



ELCA

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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July 2, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

For the summer, we're using "seasonal bulletins" that we'll reuse for several weeks. You'll find all the specific parts of our worship — hymn numbers, Scripture readings, and worship participants — listed here on the front page of *The Chimes*.

GATHERING HYMN ~ *O Holy Spirit, Enter In* ELW 786

FIRST READING ~ 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 Pew Bible N.T. page 188

GOSPEL ~ Matthew 26:36-46 Pew Bible N.T. page 31

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *Arise, Your Light Has Come* ELW 314

SENDING HYMN ~ *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* ELW 538

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS **8:30** ~ Gus Kagey
 11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

LECTORS **8:30** ~ Mark Warner
 11:00 ~ Robert Alley

LAY ASSISTING **8:30** ~ Kim Fawley
MINISTERS **11:00** ~ Lori Reich

SOUND **8:30** ~ Liam Wightman
TECHS **11:00** ~ Todd Hedinger

USHERS **8:30** ~ Bob & Margie Miller
 11:00 ~ Mark Byerly

COMMUNION **8:30** ~ Mark Warner, Gus Kagey, Meg Wightman, Larry Blade

ASSISTANTS **11:00** ~ Cheryl Hoak, Philip Quoqui, Robert Alley

MUSICIANS Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At our Congregation Council Meeting Monday, June 19, we discussed the following:

- **Constitution Task Force** (Cathy Copeland, Brad Moyers, and Lauren Eanes) led an hour overview discussion regarding the process being followed to update our out-of-date Constitution. The Task Force presented ELCA required and suggested revisions, as well as MLC specific task force revision recommendations. The Task Force and Council will work together over the next few months to prepare a draft constitution for a congregational vote at our November and January Congregational Meetings.
- **Intent Cards** can still be turned in. Completed Intent Cards enable Treasurer Sarah Sunde to work with our committees and Council early this fall to prepare a realistic budget for our November Congregational Meeting. If you have not turned in your card yet, please do so. They are available electronically [HERE](#) or on the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.
- **Fire Escape Paint Removal** — estimated start date is July 3.
- **EV charging possibilities and possible solar panel discount opportunities for the MAC roof** are being explored by Property Committee and Entrepreneurial Task Force.
- **The Mule-N-Burgers with Cheese co-ed kickball team** has been registered with City Parks and Rec league for the fall season. Interested in playing? Contact RW Carneal (rcarneal@gmail.com or 540-338-6960).

Peace be with you,
Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President
mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

PASTOR LAUREN ON VACATION

Pastor Lauren will be out of the office July 1-22 for family vacation and rejuvenation time. She will have limited cell phone access as she travels and asks that you contact Pastor Alex or Linda Depoy if you have any pastoral needs during her absence.

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER

Today (7/2)

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. 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. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.



LAY COMMUNION

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning. They bring communion to homebound members once a month. If you are interested in receiving home communion, or if you are interested in serving as a Lay Communion Minister, please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Morrison.



Make a name badge so fellow members can learn your name. Supplies are located at the Gathering Area reception desk.

THIS WEEK

4TH OF JULY – OFFICE CLOSED



The staff wishes you a happy and safe Independence Day celebration! The church office is closed Tuesday in recognition of the holiday.

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP

Wednesday, July 5, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you basic stitches! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace (e.g. recovering from an illness, grieving a loss), as well as in celebration and joy (e.g. birthday, wedding, graduation).



If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone, please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net). Donations of yarn are always appreciated. Call Jackie or any member of the group to arrange for pick up.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VBS IS JUST ON THE HORIZON

August 7 – 11, 5:45 – 8:00 pm



Registration for Compassion Camp VBS is now open for ages birth-11. Email Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org) or scan this QR code.

This year we are learning through *Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs*. Participants will explore what all living things



need to live—*shelter, food, water, air, and community*—and how we can have compassion for the living earth, especially in their local ecosystems. Through awareness, gratitude, wonderment, reciprocity, and kinship, participants will consider how to become co-sustainers and participants in the work of God's creation.

