



# 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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**June 12, 2022**

## THE HOLY TRINITY

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

#### YOU ARE GENEROUS!

Your belief that God is at work in our congregation is evident as you are declaring your generosity! Our *Strength For Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign is off to a great start. We have reached and exceeded our first challenge grant goal, which means we've received an additional \$5,000! The indications from these cards (as of Thursday morning, June 9) show that we'll experience \$615 per week in increased giving. Each week, all of this will go straight to expanding our ministries! If you haven't yet responded, please mail your card today or complete our online form at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope).

Your generosity will make a tremendous difference as we seek to strengthen our ministry. Remember, our generous challenge gift of an additional \$5,000 will be received once we receive 80 intent cards. Please help us reach this goal this week!

#### PASTOR LAUREN ON VACATION

Pastor Lauren and her family will be on vacation **June 10 - 17**. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy.

### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

#### GUEST PREACHER

Today we welcome The Rev. Colleen Montgomery who currently serves as the Director for Digital Ministries of the Virginia Synod and Mission Developer for All Places Together. All Places Together is an online new mission start of the Virginia Synod and is a Reconciling in Christ Community. She graduated from Roanoke College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She has served congregations in Virginia and Indiana and was a missionary teacher with the ELCA in Poland. Pastor Colleen is married to Nick, is a dog mom, and loves to watch, listen to, and read stories.

#### GUEST ORGANIST TODAY

We welcome Dr. Judith Ofcarick as guest organist this morning. Judith is a familiar face, as she's been a part of the Muhlenberg community for the past year, since she moved to Harrisonburg to serve as the Assistant Professor of Music Theory at James Madison University. In addition to teaching music theory, Judith is active as a church organist, pedagogue, and occasional recitalist. We are grateful that she is sharing her gifts among us this day!

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### 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 as Father, Son, and Spirit. In our reading from Romans this morning, we hear that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God's love and hope to our neighbors.

### LEARN ABOUT ELECTRONIC GIVING



We are part of a faith community, busy serving in our area and reaching out to folks in need around the world. To financially support our mission and ministry, in addition to giving in more traditional methods (like the offering plate, envelopes, etc.), we also have available online automated giving methods through both our website and a mobile app. You can enroll easily, change or stop these contributions at any time, and schedule them for any time period.

Since your giving can be scheduled for donation each week, month, or quarter, this can help eliminate the need to remember your paper envelope and check while dashing out the door. Particularly as we make our commitments to the *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for*

*Tomorrow (aka Strength and Hope)* campaign, this is a helpful tool to support your generosity.

**TODAY (6/12)**, you will find me in the Gathering Area between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, eager to meet you and ready to help anyone who would like assistance in enrolling in one of our online giving systems. To complete the enrollment, please bring a voided check in order to enter your bank account and routing numbers.

I will have on display a QR code which you can scan if you would prefer to fill out an online *Strength and Hope* pledge form or if you would like to set up a recurring donation yourself on our website for this campaign. Thank you in advance for supporting this exciting idea.

*Jane Eanes*

### WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

If you are new to the Muhlenberg community, or would simply like to learn more about the congregation, please join us for a *Welcome to Muhlenberg* experience **NEXT Sunday, June 19 at 9:45 am**. Meet leaders, hear about ways to get involved, and take a tour of our campus. We'll also share information about membership at Muhlenberg. Bring your kids — our Children's Minister, Ms. Ashley, will share fun activities with them while the adults are meeting. If you are interested but unable to attend, contact Pastor Lauren (434-3496 or [eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)) so you can receive an invitation to our next event in September.

# STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW



Muhlenberg has been blessed with a long history of faithful worship and service in Harrisonburg. Though the pandemic has challenged us all, the past few years have also shown us that the mission of our congregation is more important than ever. God is at work in our midst and has given us strength for today. As we look to the future, let's invest in making the ministry that has meant so much during the pandemic even stronger. Let's welcome new people to faith and build a community connected to one another in new ways. We have bright hope for what God will do among us!

## The Vision

Muhlenberg's Congregation Council has prayerfully considered priorities from our Strategic Plan and has determined that with a few new key leaders in place, we will build the infrastructure needed to grow in our mission to equip all people to live out Christ's love. These leaders are ...

- **Nursery Coordinator:** As families return to church, they need a safe place for their very young children to be during worship. (5 hours/week)
- **Youth Minister:** With a strong group of middle school youth already engaged in our congregation, we need to organize and empower youth ministry to thrive. (25 hours/week)
- **Small Group Coordinator:** As we move into the next phase of pandemic life, we are all seeking greater connection and community, and need someone who can oversee the coordination of small group opportunities. (10 hours/week)

We seek to raise \$60,000 to fund these three positions for one year, as well as a 10% mission support gift to the Virginia Synod.

