



# 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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**June 6, 2021**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

*A note from Pastor Lauren, Personnel Committee Chairperson Mark Warner, and Congregation President Karen Thomsen*

We know that the recent departure of Diane Bayer from our staff has raised some questions and concerns. The details of an employment relationship are held in confidence between the employee, her supervisor, and the Personnel Committee. Legally, we cannot share those details with you. However, you may rest assured that your Senior Pastor, all members of the Personnel Committee (who are appointed by your Congregation Council), and all members of the Executive Committee have acted jointly on your behalf. They are in full agreement about decisions made.

You should know that we have an employment policy manual at this church (which you are welcome to review) and that every policy outlined within our handbook has been honored in the handling of this situation. In our employment decisions we seek to balance fairness to the employee with accountability to the mission and ministry of our congregation. We know that you will join us in giving thanks for Diane's ministry among us and wishing her well in her next endeavor.

## **TODAY AT MUHLENBERG**

### **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](#)**

### **EMAIL SCAM ALERT**

**Some members received fraudulent emails this week asking for gift cards or an immediate call from someone posing as "Pastor Lauren."** Please ignore and delete any email that appears to come from someone on staff asking for money or gift cards. **Our pastors and staff will never ask for monetary gifts in a personal email.**

Authentic emails from our pastors end in "muhlenberglutheran.org." (See pastors' email addresses highlighted above.) If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christian Perritt at [perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org).

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets TOMORROW (6/7), 7:00 pm via [ZOOM](#). Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us! For details, contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or [mjwarner1@aol.com](mailto:mjwarner1@aol.com)).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88053197319?pwd=cUFVeVAzdXhTSDgxUXFBV3gzemhUZz09>

### WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Meets 10:30 am via Zoom using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/200491556>

The study isn't limited to Muhlenberg members, so feel free to invite a friend.

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Thank you to all who participated in the conversations about Muhlenberg's strategic plan! 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 compiling all the feedback received, and 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.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/23 8:30 Communion (in person-47 + Zoom-12)...59  
10:00 Outside/Communion.....66  
11:00 Total Live Views.....52

*Final totals for 5/23 and preliminary information for 5/30 are not available this week. Please see next week's issue of The Chimes.*

### 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
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$74,577)</b>	<b>(\$30,963)</b>	<b>(\$18,842)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 16,795.50*
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 6,010.92*
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 22,806.42*</b>

\* Information for May 17-30

To give online, scan here →



### UNDESIGNATED CHECK RECEIVED

We recently received a retirement fund distribution check from BNY Melon 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](mailto: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! 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/2yUWXSEz](https://rsvp.church/r/2yUWXSEz) 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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran) or [www.youtube.com/c/muhlenberglutheranchurch](https://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](https://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](mailto: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.

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*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

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT MUHLENBERG: COMPASSION CAMP 2021 June 27 - July 18

**UPDATE ~** Compassion Camp is coming back to Muhlenberg, and it's for kids, youth and adults of all ages! Join us for a summer of compassion as we learn about changing the world with loving kindness! For four Sundays, we'll have in-person and online opportunities to engage in learning and service together.



**Each session lasts 40-45 minutes** and will be held after Muhlenberg's 10:00 am worship service **at 10:45**. We'll gather in the grassy area by the MAC for activities like:

- Kids will get popsicles and gather for an opening chant, song, and skit
- The art station will feature prompts like mosaic, self-portrait, sculpture, etc.
- Community service projects include making birthday kits for the Food Bank, planting flower boxes for the Habitat Build, and more.
- We'll close with yoga, a song, and a closing prayer.

Save the dates and invite your friends! Contact Ashley Saunders ([oli.lola.mom@gmail.com](mailto:oli.lola.mom@gmail.com) or 540-746-8102 to let her know if you want to volunteer or participate, as well as if you're doing so virtually or in-person!

