



Equipping All People to Live Out Christ's Love

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July 21, 2024

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

CONGREGATION COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At the July 15 meeting, Congregation Council:

- Approved a revised version of the Muhlenberg Endowment Committee's Policy, Procedure Guidelines
- Discussed and approved Ministry Revitalization Endowment Grants for 2024. (Look for details to come soon.)
- Approved new Memos of Understanding for Second Home and Day Care starting September 2024
- Reviewed the results of the 2024-25 Intent Cards. 55 were turned in (which is a lower number than in the past), with 33 households indicating that their intended giving has been increased. If you missed out on turning in your intent card, you may still do so, as the Council will conduct a mid-year review of income, expenditures, and anticipated giving at our August meeting.
- Approved Personnel Committee's proposed increase in our Music Ministry Accompanist's (Linlin's) salary that reflects increased responsibilities and hours.

Peace be with us all,

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

MERRY CHRISTMAS (IN JULY!)

Worship Series, July 21 & 28

The promise of Christ's incarnation is not something that can be contained to one dark day in December! Like the summer sun, the Word incarnate illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Even in July, we are right to celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now.



TODAY (7/21) and next Sunday, July 28, this *Christmas in July* mini-series invites us to have some fun in worship together, and at the same time consider anew the deep mystery and wonder of Christ's birth and life among us. Even when it's too hot for sweaters, and snowmen are nowhere to be seen, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore him!

Join us for a *Christmas in July* Cookout THIS Thursday, July 25. See page 3 for more information.

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

PRELUDE

Sing We Now of Christmas arr. Mark Hayes
*Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we
now of Christmas, sing we now Noel! Angels
called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks and rest.
Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the lambkin
blest. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!*

OFFERING

Mary, Sweet Mary (11:00) T.Ar buckle/K. Thomas

POSTLUDE ~ Two Settings of Von Himmel

hock, da komm' ich her Friedrich W. Zachau
Johann Pachelbel

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Kim Fawley

11:00 ~

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Linda Morrison

11:00 ~ Terry Caywood

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Gus Kagey

11:00 ~ Sue Koch

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Linda Morrison, Gus Kagey,
Mark & Pam Briehl

11:00 ~ Sue Koch, Terry Caywood

USHERS

8:30 ~ Bart Long, Susan Gallaher

11:00 ~ Olivia Rishell, Malcolm Wilfong

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Mark Byerly

MUSICIANS ~ Matthew O. Thomas, Organist

Emily Becher-McKeever, Mezzo Soprano

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

WELCOME DARCIE ROBERGE



We are excited to announce **Administrative Assistant Darcie Roberge** has joined our staff! Darcie brings a variety of administrative, website, editing and project management experience from her work for the Federal Government. In her free time, Darcie enjoys knitting. Please extend a warm welcome to Darcie the next time you stop by or call the church office! You can contact Darcie by calling the church office or emailing her at roberge@muhlenberglutheran.org.

MISSION MOMENT:

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Today we welcome Jennifer Davis Sensenig, Development Coordinator for Church World Service Harrisonburg, to share about the work they do in our community. Learn more about how to support their efforts through our gift card drive on page 6.

PASTOR LAUREN ON VACATION

Pastor Lauren will be on vacation **through August 1**. Please direct all pastoral care needs to Pastor Alex or call the church office.

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR NELSON



Last week we welcomed Pastors John Derrick and Paul Weber back to help us celebrate our 175th anniversary. Today, although he couldn't be with us, we remember the ministry of Pastor Dave Nelson, who

was Pastor for Muhlenberg 2003 - 2012. Pastor Nelson sent a very gracious and thoughtful response to our invitation. Here is an excerpt from his response:

“Please know my prayers are with you as you celebrate Muhlenberg’s 175th year of ministry. Those years have been filled with faithful witness to a God who has richly blessed this congregation. I certainly know, firsthand, the very special blessing of Muhlenberg and the deep privilege of having served as Pastor.

. . . I will be unable to join you in person during your days of celebration but I did want to offer my prayers and encouragement as well as take another opportunity to thank you for your years of support and kindness. My decade at Muhlenberg was a time of blessed growth and vitality. . .