## We're on Our Way!

A generous donor has provided a \$10,000 Challenge Gift. When 40 commitments toward this campaign are received, we'll receive \$5,000 — **we've achieved this!** When an additional 40 commitments are received, we'll unlock an additional \$5,000. **Together, we can make this happen!**

## STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW (CONT'D)

### Find Your Place

This chart illustrates the commitments needed to reach our goal. Prayerfully consider how your above-and-beyond giving from June 2022-May 2023 can help make this goal a reality!

Number of Gifts	Value of Gift	Running Total
1	\$10,000	\$10,000
1	\$5,000	\$15,000
2	\$3,000	\$21,000
5	\$1,200	\$27,000
12	\$900	\$37,800
22	\$600	\$51,000
23	\$300	\$57,900
14	\$150	\$60,000

Congregation Council Vice President Kevin Stees recently spoke about the generous community of Muhlenberg, the importance of supporting the key Strategic Plan priorities for this year, and the importance of supporting the “Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow” Campaign.



“Over the past 1 ½ years I’ve been on Council, we’ve spent a lot of time focusing on our Strategic Plan. Through the sessions we’ve had and the input we’ve had from you, the congregation, I’m thrilled that we’ve identified some really exciting priorities – with particular focus on welcome, youth ministry, and small group ministry. You may ask, “what’s the next step?” My family and I are supporting these priorities by making a commitment to the “Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow” Campaign. This support would help finance very specific things – like a Youth Minister, a Small Group Coordinator, or a permanent Nursery Coordinator. But, making a commitment to a campaign like this isn’t just about the specific things we get. More importantly, making a financial commitment like this is an expression of thanks and a response to God’s endless generosity in our lives. So, I’m inviting you to join this journey and fill out a Commitment Card (available in a letter or email you may have received, or on our website). As you consider your commitment, I encourage you to think about how God’s generosity has already made an impact in your life. Let this be a way to respond to God’s goodness.”

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### MINISTRIES NIGHT

**Monday (6/13), 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### BIKE, TRIKE & SCOOTER HOUR

**Sunday, June 26 at 9:45 am**



Join us in the Ott Street Parking Lot for a Bike, Trike, and Scooter hour. Bring your wheels and get ready for fun. There will be a simple obstacle course and games, and parents can enjoy an iced coffee bar under a tent. The Ott Street yard will be open for little friends. Kids of all ages are welcome.

### BLOOD DRIVE

**August 21, 9:00 am- 1:00 pm**

Save the date! The American Red Cross will in the MAC for a blood drive. If you regularly give blood, please time your donations so you can donate before or after church that day. There's currently a serious shortage of blood, so please plan to donate! For more info, contact Linda Morrison ([lindamm778@gmail.com](mailto:lindamm778@gmail.com)) or 540-383-5085).



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CREATION CARE TIP

Make a list of items you can borrow this summer. If you're going to need a chainsaw or punch bowl, borrow them instead of buying brand new. It's an especially good idea if you're borrowing things you only use occasionally. Instead of shelling out big bucks for specialty tools, you can rent them at most home improvement centers. Borrowing will save you a lot of money and help you conserve resources.



## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### YOUTH MINISTRY

As you have heard, Congregation Council has been working diligently to implement our Strategic Plan. As part of that plan, Council has examined the staffing needs to accomplish our spiritual development goals. One very important component of the plan is to uplift our focus and attention on youth ministry.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hiring a part-time Youth Minister. This person will provide creative and dynamic leadership, in addition to oversight for youth ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Youth Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in people from grades 6 - 12 and their families.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

### FAITH LENS CLASS UPDATE

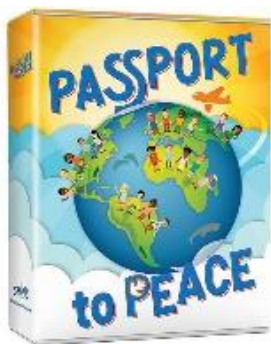
Faith Lens is on vacation — well, sort of. Although we will not meet as a class during the summer, we will carry with us a commitment to continue working in our community, reading suggested books, staying in touch by email, etc.

We will keep the congregation updated and invite all who want to join us as we live out our faith. Interested? Contact Jean Helmick ([jean.helmick@gmail.com](mailto:jean.helmick@gmail.com) or 540-830-1930).

