



# 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 3, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ALEX ...

Dear family in Christ,

THANK YOU! I am so delighted to be returning to Muhlenberg this week, and have been simply overwhelmed by your generosity and love while I've been away. It's been such a joy to see what this community of faith has been up to while I've been taking this needed time of rest and renewal. I'm excited to be returning to you energized and ready to walk with you in the ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in this place.

While the timing was quite unfortunate with me getting COVID right before I was scheduled to be back, I'm feeling better now and looking forward to being *back in the office this Tuesday*. I have already enjoyed reconnecting with folks over the phone and through Zoom, and can't wait to see you face to face.

Thank you for the ways you have modeled love, care, and sabbath for me in this season, and I hope to reflect those same gifts to you with new health and energy for the season of ministry that is ahead.

*Peace,*  
*Pastor Alex*

*What's the Buzz continued on page 2*

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### TRAVELS, TRIPS AND JOURNEYS...

Today's worship is a special lay-led service entitled *Travels, Trips, and Journeys: A Service of Word and Song for Summer*. As Pastor Lauren is out on a scheduled vacation, Pastor Alex continues to recover from COVID, and supply pastors are unavailable on this holiday weekend, we are all ministers of the Word this morning as we pray, read Scripture, and sing together. Special thanks to the Celebration Singers and Sanctuary Choir as they provide musical leadership for us this morning!

### FOOD COLLECTION

On the first Sunday each month, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products, cleansers, diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products.

### DIGITAL FELLOWSHIP TODAY!

Join Pastor Alex for an online *coffee hour* at noon today. Catch up with friends who worship online, or introduce yourself if you're new to our Wellstream worshipping community! Pour a cup of coffee, settle in on your couch, and join here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

### WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

We are SO CLOSE!! **71 commitments totaling \$52,814** for our *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* Campaign



means we are just about \$2,200 away from reaching our goal. Remember, if we receive **9 more commitments** of any amount, we will receive our second \$5,000 challenge grant!

Learn more about

the campaign and submit your commitment at [muhlenberglutheran.org/StrengthandHope](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/StrengthandHope).

Thank you for your generous contributions!

### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

We met this June 20 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.*
- The Personnel Committee will be reaching out to two candidates to for interviews for the Youth Minister position.
- 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](mailto:mlccouncilpres@yahoo.com).

*Greta Willis, Congregation Council President*

## 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

BYOB: Instead of paper or plastic, bring your own bags when you shop. Invest in a supply of canvas bags, or bring back the bags you used on your last shopping trip for a refill.

### HOLIDAY & OFFICE HOURS

The staff wishes you a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration! The church office is closed Monday in recognition of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

Parish Administrator Linda Depoy is out of the office this week, and Administrative Assistant Liz Engleking will extend her office hours this week to be in 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Tuesday - Friday.



## **THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG**

### **PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING CIRCLE** **Wednesday, July 6, 6:30-8:00**

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, as well as in celebration and joy.

If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone who is ill, recovering from an illness, healing from broken bones, grieving a loss, parent with dementia, awaiting a birth, in need of comfort, new birth, a grandmother, birthday, wedding, on a journey, graduation etc., please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283).

## **LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION**

### **OPEN DOORS**

Our Local & Global Mission ministry team prepared and served dinner for residents of Open Doors on June 25. Only one day was requested, and we provided the food items and served the clients. Grab and Go breakfast items were also provided. A huge thanks to Sue Totty for coordinating and the members who helped.

### **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS)**

Save the Date! CWS will visit again **July 24 at 9:45 am**. Zachary Baxter will share information on the co-sponsoring process. During Lent Muhlenberg supported CWS with goods for the Refugee Families. Would we like to take the next step and co-sponsor a family? Let's gather on the 24<sup>th</sup> to hear from CWS and from a member of Linville Church of the Brethren who is directly involved in the co-sponsoring process at her church.

## **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. See last week's issue of *The Chimes* for details by clicking [HERE](#) to visit our website.

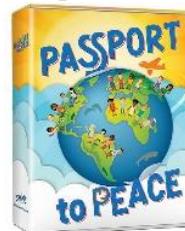
*Wanda Hamilton, Board Chair, Bridge of Hope*

## **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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, another team to help with 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

6/19	8:30 Holy Communion .....	51
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	59
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	35
	Total Views this Week .....	155
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	58.1
6/26	8:30 Holy Communion .....	68
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	58
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	38

### 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	\$207,745	\$256,250	\$241,164
Total Income	\$259,042	\$293,229	\$279,342
Total Expenses	\$277,215	\$347,617	\$351,837
<b>Excess Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(18,173)</b>	<b>\$(54,388)</b>	<b>\$(72,495)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 4,135.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,784.23
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 5,919.23</b>

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

### July 4 — July 10

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

Mon	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Holiday ~ Church office closed
Tues	1:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
Sun	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
	8:30 am Holy Communion in person
	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)

## 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.

### SYNOD GATHERING ~ JULY/15-16

**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.

*We give a special thanks to member Bob Crittenden for donating the green legal paper used to print today's issue of The Chimes. Bob retired and closed his printing business and has donated a lot of special paper to us that we will be using in the coming months and even years. Thank you, Bob!*