



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

E-mail address: [info@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org) † Website: [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: [eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: [zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)



**July 10, 2022**

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **WHAT'S THE BUZZ?**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORS**

A number of folks in our community have had a vivid reminder over the past few weeks that the pandemic is not over, and our pastors are no exception. Pastor Lauren's daughter is still recovering from a bout with COVID. Due to her exposure to the virus, Pastor Lauren is worshipping from home this morning. She will have limited in-person office hours this coming week in order to prevent potential transmission, but is fully available by phone or email, and is available for online or masked outdoor meetings.

After a time of Sabbath Leave, Pastor Alex has been delighted to return to the office this week! He has been overwhelmed by your generosity and love while he was away. He has already enjoyed reconnecting with folks over the phone and through Zoom, and can't wait to see more of you face to face. Thank you for the ways Muhlenberg has modeled love, care, and sabbath in this season.

Peace,  
Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex

## **WE'RE ALMOST THERE!**

We are **JUST \$880 away from reaching our \$60,000 goal!** Help us reach the finish line-- make your commitment today. Remember your over-and-above commitment can be fulfilled weekly, monthly, quarterly, or all at once, any time between now and May 2023. Full details at [muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope). It is so exciting to see God's abundance at work in our midst!

## **TODAY AT MUHLENBERG**

### **NURSERY STAFFING**

The nursery will be open for our little ones at services today. It will not be staffed at 8:30 am, but Ms. Krisztina will be there at 11:00 am. **Next week**, the nursery will be open but not staffed at both services.

Our church policy states that two adults be present when working with children. If you would like to support the young children's ministry, the nursery is in need of volunteers! Volunteering at either service is a great way for adults to get to know the beautiful families and children in our congregation.

## **NEXT WEEK AT MUHLENBERG**

### **SABBATH SERMON SERIES**

*In the beginning, God created... And on the seventh day God rested.* Beginning next Sunday, July 17, we will begin a preaching series on *Sabbath*. We say Sabbath is about rest, and yet we fill our day with activities that drain our energies and leave us exhausted. We hear the commandment “Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy,” and we often have no idea what that means.

Join us for a season of reorientation around this Holy practice, so that we may see Sabbath practices as life-giving gifts of grace. Daily resources—including scripture, quotes, and spiritual practices—can be found each day of this three-week series on our Facebook and Instagram profiles.

## **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 as we prepare for fall programming. There's a small budget to bring color, life, and functional seating 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 Today (7/10) to sign up.

### **LAY PREACHER COMMISSIONED**

Kathy Thompson will be commissioned as a Lay Preacher at the Virginia Synod Gathering on July 15, 2022 at 7pm at College Lutheran Church in Salem. She has completed a yearlong program through the Virginia Synod, and will now be endorsed and commissioned to provide worship leadership and preaching to congregations around the synod. Congratulations to Kathy!

### **ENTERING THE CHURCH**

Jesus was able to walk through locked doors (see John 20) but entering Muhlenberg's building is sometimes a little harder for those who come to the church on a weekday! For the safety of all who use our space during the week, all doors remain locked at all times. When you arrive at the church, we ask you to call the church's main phone number, located on a sign on the Gathering Area doors, and a staff person will come to open the Gathering Area door for you.

If you're planning to come to the church during the week, we invite you to call ahead to make sure there is someone here who can let you in. Generally, there is someone here between 9am and 3pm, but it's always best to double check before you make the drive. Often we can accommodate access at other times, as well, especially if we know ahead of time. We look forward to welcoming you to Muhlenberg!

## FROM OUR FINANCE MANAGER

### 2ND QUARTER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Most church members and attendees who donated funds to Muhlenberg will have received an emailed contribution statement reflecting total donations for the second quarter of 2022. For those without email or those who requested paper statements, these were mailed to you. Your digital statement was sent to the email address we have on file here, from [finance@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:finance@muhlenberglutheran.org). Be sure to watch for that email and review your mid-year statement. If you have not received that email, check your spam folder first, then feel free to call or [email Finance](mailto:email.Finance) (540-434-3496).

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### OPEN DOORS

Our Local & Global Mission ministry team prepared and served dinner for residents of Open Doors on June 25. A huge thanks to Sue Totty for coordinating and the members who helped.

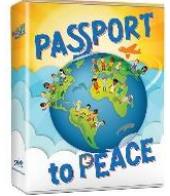
### CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS)

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.

## 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).

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Please pray as we search for a part-time Youth Minister, who will provide dynamic leadership & oversight of our youth ministry, nurturing Christian faith in people grades 6 - 12 and their families.

Interested parties can find the job description and application instructions [HERE](#).

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

6/26	8:30 Holy Communion .....	68
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	58
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	38
	Total Views this Week .....	163
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	48.9
7/3	8:30 Holy Communion .....	47
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	40
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	36

### 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	\$ 23,866.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,205.23
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 25,071.23</b>

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 11 — July 17

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

<b>Mon</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Ministries Night</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Weekly Staff Meeting</b>
<b>Sun</b>		<b>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion in person</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a></b>

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)

### BLOOD DRIVE ~ 8/21, 9:00 - 1:00

The American Red Cross will be in the MAC. If you give regularly, please time your donations to donate that day. There's currently a serious shortage, so plan to donate!

### CREATION CARE TIP

Support your local growers by shopping at the farmers market. You'll find an array of locally grown produce, homemade preserves, baked goods, flowers, plants, and crafts. Take time to sample the products and talk to the farmers about how their produce was grown.

*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!*