### IN PERSON VBS IS BACK THIS SUMMER WITH PASSPORT TO PEACE

**August 8-12, 5:45 -7:45 pm.**

At *Passport to Peace* VBS, children discover that there are many ways to live as peacemakers in our world. Kids are invited to see every person as part of God's family, and every interaction as an opportunity to make peace. Come and enjoy music, games, art, drama, small group times, and fellowship as we all learn to be peacemakers.



## VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

### POWER IN THE SPIRIT

**July 14-16 ~ Registration is Open**

What does it mean to be a leader in the Church and a follower of Jesus? The words of Saint Thomas reveal a disciple whose faith in Jesus makes him willing to go where Jesus goes, even when danger and death are real possibilities. For Thomas, it's better to be unsafe with Jesus than to stay behind as Jesus heads into dangerous places. For the Church today, we just may be called to a similar faith that goes with Jesus—even into danger. At Power in the Spirit 2022 we'll explore these themes, and more! Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

### IN-PERSON SYNOD GATHERING

**July 15-16 ~ Registration is Open**

In conjunction with Power in the Spirit, the Virginia Synod looks forward to gathering in person to celebrate ministries of service from around the Synod, worship together, and learn from one another.

**Everyone can attend.** Unlike an Assembly where the number of participants is limited, anyone can attend the Synodical Gathering. There are **two options for Registration:**

- **On-Campus Housing** includes the event, one-night lodging on Roanoke College's campus, plus Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday breakfast. The cost will be \$140.
- **Commuter** includes the event, Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday breakfast. The cost will be \$100.

**You are automatically registered for the Synodical Gathering if you attend Power in the Spirit.** Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

## SECOND HOME NEWS

### COME BE OUR GUEST!

Second Home is presenting our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual musical *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, **June 16-19 at 8:00 pm**. The excitement is high among students and staff as we once again grace the outdoor stage at **Back Home on the Farm** (2915 Willow Run Rd, Harrisonburg). Students and staff have been working for months with countless hours spent to learn the show and are ready to have family, friends and community members enjoy an evening of theatre.

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. Many volunteers from Muhlenberg and their many talents are featured as they have helped to build sets, make costumes, provide food for our actors, and 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. As Harrisonburg's only children's community theatre program, we are proud of the caliber of show we will be presenting.

We are also looking for baked goods or concession items to sell. If you are willing to donate something, contact Lori Reich ([secondhomeharrisonburg@gmail.com](mailto:secondhomeharrisonburg@gmail.com) or 540-432-7989) for details. Thank you!

To find out more about the show follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

SECOND HOME LEARNING CENTER  
proudly presents  
Disney  
**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
© Disney

Music by Alan Menken  
Book by Linda Woolveton  
Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice  
Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.  
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

**JR**

**JUNE 16 8:00pm**    **JUNE 17th 8:00pm**  
**JUNE 18 8:00pm**    **JUNE 19th 8:00pm**

**Outdoor Performance**  
2915 Willow Run Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

General Admission  
Donations Accepted  
at the Door.

Watch for Details on  
Facebook  
@secondhomeva or  
Secondhomeva.com

**AT BACK HOME on the FARM**

*Leanne Shepherd, Assistant Director of Second Home Learning Center*

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/29	8:30 Holy Communion .....	60
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	78
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	28
	Total Views this Week .....	159
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	39.1
5/29	8:30 Holy Communion .....	54
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	87
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	35

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Thank you for your continued support of Muhlenberg's Ministry. Expenses continue to track less than the previous year with staffing adjustments and ministry teams and staff judiciously managing their spending. As per the 2022 budget, we moved approximately \$39,000 from the reserve contingency account into the operating budget. This helps reduce the deficit. The remaining \$39,000 will be moved proportionately monthly beginning in July. Continue to prayerfully consider how you can support the Muhlenberg ministry.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2022

	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget	2021 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$166,997	\$205,000	\$181,986
Total Income	\$200,975	\$234,583	\$213,912
Total Expenses	\$222,423	\$280,291	\$287,787
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(21,448)	\$(45,708)	\$(73,875)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 13,417.60
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 4,395.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 17,812.60</b>

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 13 - 19

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

Mon	7:00 pm	Ministries Night via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Sun		Second Sunday after Pentecost
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Welcome to Muhlenberg
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>

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/434-3496](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496))

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

### MISSION MOMENT

Chris Hoover Seidel, Executive Director of Bridge of Hope, will join us NEXT



**Sunday (6/19)** to share a Mission Moment at the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Chris will also be available in the Gathering Area between services to provide more information about Bridge of Hope and answer questions.

Bridge of Hope seeks to engage Christian faith communities in ending family homelessness through neighboring relationships that demonstrate Christ's love. To learn more about the organization, visit their website: <https://hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/>.