For more information, visit our webpage at [muhlenberglutheran.org/vbs2021](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/vbs2021)

#### Adult Learning

- **UPDATE ~ Faith Lens Sunday School class: Today (6/6), this adult class meets via Zoom at 11:00 am. Beginning next week (6/13) and continuing over the summer, the class will meet using a hybrid model: in person and on Zoom.** (See next week's issue of *The Chimes* for meeting information.) Faith Lens offers opportunities for 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 her at [jean.helmick@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## SECOND HOME NEWS

It's a circle of life, and we have come full circle! Second Home is once again preparing for a musical performance. Lions, wildebeest, and hyenas are coming to town **June 24 - 27**. The excitement is high among students and staff, especially since we get to try out a new, outdoor location for the performance. As usual, we will offer a concession stand, raffle, and silent auction to round out the experience and offset some of the costs of the show. We had to build part of a stage, make costumes, buy and build set pieces, not to mention all the time and effort our staff has been putting in to make this an unforgettable experience for our students, and the audience.

**We need your help!** We are looking for items that could be raffled off or entered into our silent auction (crafts, jewelry, gift cards, plants, etc.) and baked goods or concession items to sell.

**If you are willing to donate something, contact Krisztina ([2ndhomedirector@gmail.com](mailto:2ndhomedirector@gmail.com) or 540-432-7989) by June 18 for details. Thank you!**

To find out more about the show, click below or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/823107548416084>

**SECOND HOME LEARNING CENTER**

**PRESENTS:**

**Disney**

**THE LION KING**

**JR**

**JUNE 24 AT 8:00PM**

**JUNE 25 AT 8:00PM**

**JUNE 26 AT 8:00PM**

**JUNE 27 AT 8:00PM**

**OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE**

**AT BACK HOME ON THE FARM STAGE**

**2915 WILLOW RUN RD, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802**

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR.**

**BRING A BLANKET OR CHAIR**

**WATCH FOR DETAILS ON FACEBOOK OR [SECONDHOMEVA.COM](http://SECONDHOMEVA.COM)**

**BACK HOME on the FARM**

Second Home  
Our Future grows here

Music & Lyrics by Elton John & Tim Rice

Additional Music & Lyrics by Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Kohn, and Hans Zimmer

Book by Roger Allers & Irene Mecchi

Based on the Broadway production directed by Julie Taymor

Music Adapted & Arranged and Additional Music & Lyrics and "Lulu Hawaiian Treat" written by Will Van Dyke

"It's a Small World" written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman

Disney's The Lion King, Jr. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Songs, music, and all other material © 2015 Disney Broadway Junior and MTK Broadway Junior Collection are trademarks of Music Theatre International. All rights reserved.



## 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](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net) or 433-1165).*

### CREATION CARE TIP

#### How to Grow an Organic Garden (part 3)

**Mulch:** When seedlings and sprouts are about 3 inches tall, apply a thick layer of undecayed plant matter such as grass clippings, decomposed leaves, or old alfalfa hay.

**Water:** Water deeply during dry weather — the equivalent of 1 inch of rain once a week.

**Control the bugs:** Don't worry about them. You can lose up to 1/3 of the leaf area of many vegetables without hurting yields. When possible, pick the bugs off by hand.

**Harvest and clean up:** Remove all remaining plant debris or if it's not diseased, till it into the soil. Cover your garden with mulch, or plant a cover crop like annual rye to begin rebuilding the soil for next spring's garden.

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY

**Saturday, June 12, 10 am – 4 pm**

Since this year's Assembly is online, anyone can watch it live by visiting the Synod website or clicking [HERE](#). Karen Thomsen, Russell Presnell, Sarah Sunde, Bruce Hamilton, Sandra Blade, Pastor Lauren, and Pastor Alex will represent Muhlenberg this year.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**June 7-13**

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting  
**7:00 pm** Eldercare Support Group
- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study  
via [ZOOM](#)
- Sun. Third 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** Faith Lens Class  
**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 or call 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878. **No internet access? Call Wellstream Phone: 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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