



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 16, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



WELCOME, WADE! *(see page 2 for details)*



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 ~ *Gather Us In*

ELW 532

FIRST READING ~ Genesis 1:1-2, 2:4b-10

Pew Bible page 1

GOSPEL ~ Mark 4:35-41

Pew Bible page 39

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *Crashing Waters at Creation*

ELW 455

SENDING HYMN ~ *Wade in the Water*

ELW 459

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS 8:30 ~ Jim Doyle

11:00 ~ Sue Koch

LECTORS 8:30 ~ Pam Briehl

11:00 ~ Brad Moyers

LAY ASSISTING 8:30 ~ Kim Fawley

MINISTERS 11:00 ~

SOUND 8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

TECHS 11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

USHERS 8:30 ~ Bob & Margie Miller, Susan Gallaher

11:00 ~ Sue Totty, Samuel McKeever

COMMUNION 8:30 ~ Crystl Whitmire, Jim Doyle, Mark & Pam Briehl

ASSISTANTS 11:00 ~ Sue Koch, Brad Moyers, Cheryl Hoak

MUSICIANS Judith Ofcarcik, Guest Organist

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

WELCOME WADE MEYERS, MUSIC MINISTER!



Today, we are delighted to introduce Wade Meyers to our Muhlenberg family as our new Music Minister! **Join us in the Gathering Area today for a Meet and Greet with Wade 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!

Wade comes to us from the Gaithersburg, MD area. He is excited to be making a home in a smaller community. Wade earned his Bachelor of Music at Stetson University and received his Master of Music from George Mason University. He has served in many other Music Minister roles and has also been a Teaching Artist, most recently in Georgetown, MD. He has been directing and coordinating 11 ensembles in the DC Metro Area for the past few years as well.

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!"

If you'd like to extend a word of welcome, or make a joyful offer to be a part of our music ministry, you can now reach Wade at his new email: meyers@muhlenberglutheran.org

Mark your calendars: Wade will be formally installed as our music minister in worship on August 20, and he will offer a recital in the sanctuary that afternoon at 2:00 pm.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

COME TO THE WATERS: WORSHIP AND SERMON SERIES

Today, we begin a new sermon series that will immerse us in the transformative power of water in our faith and in our everyday ordinary moments. Over the next five weeks, we will journey together, exploring familiar stories and allowing their promises of God's refreshing presence to sustain us along the way.



Water, a central sign of life, renewal, and transformation, flows through the pages of Scripture. As we wade in the water, we will encounter the creative power of God in Genesis 1, and reflect on God's steadfast presence as the source of life. We'll then be walking on water together in Matthew 14:22-33, finding assurance in God's unwavering presence amid life's storms. Acts 8:26-39 will invite us to contemplate the transformative power of baptism, embracing God's inclusive love and the new birth it brings.

Staying hydrated in the heat of summer will take new meaning as John 4:4-26 reminds us of God's desire to quench our spiritual thirst, offering authentic worship and purpose. Finally, Jonah 2 will reveal God's relentless pursuit, unending mercy, and transformative hope that emerges from the depths of despair whenever we feel underwater.

May God's creative power, Christ's presence in storms, baptism's transformative nature, the living water satisfying our souls, and the Spirit's relentless pursuit shape our understanding of God's character whenever we encounter water this summer. We hope you'll enjoy diving into this series and drawing closer to the living water that brings abundant life.

GODSPEED AND FAREWELL TO SHAYLA FORREST

Nursery Coordinator Shayla Forrest completed the education program at JMU in May. She is now headed to Williamsburg to teach middle



school English. We thank Shayla for the care and support she gave our young children over the last year. Her gentle care and connection with the children in the nursery made it possible for

parents to worship without worry. Please hold Shayla in prayer as she starts her journey as a first-year teacher. Thank you Shayla, for all you have done!

PASTOR LAUREN ON VACATION

Pastor Lauren will be out of the office through July 22 for family vacation and rejuvenation time. Please contact Pastor Alex or Linda Depoy if you have any pastoral needs during her absence.

OPEN DOORS SUMMER MEAL TODAY (7/16)

Muhlenberg will provide the meal for Open Doors Summer Outreach Meal **THIS evening (7/16)**. 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 this morning or pick-up this afternoon may be possible. 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



Register for VBS by **Monday, July 24** by scanning this QR code or emailing Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).

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. *For a list of needed supplies, see page 6.*



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.

THE GREAT COMMUNITY 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 Community 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

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 days. 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 August 1, 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.

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

CREATION CARE



Create the “one trash can” rule: Every household can manage this easily when you compost your kitchen waste; recycle paper, packaging, bottles, and cans; give away clothes, toys, tools, and household items, rather than trash them; and avoid excessively packaged products when you shop.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, communion assistants, sound techs, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center for **August**. Signing up really helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson (578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu)*. If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:



Worship + Sermons > Serve in Worship

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

PATCHWORK PANTRY



Patchwork Pantry
a 501(c)(3) organization

Our Patchwork Pantry donations for July totaled 87 pounds. Thanks to all who brought food and supplies! Your faithful generosity is appreciated.

LET'S LUNCH TOGETHER

Friday, July 28, 11:30 am

The last Friday of the month is a time to gather for fellowship and lunch at Our Community Place (OCP) Friday Restaurant. The Restaurant is open from 11:30 - 1:30 and serves a delicious 3-course meal for just \$10. The Restaurant provides work for OCP's programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.

We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) at 11:30 am Friday, July 28. Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Wanda Hamilton (540-405-3118).

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

VBS ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Our *Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs* is less than a month away. There are 60+ kids signed up to participate! If you would like to help and can't give your time there are still some supplies we need. They can be dropped off in the nursery on Sundays or call the church office (540-434-3496) if you prefer to drop off during our weekday office hours.

Twine	Tortilla Chips
Herb Seeds	Mild Salsa
Shredded Paper	Teddy Grams
Rolling Pins	Vanilla Yogurt (large containers)
Air Dry Clay	Granola
Pompom Balls	Fresh Fruit:
Lotion/Soap Container Pumps	Strawberries
Coffee Filters	Blueberries
Empty Jars that can fit a cup	Bananas
	Applesauce Packets

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.

KAIROS: 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:

7/2	8:30 Holy Communion	52
	11:00 Holy Communion	74
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	30
	Total Views this Week	464
	Hours Viewed this Week	46.2
7/9	8:30 Holy Communion	62
	11:00 Holy Communion	64
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	33

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

In June, gifts & offerings were consistent with last year and expenses trended slightly higher. As we enter into the second half of the fiscal year, I anticipate the deficit will widen unless there is an increase in gifts and offerings. With summer vacations, you may not be physically present, but remember to continue giving to Muhlenberg.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2023

	2023YTD <u>Actual</u>	2023YTD <u>Budget</u>	2022YTD <u>Actual</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$245,697	\$317,000	\$244,779
Total Income	\$368,115	\$384,388	\$313,058
Total Expenses	\$385,578	\$438,545	\$335,208
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(17,463)	\$(54,157)	\$(22,150)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 19,686.06
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,135.41
Total Giving	\$ 20,821.47

May Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$13

To give online, scan here ➔



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 17 - 23, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Mtg.
Sun		Eighth 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:

*Anita & Gerald Spence
Adam, Courtney, Phoebe and Bryce Spiers
Richard & Caroline Spiers
Nancy St. John
Philecta Staton*

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.