



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 27, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Congregation Council met Monday, June 21. Below are highlights from the meeting.

- ✚ Council reviewed feedback from the congregation regarding the Strategic Plan. Final revisions will be made and Council looks to adopt a final draft at our July meeting. Council appreciates all the conversation and excitement members of the congregation have shown toward the plan. Council will share the adopted plan in August and set priorities for our first year of implementation.
- ✚ Council authorized the Personnel Committee to advertise and interview viable candidates for the position of Children's Minister. *See page 7 for more information and application instructions.*
- ✚ Council moved to use monies from the Endowment Fund to create a Live Streaming System. This system will allow Muhlenberg to provide an excellent hybrid worship service that will allow us to be "church together" regardless of where we live or our ability to access the church building. Council is appreciative of the

time and work by Communication Minister Christian Perritt, Pastor Alex, and the Communication Team to create this plan.

- ✚ Council held a discussion on Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the book *Abundance*. Council proposed the creation of an Abundance Task Force to look at how we can share the story of God's Abundance in our lives. If you have a passion for helping others to see God's abundance, please contact Pastor Lauren and ask about serving on the Abundance Task Force.
- ✚ Council appointed a Task Force to write an agreement with Second Home Learning Center as they move toward a 501c3 status this fall. The agreement with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Child Daycare Center will also be reviewed and revised as needed.
- ✚ Council proposed the following fall Sunday schedule: 8:30 & 11:00 - Worship, 9:45 - Faith Formation opportunities.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS COLLECTION



In response to the Synod's request, Muhlenberg's Local & Global Mission ministry team is sponsoring a collection of feminine hygiene products

TODAY (6/27) and NEXT Sunday (7/4). Please bring your donations to church at the 8:30 or 10:00 service, and place them in the large donation boxes. You may also call the church office to make arrangements to drop off your donations.

We will make sure all donations are delivered to schools and organizations in our area with the greatest need.

SECOND HOME PLAY

Tonight is the last chance to enjoy **The Lion King Jr!** It will be performed by Second Home students at 8:00 pm at **Back Home on The Farm** (2915 Willow Run Road). Bring a blanket or chair to sit on. Admission is by donation at the door.



THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

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.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

6/13	8:30 Communion (in person-16 + Zoom-11)....	27
	10:00 Outside/Communion.....	45
	11:00 Total Live Views.....	38
	Total Views this Week	163
	Hours Viewed this Week	51.9
6/20	8:30 Communion (in person-20 + Zoom-9).....	29
	10:00 Outside/Communion.....	48
	11:00 Total Live Views.....	39

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through May 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$232,656	\$344,320	\$251,663
Total Receipts	\$279,342	\$387,047	\$313,912
Expenses	\$352,541	\$411,667	\$335,117
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$73,198)	(\$24,620)	(\$21,205)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 10,060.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 27,990.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 38,050.00



To give online, scan here →

Muhlenberg is not suspending its ministry through this unprecedented time, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to maintaining our ministries, even if they are in a different form for now. We also want to be able to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

You can make a one-time or recurring donation through the [donation page](#) on our website, or mail your check to the church: 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: COMPASSION CAMP 2021

SUNDAYS, JUNE 27 - JULY 18

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 lovingkindness! For four Sundays, we'll have in-person and online opportunities to engage in learning and service together.



Each session starts at 10:45 (after the 10:00 service) **and lasts 40-45 minutes.** We'll gather in the grassy area by the MAC for activities:

- Participants 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 prayer.

Week 1 (TODAY, 6/27): We will learn the central principles of empathy and compassion through the story of Miriam.

Week 2 (7/4): We will hear the story of Elijah in the wilderness and explore how we care for ourselves when we have needs. We will make self-portraits and trail mix (if there are dietary restrictions, please let us know). *This week's Compassion Action* is to tell someone you love how they make you happy!

Week 3 (7/11): We will dig into the story of the Good Samaritan to learn how to be a good neighbor. We will have fun making friendship bracelets for someone special in our lives, planting flowers to give to our neighbors, and having a Veggietales Dance Party! *This week's Compassion Action* is to use a reusable water bottle instead of single-use plastic, so bring your bottle to VBS or post a picture of your water bottle on the [Muhlenberg Members Facebook page](#) for a prize!

Week 4 (7/18): We will locate ourselves within an ancient stream of people who have chosen compassion. We will have an ice cream party, enjoy the songs we have learned, make play dough sculptures, and move our bodies. *This week's Compassion Action* is to help a family member with something without being asked.

Save the dates and invite your friends! Contact Ashley Saunders (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 muhlenberglutheran.org/vbs2021.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

In-Person Attendance

- In-person attendance will be limited, and **advanced registration at rsvp.church/r/2yUWXSEz will be required** to give us your name, the number attending and a confirmation email address. 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.
- **A well-fitted facemask is required** at all times in the building.



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.

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

- **Bring your own chairs, shade and/or coolers! When you arrive, please check in at the Welcome Tent.** There will be special music but no congregational singing at this service.
- Given the latest CDC recommendations, **masks are optional at this outdoor service.**
- **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.



11:00 AM WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

- **Join in worship wherever you are at www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran or www.youtube.com/c/muhlenberglutheranchurch**
- **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**

MUHLENBERG NEWS

VIRGINIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the Congregation Council along with Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex attended the 2021 Virginia Synod Assembly via Zoom. There was a focus on *Women in the Church* with offerings from the Synod Assembly going to support the **ELCA International Women's Leader's Fund**, which strives to equip women to be leaders in the church, and the **Faith, Finances, and Freedom Fund**, which works to strengthen the financial situation of rostered ministers and congregations in the Virginia Synod.

