



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

281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 ✚ Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org ✚ Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org



July 9, 2023

SIXTH 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 ~ *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* ELW 603

FIRST READING ~ Micah 7:18-20 Pew Bible page 969

GOSPEL ~ John 8:1-11 Pew Bible N.T. page 104

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *There Is a Balm in Gilead* ELW 614

SENDING HYMN ~ *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* ELW 608

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS	8:30 ~ Bill Whitmire	LECTORS	8:30 ~ Susan Lawrence
	11:00 ~ Sue Koch		11:00 ~ Malcolm Wilfong

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS	8:30 ~ Mary Elizabeth Skinner	SOUND	8:30 ~ Tom Pippert
	11:00 ~ Jean Helmick	TECHS	11:00 ~ Mark Byerly

USHERS

8:30 ~ Bob & Margie Miller

11:00 ~ Melissa, Billy and Henry Perritt

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Bill & Crystl Whitmire, Susan Lawrence, Karen Thomsen

11:00 ~ Sue Koch, Philip Quoqui, Malcolm & Judy Wilfong

MUSICIANS Judith Ofcarcik, Guest Organist

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

GET READY TO WELCOME WADE!



Wade Meyers, our new Music Minister, will begin his time with us **NEXT Sunday, July 16!** Please plan to attend a Meet and Greet with Wade 9:45 am – 11:00 am that day. 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!”

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

PASTOR LAUREN ON VACATION

Pastor Lauren will be out of the office through July 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.

THIS WEEK

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. 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 attend with their parents. Worship services will include a “Jazz Mass” on Friday evening, where **Judy Wilfong** will be commissioned as a Virginia Synod Lay Preacher! It's going to be an exciting week, and all are encouraged to attend. Click [HERE](#) for more information or visit the Connection Center.



† † † † †

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

† † † † †

OPEN DOORS SUMMER MEAL

Next Sunday, July 16



Muhlenberg will provide the meal for Open Doors Summer Outreach Meal **NEXT 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).

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.

BIBLE STUDY GATHERING

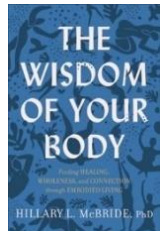
Saturday, August 19, 11:00 am -1:00 pm

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.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

TRINITY CLOTHES CLOSET

We help support the Trinity Presbyterian Clothes Closet by volunteering the **fourth Wednesday each month from 6:15 - 7:30 pm** to assist community members selecting clothing. Clothing is available in all sizes without any charge. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sandy Randolph (540-820-9654 or cerprek@gmail.com). If you are not able to commit monthly but would be willing to help on an as needed basis (maybe once or twice a year), your time would be greatly appreciated!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

THE GREAT HARRISONBURG PLAY DATE!

Saturday, August 26, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Save the date! We are hosting the biggest, best back to school party in the 'Burg! The Great Harrisonburg Play Date will bring together Muhlenbergers and our three school partners: Second Home, Harrisonburg/Rockingham Day Care, and Minnick School. Kids will enjoy a bounce house, carnival games, chalk art, face painting, and more! The Play Date will also celebrate our partnership by gifting these three organizations with much-needed play equipment and supplies.

Keep an eye on *The Chimes* for more details but for now, mark your calendar for an afternoon of **FUN Saturday, August 26, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm**. Interested in helping get this party started? Contact Karen Thomsen (kethomsen25@gmail.com), Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org), or Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

UPDATE ON MUHLENBERG MERCH



Some Muhlenberg Merch is in but some of the t-shirts have been delayed in production. 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!

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).

LOVE THE SINNER, HATE THE CLICHÉ

People of Muhlenberg, THANK YOU! Coming into the summer, Pastor Lauren and I were very excited for this *Cliché* sermon series, but also equally nervous. It's difficult to walk the fine line of encouraging self-reflection when you only have so many minutes in the pulpit. But we've been delighted by the response to this series, and the willingness of our community to engage in internal and external conversations over the cliché phrases it's so easy to lean upon when we're looking for the right thing to say. *Everything Happens for a Reason, God Won't Give You More than You Can Hand, God Must Have Needed Another Angel in Heaven, The Bible Says It... I Believe It... That Settles It, God Helps Those Who Help Themselves, and Love the Sinner Hate the Sin.*

I know that at one time or another, I've thought, said, or believed each of these phrases, and many of you have expressed the same. We want to find the right thing to say, and that is faithful, but often our clichés fall short. So it's been good to reflect together, celebrating the attempt to be faithful that is at the heart of offering words of comfort and purpose to others, and finding a new way forward when we realize the ways these words are unhelpful.

If you missed a sermon along the way, you can find each of the sermons published on YouTube in [THIS PLAYLIST](#). Printed copies of sermons can be made available by request to the Pastors.

We also encourage you to continue the conversation! If there are other phrases or theological musings that you'd like to discuss, feel free to reach out to the pastors. We'd love to get together to talk those through. Or, you're welcome to share the questions in a way that

benefits the whole community by filling out a purple card and allow the Pastors to reflect on your questions publicly through *The Chimes* and online. Place your purple card in the Offering Plate or in the purple lock box at the Connection Center. Only the Pastors have access to this box. Questions can also be asked digitally using [THIS GOOGLE FORM](#). If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to the Pastors.

Again, thank you for your willingness to engage in these conversations, and meaningful self-reflection. We're looking forward to diving into the waters with our next sermon series, *Come to the Water*, beginning next Sunday!

+Pastor Alex

CREATION CARE

Virtually all faith traditions teach stewardship of financial and, especially, of natural resources which support life on Earth. Energy efficiency improves financial stewardship by reducing utility costs. Greater efficiency in your worship facility, members' homes and workplaces can also help protect the Earth for future generations and make life better for everyone. ENERGY STAR is a U.S. Environment Protection Agency program helping business and individuals fight global warming through energy efficiency. Learn more at: www.energystar.gov.



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.

KAİROS: A WONDERFUL WEEK ON GOD'S TIME



Muhlenberg youth Will Fletchall, Annika Harmison, and Kat Kolodinsky had a wonderful time at the Virginia Synod Youth Event “Kairos” the week before last, with Pastor Alex going as a small group leader (also pictured is Lily Harmison). Kairos is the New Testament Greek word for “special time” and is used whenever God’s people want to talk about a time of change, renewal, or God’s special work in the believer and the community. We certainly found renewal, as we gathered around a theme of “A Drop of Hope” focusing on Romans 5:1-5. Our community learned about what a difference it makes to find even a drop of hope, as the waters of hope will always call us back to our

baptismal identity as God’s beloved! We may have focused on drops, but our youth brought home a wellspring of happy memories, friendships, and love from this amazing week! Enjoy these snapshots from our week together on “God’s time.”





Pastor Alex performs ... rap style! ↘



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

6/25	8:30 Holy Communion	74
	11:00 Holy Communion	78
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	20
	Total Views this Week	180
	Hours Viewed this Week	51.3
7/2	8:30 Holy Communion	52
	11:00 Holy Communion	74
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	30

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 <u>Actual</u>	2023YTD <u>Budget</u>	2022YTD <u>Actual</u>
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	\$	3,955.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	600.83
Total Giving	\$	4,555.83

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 10 - 16, 2023

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

Mon 1:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Ministries Night via [ZOOM](#)

July 13 – 15 Power in the Sprit

Sun Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 am Holy Communion in person
9:45 am Meet and Greet for Wade Meyers
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:

*Don R. Smith
 Victoria Smith
 Leo Snider
 Gary Snyder
 Phyllis Sonner*

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 depoy@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: (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496) Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.