May your time of celebration be filled with joy and thanksgiving. May you know that there is a retired pastor in South Carolina who is praying for you and will always have a big Muhlenberg space in his heart.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave Nelson+”

Pastor Nelson’s complete response is available for you to read today in the Gathering Area.

Bob Humphrey, former Pastor of Muhlenberg and Bishop Emeritus of the Virginia Synod, ELCA, will join us in person next Sunday (7/28).

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

CHRISTMAS IN JULY COOKOUT
THIS Thursday (7/25), 5:30 – 8:00 pm



Join us for an evening of fun and celebration with your Muhlenberg family! The gift of the Incarnation is not just something for one cold, dark week in December. We'll celebrate *Christmas in July* with a community cookout **this Thursday (7/25), 5:30 - 8:00 pm!**

Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. The community is encouraged to bring sides or your favorite Christmas cookies/treats to share. We plan for our cookout to be outside at the church (but in the event of inclement weather will move inside). Join us for a very Merry Christmas (in July)!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**MULE ‘N BERGERS WITH CHEESE
KICKBALL TEAM**

Mule ‘N Bergers with Cheese coed adult kickball is coming back this fall! Games will be played August 6 – October 8, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings starting at 6:00, 7:00 or 8:00 pm at Ramblewood Park. **The second practice date is Saturday, August 3, 9:00 am** at the lower Ramblewood fields. Let Meg (megwightman14@gmail.com) know asap to order t-shirts in time if you plan to play.

MINISTRY TEAM/COMMITTEE CHAIR MEETING

Sunday, August 4, 12:30 pm

The Ministry Revitalization Task Force is hosting a light lunch meeting for all ministry team/committee chairpersons. Please join us on Sunday, August 4, 12:30 in the MAC. We will collaborate and share information about Fall Startup. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kristee Trumbo (kristeejo13@gmail.com).

RETURN OF FALL PROGRAMMING

August 18, 2024



As schools return to session earlier and family vacations come to a close, we have decided to hold our traditional “Fall Startup” **Sunday, August 18** this year, rather than the Sunday after Labor Day. August is a time when everything seems to get busier in our homes and community, so we are inviting everyone to “Take a Breath” with Muhlenberg this fall. Faith Formation Classes, music, children and youth activities, outreach and service, and more will all begin anew with an air of celebration! But we don't do this just to add to the feeling of busy stress. We hope that we can offer our congregation space to “Take a Breath” in all we do together, finding rest in community and in worshipping our God.

Join us for an exciting and renewing time of worship and faith formation, beginning this year on August 18!

2ND ANNUAL GREAT COMMUNITY PLAY DATE, YARD SALE & MORE! Saturday, August 24

The 2nd Annual Great Community Play Date will be held **Saturday, August 24 from 10:00 am - noon** at Muhlenberg! Enjoy a bounce house, Gaga Ball, Four Square, lawn games, sweet treats and more as we host the biggest, best back-to-school party in the Burg!

But wait...there's more!

Muhlenberg will also hold a yard sale that day! More details will be shared soon, but mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 24 from 8:00 am - noon**. Have stuff in your basement you've been meaning to take to the thrift store? Hold onto it just a few more weeks, and then you can donate it to the yard sale. All proceeds will benefit Muhlenberg's ministries.

But wait...there's even more!

Plans are in the works for a bake sale, cake walk, raffle, music, and more! Save the date **Saturday, August 24** and plan to join in the fun!

Interested in volunteering with this event? Contact Pastor Lauren ...

lanes@muhlenberglutheran.org

CREATION CARE

Look around the house for things that can be repaired. “Repair” is considered the fourth “R” after reduce, reuse, and recycle. You probably have items around the house that could be repaired instead of being tossed in the trash. Gather all your repairable items and then look online to find repair shops in your area. Repairing items you currently own keeps them out of the landfill and may be cheaper than buying replacement items.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

UPDATE — MUHLENBERG COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

I'm very pleased to say that we'll be releasing a first draft of the Muhlenberg Community Directory to you soon. I wanted to give everyone an update on where we are with this project, what this project has entailed, and what we'll need from you:

- This project has been quite the undertaking, and we thank the large number of staff members and amazing volunteers who have helped so far. The platform we use for our directory is comprehensive, but also very strict in how it allows updates to be made, for accuracy and security purposes. The downside is that, instead of being able to just create a new directory, our team has had to update and double-check each individual entry — including individual photo preference, personal info, changes in family status, etc. — manually. This is a painstaking process, and it's taken longer than expected. But, the end result will be an accurate and updated directory for us all to use in a safe and secure way.
- We've finalized the updating of all new information as well as the upload of all new and submitted photos. We are now in the process of double-checking our information, and contacting members who have outstanding updates - i.e., those people who have said they'll submit a photo but have not yet done so, etc. In other words, we're in the "home stretch."
- After this update is complete, we will release a draft of the directory to our Muhlenberg community online, via the mobile app, and printed in a binder in the Gathering Area.

