.
- When you arrive, **enter the Gathering Area using the door closest to East Market Street** (NOT the entrance facing the MAC) **and check in.** Hand sanitizer will be available, and you will pick up a bulletin and communion elements. **Instead of entering the sanctuary as you normally do, you will be directed to enter from the front of the sanctuary.** The pews will be marked in order to facilitate physical distancing between households.
- There will be **no congregational singing or nursery** at this service.
- **A well-fitted facemask is required** at all times in the building.
- **We strongly encourage those who attend this service in person to be fully vaccinated.**
- The single-person **bathroom in the Gathering Area will be the only restroom available.** Cleaning wipes will be available for you to wipe the sink and door handles on your way out of the restroom, so it's ready for the next person.
- When the service is over, **you will exit into the Gathering Area using the back door of the sanctuary. We encourage you to proceed to the parking lot to visit with one another outside.**

Online Participation

- **To connect online, simply go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>.** To join in Holy Communion, have bread and wine or juice ready before the service. There is no limit to how many people can join in worship online! Please join us this way if you forget to register, advanced registration is full, or if for any reason you feel more comfortable worshipping at home! We will continue to have coffee hour online at the conclusion of this service.

Register for Pentecost Sunday 8:30 Service

What is your name?

Martin	Luther
--------	--------

How many people will be attending?

1 Person Attending

Where can we send a confirmation email?

reformer1517@muhlenberglutheran.org

I agree that I am not experiencing COVID symptoms, have not recently been exposed to someone with COVID, and do not believe to be infectious.

Submit

10:00 AM OUTDOORS: IN THE OTT ST. PARKING LOT (BEHIND THE MAC)

Enjoy the gifts of God's creation as we gather outdoors for a 30-minute spoken word worship with communion and special music.

- **Bring your own chairs, please!** If you do not have portable chairs, please contact Crystl Whitmire in the church office (540-434-3496) by noon on Friday if you need chairs available that coming Sunday.
- **We will also be using the grassy area behind the Ott St. house** for seating. You may choose to bring a blanket and sit on the ground.
- **UPDATE:** Since it can be hot in the sun, **you are encouraged to bring your own coolers/water as well as shade - umbrellas, chairs with shade coverings, even canopies!** Please be considerate of others' views behind you when setting up. Canopies need to be secured (weighted down on asphalt or staked in the grassy area) as it can get windy.
- Unlike the parking lot service where we stayed in our cars and listened via the radio, **this service will be completely outside** with a portable sound system amplifying the service.
- **When you arrive, please check in at the Welcome Tent** where you will receive your bulletin and communion elements. Then proceed to the seating area (see map on page 6 for parking and seating details). Place your chairs or blankets wherever you'd like in the seating areas. Use marked lines on the pavement and be sure to allow 6 feet between households.
- **No advanced registration is required.** We'll spread out to accommodate all participants.
- There will be **no congregational singing** at this service. There will be special musical offerings by soloists and musicians. We will re-evaluate the possibility of congregational singing as the summer goes on.
- There will be **no nursery or children's church** at this service, but kids are very much welcome. Parents may want to bring a blanket to set up in the grass and some toys and snacks for their young kids
- **UPDATE:** Given new CDC recommendations, **we are making masks optional at this outdoor service.** If you are vaccinated and prefer to be unmasked, you are welcome to do so. If for any reason you are more comfortable wearing a mask, you are welcome to do so. There's lots of room to spread out and make sure we are all staying safe, while respecting each other's choices in love and care for one another.
- **The single person bathroom in the Gathering Area will be the only restroom available.** Cleaning wipes will be available for you to wipe the sink and door handles on your way out of the restroom, so it's ready for the next person.
- **THIS SERVICE IS WEATHER PERMITTING.** If weather does not allow us to gather, an email will be sent Sunday morning by 8 am, and a notice will be put on Muhlenberg's website. If you do not have internet access, please check with someone who does if the weather may be a factor.



MAP WITH PARKING AND SEATING DETAILS



11:00 AM WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

Our full liturgy Service of the Word with hymns and special music isn't going anywhere! No masks necessary as you join the community in worship from wherever you are.

- **No masks or pre-registration required here! Join in worship wherever you are at** www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran or www.youtube.com/c/muhlenberglutheranchurch
- **Greet one another, share prayer requests, and connect with newcomers using the chat feature**
- Print out the bulletin ahead of time or follow along digitally
- **Sing hymns and enjoy special music, as well as a full Service of the Word with sermon, prayers, etc.**
- **Practice generosity through online gifts at** muhlenberglutheran.org/give



MORE INFORMATION

Join the Team to Support Worship!

We are currently scheduling ushers, readers, assisting ministers, musicians, sound techs and Zoom hosts to support all three of these worship opportunities. Contact Pastor Lauren at lanes@muhlenberglutheran.org to learn more or sign up to serve.