POWER IN THE SPIRIT:

SEEKING & FINDING ~ July 13 - 15

At this inspirational conference on the campus of Roanoke College, you'll join in workshops with friends from around the Synod on a variety of topics, including the minor prophets of scripture, faith and public policy, faithful art, racial division in the church, conflict management, religious freedom, History, and more! Muhlenberg's own **Kathy Thompson** and **Judy Wilfong** will be teaching a course on Biblical Storytelling, and **Ashley Saunders** will provide programming for children ages 3 - 10 who would like to attend with their parents. Worship services will include a "Jazz Mass" on Friday evening, where **Judy Wilfong** will be officially commissioned as a Virginia Synod Lay Preacher! It's going to be an exciting week, and all are encouraged to attend. Click [HERE](#) to register and for more information or visit the Connection Center.



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*Devotional booklets for
July-September are
available at the Connection Center
and in the Connection Box outside.*

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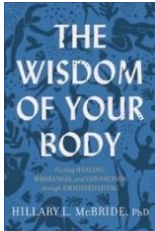
MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

BIBLE STUDY GATHERING

Saturday, August 19, 11:00 am -1:00 pm
Hillandale Park, shelter 10 (handicapped accessible)

Salad Potluck: bring a salad (fruit, pasta, bean, greens--any kind you'd like!)

Drinks, plates, utensils, napkins provided



The Wednesday Morning Bible Study group (which typically meets via Zoom) is hosting this in-person gathering for all who have attended the Bible study AND those who are interested in learning what the group is all about. We will explore the concept of embodiment and a biblical view of bodies as we discuss the book *The Wisdom of Your Body* by Hillary McBride. The entire book is good but if you run out of time, read chapters 1, 2 and 9.

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will resume its regular weekly meeting Wednesday, September 6.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

UPDATE ON MUHLENBERG MERCH

Some of our Muhlenberg Merch is in! ...but some of the t-shirts have been delayed in production. So, if you ordered a Muhlenberg t-shirt or hat, these items will most likely be available at the church by Sunday, July 9. We'll contact you once everything is in, so you know for sure when to pick them up. And remember — a limited number of extra shirts and hats have been ordered and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis!



GET READY TO WELCOME WADE!

Wade Meyers, our new Music Minister, will begin his time with us **Sunday, July 16!** Please plan to attend a Meet and Greet with Wade that morning between 9:45 am – 11:00 am. You'll have a chance to grab a cup of coffee and a snack, chat with Wade, and catch up with other Muhlenberg friends too!



Wade comes to us from the metro DC area, having most recently served as the Director of Music and Worship Arts at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church. In addition to his music ministry, he has also been a teaching artist and director for a number of ensembles.

Here are a few words from Wade:

“Hi everyone! I'm Wade Meyers. My journey has taken me through various roles in music ministry, from working with choirs and handbell ensembles to writing music and performing with renowned musicians. I'm passionate about creating an inclusive and engaging worship experience, and empowering volunteers to share their gifts to praise God and minister to the congregation. The people of Muhlenberg who I've met so far have been a delight to get to know — you all have a very positive, exciting environment at your church, and I cannot wait to get to know you all soon!”

AN UPDATE ON OUR COMMUNITY DIRECTORY



Thank you to all who participated in our directory photo shoots and information updating in May. More than 110 members/member families

updated their photos and information! This is great progress, but it also means we still have a way to go before everyone's information and photo are current.

If you haven't yet updated your information and had a current photo taken, you will receive a mailing in the next few weeks. This mailing includes a copy of your current information to be reviewed and updated as needed, as well as a list of choices for how to update your photo.

PLEASE return this information to the church by the date indicated, so that our new directory will be as current and thorough as possible! And for our members who are homebound, not to worry — we will be in touch soon about a personal visit to take your photo and update your information. Thank you for your time and cooperation!

If you have any questions, please email Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) or Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or reach either of them at the church office (540-434-3496).

