



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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July 4, 2021

SIXTH 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 money provided by the Endowment Committee as part of the 2020 Endowment Fund distribution 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 (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.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets TOMORROW (7/5), 7:00 pm via [ZOOM](#). Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us! For details, contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88053197319?pwd=cUFVeVAzdXhTSDgxUXFBV3gzemhUZz09>

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

This adult class meets via [ZOOM](#) Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am, and will meet throughout July. Led by Pastor Lauren, the group will dive deep into the book of Ephesians. The study isn't limited to Muhlenberg members, so feel free to invite a friend.

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Begins NEXT Sunday (7/11). See p 6 for details.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

6/20	8:30 Communion (in person-20 + Zoom-9).....	29
	10:00 Outside/Communion.....	48
	11:00 Total Live Views.....	39
	Total Views this Week	155
	Hours Viewed this Week	53.1
6/27	8:30 Communion (in person-21 + Zoom-9).....	30
	10:00 Outside/Communion.....	55
	11:00 Total Live Views.....	45

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	\$ 5,535.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 24,473.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 30,008.00

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 THROUGH JULY 18

Compassion Camp is back at 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 2 (TODAY, 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

CARING FOR CREATION: SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

Beginning Sunday, July 25, we will consider our relationship to God's creation and our responsibility to care for the earth we've been given through a three-week worship and sermon series. The Bible is full of references to trees, rivers, and mountains, so we will use these aspects of creation to discern our role in *Caring for Creation*.



As we prepare for this worship series, you are invited to send in photos that you've taken of **Forests, Rivers, and Mountains** that

are special or even sacred to you and your family. Email photos to Christian Perritt at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org with the location of your photo.

CREATION CARE TIP

According to the Lawn Institute, if you leave it alone, your grass will convert organic matter into nutrients to keep the lawn growing. Grass clippings themselves are a good source of free fertilizer — they can provide up to one-half of the nitrogen needed by a lawn. Grass clippings left on a chemical-free lawn will begin to decompose almost immediately. The only times you should remove clippings are when converting from a chemical system (after the first mowing to reduce the chance of disease) and whenever you cut off more than one-half of the top growth.



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 2 for more information about how Muhlenberg is responding to this need.*

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

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

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Next 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/.



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

Muhlenberg was present again this week to lay more laminate flooring at our Habitat Faith Build duplex. A huge thanks to Nate Eanes, Malcom Wilfong and Mark Warner.

This coming week (July 5-11) we hope to help with yard seeding. We will rake out the topsoil and put down grass seed and straw. If you can help any day this week, please contact Karen Thomsen (kethomsen25@gmail.com or 540 -421-4431).



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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 may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can 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.

Dear friends in Christ,

You may have been wondering where I've been the past few weeks! Unfortunately, I've been quite sick with pneumonia and recovery has been quite slow, with some setbacks along the way. I'm not sure when I'll be able to return, but I am hopeful it won't be too much longer.

In the meantime, my family has been taking good care of me. We are very grateful for the meals provided through the Care Committee and our Shepherd Group. We don't have any additional needs at this time, but I do appreciate your prayers!

I give thanks for the faithful work of Pastor Alex and all of the Muhlenberg staff through my absence, and look forward to my return to ministry with you all.

In Christ,
Pastor Lauren



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 5 - 11

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

Mon. Staff Holiday – Church Office Closed
7:00 pm Eldercare Support Group
via [ZOOM](#)

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

Sun. Seventh 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](#)

Sun. – Thu. Power in the Spirit

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)

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