Before You Come to Church...

Before you leave your house to come to an in-person worship service, please answer the following questions. If the answer to any of these questions is “yes,” please stay home and enjoy our online worship!

- Do you have any of these symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea?
- Have you had close contact with anyone who is ill? Have you been in close contact with anyone you know had COVID-19 or COVID-like symptoms?
- Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days, or are you awaiting results of a COVID-19 test?
- Within the past 14 days has a public health or medical professional told you to self-monitor, self-isolate or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection?

Have any questions?

Don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Lauren, Pastor Alex, or any of the members of our Gathering Together Task Force: Erin Burke, Cynthia Page, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, and Greta Willis.

Press the Ctrl key and click on the graphic below to see our Summer Worship Schedule video with details about attending in-person worship.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Compassion Camp Returns This Summer for All Ages! June 27-July 18 ~ Kids, youth and adults of all ages are invited to join us for a summer of compassion as we learn about changing the world with lovingkindness! For four Sundays, we'll have opportunities for kids, youth, and adults to engage in learning and service together. There will be both in-person and online ways to participate in this Vacation Bible School experience. Save the dates and invite your friends! Want to help make it happen? Contact Ashley Saunders at 540-746-8102.

Adult Learning

- **Faith Lens Sunday School class:** This Sunday morning class will continue to meet over the summer with times of conversation, reflection and occasional service projects. Jean Helmick leads this class and would be happy to connect with you if you'd like to learn more. Contact Jean at jean.helmick@gmail.com or 540-830-1930.
- **Wednesday morning Bible study:** This adult class meets via [ZOOM](#) on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am, and will meet throughout June and July. Led by Pastor Lauren, the group will dive deep into the book of Ephesians. Sessions are recorded so it's easy to get caught up if you miss a week or two. Contact Pastor Lauren if you have any questions.

Senior High Youth

- **Kairos:** Kairos is the Virginia Synod's faith formation event for youth who will be 9th-12th graders in the fall. This summer the event takes place online from **Sunday evening June 27 through Wednesday evening June 30**. Kairos includes large group activities with lots of singing and skits and fun, a small group that meets throughout the week, daily prayer, t-shirts, Open Talent Mic Show, faith testimonies, comic relief, reflection time, prayer around the cross, speed friending, t-shirt fashion show, and more! Right before the event starts, each participant will receive a package of supplies in the mail, including an event shirt, devotional materials, and small group supplies.



This event is a chance for youth who are already committed to a life of faith to be part of a unique Christian community for an entire week, to have a fresh experience of the grace and presence of God in that community, and to develop habits for discipleship that can be taken home as they live out their baptismal call to be followers of Jesus. Pastor Alex helps lead this event and would love to tell you more about it! Register by June 14 at <https://www.vasynod.org/event/kairos/>.

MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

HABITAT FAITH BUILD UPDATE

The Habitat Faith Build continues on Virginia Avenue. This past week Neil Alexander helped with the electrical finishing. Thank you, Neil! We will soon need volunteers to help with flooring. Nate Eanes has volunteered for this part of the build, but there is a need for others to help him. Flooring should be ready to be installed sometime the first week of June. The families are also busy taking classes and putting in “sweat equity” hours. If you would like to volunteer or find out more about what is happening with our Faith Build, please contact Karen Thomsen at 540-421-4431.



Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: (rsanders97@verizon.net or 433-1165).

CREATION CARE TIP

How to Grow an Organic Garden (part 2)

Feed the soil: Here is the secret of organic fertilization ~ the bacteria in the soil digest decaying plant and animal matter, producing acids that dissolve plant nutrients from rocks and soil particles and feed them to the plant. Bacteria thrive on compost. If you haven't made any compost, you can blend together an organic fertilizer by using 4 parts blood meal, 2 parts bone meal, and 1 part kelp, green sand, or rock phosphate, all of which can be obtained at your local garden center or nursery.

Plant: Sow seeds directly in the garden or transplant small seedlings.

See next week's issue of The Chimes for part 3.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 31—June 6

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

Mon. Memorial Day

Church Office Closed

Tue. 7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers

Wed. 10:30 am Wed. Morning Bible Study
via [ZOOM](#)

Sun. Second Sunday after Pentecost

[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)

8:30 am Hybrid Communion Service

9:00 am ZOOM “Coffee Hour” begins

10:00 am Outdoor Worship

11:00 am Service Livestreamed

via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each **Sunday from 8:30 – 9:30** using this link [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878) or call 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

No internet access? Call Wellstream Phone:
[1-434-205-8777](tel:1-434-205-8777)

The **weekly deadline** for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Thursday at 8 am**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. *Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy:*

[\(\[depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496\]\(mailto:depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496\)\)](mailto:depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496)

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