CREATION CARE

Eliminate plastic bags, disposable containers, paper napkins and plastic utensils from your lunch. You might be tempted to buy convenience foods in single-serving packages at the supermarket, but the waste adds up quickly.



Over 10 billion yogurt cups and 3.6 billion drink pouches end up in the landfill each year. Try packing a waste-free lunch. Seal your sandwich in a reusable container, fill a thermos with soup, use a cloth napkin and pack all in a reusable lunch bag.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

NURSERY COORDINATOR POSITION SEARCH

Nursery Coordinator Shayla Forrest has graduated from JMU and will be leaving Harrisonburg this summer. We will celebrate her service Sunday, July 16. We have begun a search for our next Nursery Coordinator who will provide a faithful, safe, nurturing, clean and loving environment for our youngest children. 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](#).

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

OPEN DOORS SUMMER MEAL

Muhlenberg will provide the meal for Open Doors Summer Outreach Meal **Sunday evening, July 16**. Open Doors brings water and tables to a parking lot downtown. The main dish is provided. If you would be able to provide **an easy to serve side dish** (coleslaw, macaroni/potato salad, applesauce/fruit cups, etc.) **or a dessert** (brownies, cookies, etc.) for 10, 20 or 40 people, that would be wonderful! Food can be dropped off at church that Sunday morning (7/16) or pick-up that afternoon may be possible. To sign-up or if you have any questions, please contact Amy Burke (aburkert42@gmail.com) or 540-574-2589).

DIGITAL MINISTRY

To help share information from our social media with those who don't have access or may have missed it, we are including recent posts in *The Chimes*. Posts may come from Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages.

We know Music Accompanist Linlin Uta is a talented pianist, and it's been delightful to see her stretch her skills to the organ as she's led us in worship this past month. We are grateful for her leadership and service during this time between Music Ministers, and for the many ways she's shared her gifts--including a gorgeous saxophone prelude! Thank you, Linlin! We look forward to your ministry among us in the year ahead.

For the next two weeks, Judith Ofcarcik will lead music in worship, before our new Music Minister Wade Meyers begins his duties at the organ bench July 23. Judith is an active part of our Muhlenberg community in addition to her role as a music professor at JMU, and give thanks for her sharing her expertise in this place!



Thank
You!!



[Harrisonburg Police Department](#),
[Harrisonburg Fire Department](#),
and [Harrisonburg Rescue Squad Inc.](#) visited Muhlenberg recently!

Our kids from [Second Home Learning Center](#) and [Harrisonburg Rockingham Day Care](#) got a personal tour of their cool vehicles and equipment! What a treat - thank you, first responders!!



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent in-person and online viewership:

6/18	8:30 Holy Communion	39
	11:00 Holy Communion	93
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	27
	Total Views this Week	200
	Hours Viewed this Week	52.0
6/25	8:30 Holy Communion	74
	11:00 Holy Communion	78
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	20

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

In reviewing the numbers, I noticed that the 2023 year to date budget and 2022 actual numbers are the same in May as I presented in April. My apologies for running a report with the May information earlier than needed. Expenses were on par with previous months and gifts and offerings are still lagging a bit behind. Again, we are showing a small deficit.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through May 2023			
	2023YTD Actual	2023YTD Budget	2022YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$205,296	\$264,167	\$207,745
Total Income	\$317,099	\$320,323	\$256,542
Total Expenses	\$321,231	\$365,138	\$275,497
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(4,132)	\$(44,815)	\$(18,955)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 4,447.15
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 173.20
Total Giving	\$ 4,620.35

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 3 - 9, 2023

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

- Tue** Independence Day ~ Church Office Closed
- Wed** 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group
- Sun.** Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 am Holy Communion in person
11:00 am Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)



Each week, we lift up five households from our congregation in prayer. Our prayer families for this week are:

Katie Sisson

Mary Elizabeth Skinner

Lucy Sloop

Michael and Mary Jane Slowinski

Eric, Annie and Cameron Slowinski

Please note: if you notice an unintentional omission in our list or prefer your name not be listed, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (540-434-3496 or depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org).

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: (depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).