The gospel text for our Festival Worship service was Mark 5:21-43, where Jesus heals two women, one of which suffers from hemorrhages. Congregations across the Synod are invited to collect menstruation hygiene products for their local schools or food banks to share with those who need them. *See page 5 for more information about how Muhlenberg plans to respond to this need.*

To watch the Assembly or to download full highlights, click [HERE](#).

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the various opportunities for sharing thoughts and ideas about Muhlenberg's Strategic Plan. Congregation Council will make final revisions to the plan at our June meeting based on your feedback. We look forward to sharing the adopted version of our Strategic Plan with the Congregation in July.

CREATION CARE TIP

Lawn care is the most popular “gardening” activity in the United States, even more so than growing vegetables, flowers, fruit, or houseplants. It costs over \$6 billion a year to keep American lawns green and weed free, and that doesn't include the toll in polluted groundwater such activity takes on the environment. Try to use the least toxic chemical controls. Insecticidal soap can kill aphids, fleas and other lawn pests. Synthetic pyrethroids should be selected over organophosphate or carbamate-based products because they can target pests and will remain in the environment for a shorter time.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Karen Thomsen (kethomsen25@gmail.com or 540-421-4431) for more information.

BRIDGE OF HOPE

Bridge of Hope is seeking a half-time case manager who will provide support for 3 - 4 families and foster relationships with neighboring volunteers. Bridge of Hope seeks to engage Christian faith communities in ending family homelessness through neighboring relationships that demonstrate Christ's love. If you or someone you know is interested, please find more information here: hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/job-opportunities.

HABITAT FAITH BUILD

Fundraising Goal Met

Our goal of raising \$10,000 toward the Habitat Faith Build has been met! Thank you to all who gave to this special appeal. The work continues on the duplex at 658 and 660 Virginia Avenue with hopes for a July dedication.

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Sunday, July 11 – Thursday, July 15

Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for people of all ages who wish to explore God’s call to service through joyous worship, Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, games, and fellowship.

As our world emerges from over a year of pandemic life, many are hoping for a return to “normal.” The task before the Church is to focus our hopes in the right direction. This seems like the perfect reason to celebrate “Advent in July!”

Advent is always a season in which the Church waits and hopes. At *Power in the Spirit Online*, we’ll explore how Advent can guide our hopes and expectations for life in a post-pandemic world. In addition to this timely topic, you can expect to see old friends, make new connections, and enjoy the fellowship of the Power in the Spirit community. If you sign up to attend, you can also expect:

- A daily devotional to arrive in your email each morning, Sunday through Thursday. Here you’ll receive readings, brief videos, and guides for at-home arts and crafts.
- An invitation to daily Zoom workshops, from 6:15 - 7:25 pm, Sunday through Thursday. Listen to presenters from across our Virginia Synod share from their areas of expertise. Sign up for the sessions that interest you most!
- A closing vespers service at 7:30 pm, live and online, under the leadership of George Donovan, Director of Music for Bethel, Winchester. Each weeknight you’ll participate in different ways of worship, even while physically apart.

One workshop you will want to attend is a special presentation about “The Legend of General Pete: The Muhlenberg Family and the Founding of our Nation” being held Wednesday, July 14, 6:15 - 7:30 pm. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg is regarded as the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America. His oldest son, John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg who is our church’s namesake, a.k.a. General Pete, gained his fame on the territory of the Virginia Synod. We’ll tell his tale and review scholars’ thoughts on its veracity. We will also review the contributions of other Muhlenbergs to government, science, and more.

Registration is now open, and it is easy! First, review the schedule and workshop topics by clicking [HERE](#). Then, visit the registration page [HERE](#). Be sure to select your preferred workshops! For more information, visit www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT LEARNING

Faith Lens Sunday School class — Meets **Sundays at 11:00 am** using a hybrid model: in person (in the Nielsen Room) and on [ZOOM](#). Faith Lens offers opportunities for conversation, reflection and occasional service projects.

To learn more, contact Jean Helmick (jean.helmick@gmail.com or 540-830-1930).

Wednesday Morning Bible study: This adult class meets via [ZOOM](#) **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.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Sadly the decision has been made to cancel Online Kairos this year (originally scheduled for June 27-30). In addition to experiencing some logistical difficulties, Synod leadership recognized that there will not be enough participation to make the event possible. We would like to encourage our youth who will be in 9th - 12th grades this fall to look forward to an exceptionally joyful and enthusiastic Winter Celebration January 21-23, 2022. We hope this event will be a truly special and memorable way to celebrate our return to in-person events. Here at Muhlenberg plans are coming together to gather informally over the summer with our high school students, so keep an eye on *The Chimes* for information in the months to come!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT MUHLENBERG

As you have heard, Congregation Council has been working diligently to update and 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 children's ministry.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hiring a part-time Children's Minister. This person will provide dynamic leadership and oversight for our children's ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Children's Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in children from birth to grade 5, and their families.

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

Children's Ministry
at Muhlenberg



JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.), contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

✚ With great sadness, we share the news of James Thomas “Jim” Rotzin’s death June 17. Please keep his wife Sue and their family in your prayers. A graveside service was held for Jim this past Tuesday (June 22) at Eastlawn Memorial Gardens.

✚ Congratulations to Steve Wilfong who has been named Veteran of the Month by Dayton’s American Legion Post 27. Steve served in the US Air Force 1970-1974 and was a Medical Services Specialist stationed at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 28—July 4

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

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting

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

Sun. Sixth 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

10:45 am VBS: Compassion Camp

11:00 am Faith Lens Class via ZOOM

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:*

(depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

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