



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 26, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

WELCOME BACK, PASTOR ALEX!

This morning we are delighted to welcome Pastor Alex back to Muhlenberg after his six-week Sabbath leave, which was for him a season of rest and restoration of physical and mental health. He has expressed to me deep gratitude for the congregation's and Congregation Council's support during this time, and also great excitement to be back!

The past year has been a rough one for both of your pastors in terms of our health. But we are confident that the work we've done to care for ourselves is a worthwhile investment into our ongoing ministry at Muhlenberg. On a personal note, over the past year my doctors have discovered several chronic conditions that I had no idea I had. Now that I am being treated for these, I feel stronger and healthier than I have in years. While last summer's illness was an incredibly frustrating and challenging time for me, I am grateful that God could use it as a way to ultimately bring me to better health overall.

Pastor Alex and I are excited to be moving into this next chapter of ministry together from a position of improved health and strength. And we encourage you to care for yourself as well! This pandemic has affected all of us, and giving

deliberate attention to your physical, mental, and spiritual health is vital. If you're feeling tired, take time to rest. If you're feeling unwell in body or mind, seek out practitioners who can help. If you're feeling distant from God, come and talk with one of us. Let's support one another as we all journey toward wellness and health.

--Pastor Lauren

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

THANK YOU for your generous response to our *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign. As of Thursday morning, **we have a total of 68 commitments totaling \$50,114!** (This includes the first \$5,000 from our challenge grant.) We are SO very close to reaching our goal. **Will you be one of the 12 who helps us receive the second \$5,000 challenge grant?** Make your commitment today! You can submit online at muhlenberglutheran.org/StrengthAndHope or fill out a card at the Connection Center.



WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Hello Muhlenberg from your Congregation Council. We met this past Monday and had some great discussions. Here are a few topics we covered:

- We were excited to hear the response we've had to the *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign. We're almost to our goal!!!
- Treasurer Sarah Sunde shared the financial picture with us as of May 31. *See page 4.*
- There are two candidates that the Personnel Committee will be reaching out to for interviews for the Youth Minister position. We are VERY EXCITED by the prospects!!
- We talked about a Pastor and Council Reflection that we are going to take part in.
- We shared ways to get more people involved through fun fellowship opportunities.

As always, your Council is here for you. If you have a question, comment, or suggestion, please do not hesitate to contact us!! You can reach me at mlccouncilpres@yahoo.com.

Greta Willis, Congregation Council President

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

BIKE, TRIKE & SCOOTER HOUR



Join us at **9:45** 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.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

FOOD COLLECTION

Next Sunday, July 3

In the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. 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.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

BE A DESIGN STAR!

If you've watched HGTV design shows and thought, "I could do that," then we've got an invitation for you! We have three classrooms/multipurpose spaces in need of a refresh this summer as we prepare for fall programming. There's a small budget that can be used to bring color, life, and functional seating arrangements to the Augsburg Room and two large classrooms on the second floor of the MAC. We're asking for a short-term commitment—a few hours in the months of July and August—to be part of a team to make this happen! Contact Pastor Lauren by July 10 to sign up.

CREATION CARE TIP

Make a few eco-friendly changes to keep mosquitoes at bay. You don't need a bug zapper or harsh chemicals to control them. Standing water in your yard is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Drill holes in the bottom of your plant pots, recycling bins, and trashcans. Be sure to replace the water in birdbaths, water fountains, and pet bowls regularly to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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 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.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

BRIDGE OF HOPE

Bridge of Hope is grateful to be part of Mission Moments for Muhlenberg. There are many ways to be involved and many needs as we meet the needs of our homeless moms and their children:

- Donations are always appreciated and you can donate on our website by clicking [HERE](#).
- Help form a Neighboring Group of 4-10 people to walk beside a mom & her children.
- Become a Landlord Partner — We are in need of a two-bedroom apartment at fair housing costs.
- Meet with Executive Director Chris Hoover Seidel to learn more about the Bridge of Hope committees, our Endowment fund, and the board
- Bridge of Hope is also in the process of interviewing for a full-time social worker and welcome experienced applicants.

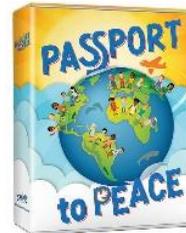
Wanda Hamilton, Board Chair, Bridge of Hope

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

VBS ~ 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.



OUR KIDS NEED YOU!

The most valuable part of any VBS is the adults who make the commitment to engage with and lead the youth as they learn and fellowship for the week. We're looking for adults who are excited to work with our children to help them develop the practice of peace making. We are looking for five adult leaders: a team of two leaders to help with Pre-K – 2nd grade, another team to help with 3rd – 5th grade, and someone to coordinate snacks. Curriculum and training are provided so just bring you and your enthusiasm! If you can help or want to know more, contact Children's Minister Ashley Saunders: saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org.

BLOOD DRIVE ~ 8/21, 9:00 - 1:00

The American Red Cross will be in the MAC. If you give regularly, please time your donations to donate that day. There's currently a serious shortage, so plan to donate!

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

6/12	8:30 Holy Communion	34
	11:00 Holy Communion	42
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	35
	Total Views this Week	228
	Hours Viewed this Week	58.7
6/19	8:30 Holy Communion	51
	11:00 Holy Communion	59
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	35

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Thank you for your continued generosity to support God's work in Muhlenberg's ministries and beyond. Expenses continued to be less than last year and also less than we anticipated in the budget, while our income is still trending lower. The deficit did decrease slightly, and I am hopeful that continues. Many thanks to the staff and ministries who are being judicious in their spending. As we move into summer, prayerfully consider how you can support Muhlenberg through your time, talents, and financial resources.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through May 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	\$ 9,718.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 4,004.23
Total Giving	\$ 13,722.23

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 27 — July 3

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

Mon	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Mtg.
Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Sun		Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
		Food Pantry & Lay Communion Sunday
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube

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)

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

POWER IN THE SPIRIT ~ JULY 14-16

Learn what it means to be a leader in the Church and a follower of Jesus. Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

IN-PERSON SYNOD GATHERING

July 15-16 ~ Registration is Open

Everyone can attend. There are **two options**:

- **On-Campus Housing** the event, lodging, meals. Cost: \$140.
- **Commuter** the event & meals. Cost: \$100.

You are automatically registered for the Synodical Gathering if you attend Power in the Spirit. Click [HERE](#) for more info.