What we'll need from each of you is to double-check your information, and let us know if we've missed anything in the flurry of details we've been sorting through with multiple volunteers.

Thank you for your cooperation with this project, and we look forward to having a directory for us all to share soon!

Christian Perritt

Communication Minister

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR SERIES RESOURCES

Each week of our *Wonderful Counselor* series, we offered resources and opportunities for deeper engagement with our themes. Our final week was titled *Return to*



Your Home, and our concluding conversation explored the role of community in caring for one another through the ups and downs of mental health, and how we as a church might embody that care. We invite you to consider what you've learned or been challenged by throughout this series. Visit the Connection Center (or see last week's issue of *The Chimes*) for a list of resources compiled by our Pastors for those who wish to read and learn more about the intersections of faith and mental health. Keep an eye on *The Chimes* in the coming months for more information about a Mental Health resource center at Muhlenberg, cultivating all we've shared throughout this series and more!

LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH

GIFT CARD DRIVE

Muhlenberg's Local Global Mission Outreach team is asking for your help to meet the needs of some of our neighbors. Through Sunday, August 4, we will collect gift cards to help two different organizations. **Church World Service** is in need of gift cards for the unaccompanied minors that they serve. Gift cards to **Target, Walmart, and Uber** are the most useful cards for these teenage students who need to have new clothes for school and be able to get to work.

Virginia Family Services is also in need of some gift cards to help their Foster Families when a child is placed. Gift cards to **Sheetz, Kroger, Martins**, pizza places (**Dominos, Papa Johns**, etc.), **El Charro, Kline's** or **Smiley's Ice Cream** are all places where the Foster Family could get something at the time of a child's placement.

Please place your gift cards in the locked box at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area. You may also write a check to Muhlenberg with a notation that it is for the gift card collection. Checks may also be placed in the locked box at the Connection Center. Thank you in advance for supporting the work of these two wonderful community agencies.

Questions? Contact Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431) or Vicki Heitsch (540-478-3567).



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: UKRAINE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL HIT BY DEADLY MISSILE ATTACK

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) recently offered a report directly from their team in Ukraine, where missile strikes hit cities across the country last week—including a children's hospital in Kyiv. The LWR team was blocks away at the time the missile hit and rushed to the hospital alongside first responders, providing care and support. As you can imagine, the situation was terrifying and desperate, especially for the young patients and their families. The team was able to provide aid immediately to patients, their families and others affected by the attack. They distributed **LWR Quilts and Personal Care Kits** they had on hand in Ukraine because faithful congregations like ours have packed and sent them. (Muhlenberg assembled and packed LWR Personal Care Kits throughout the season of Lent, so it's very possible that some of our very own kits were sent to meet this need!)

LWR is asking for the continued love and support of congregations throughout this crisis in Ukraine. The love of congregations has shown time and again that Lutherans will show up when there's a crisis – no matter where it strikes.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

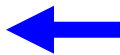
1. Give a gift online at lwr.org/helpforukraine
2. Mail a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297. Please write "Ukraine Hospital" in the memo line.



“Operation Restoration” is a camp for kids ages 2 – 11 on August 5 – 9, 5:30 – 8:00 pm here at Muhlenberg. A free dinner is included for the whole family each night from 4:30 – 5:30 pm! There is a registration fee of \$25/family, and a portion of these proceeds will be donated to a local nonprofit. Visit www.muhlenberglutheran.org/operationrestoration.

Registration deadline is TODAY (7/21)!

(Volunteer positions are available, so sign up today!)



REGISTRATION
QR CODE



VOLUNTEER
QR CODE



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

7/7	8:30 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Holy Communion	97
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	25
	Total Views this Week	168
	Hours Viewed this Week	39.9
7/14	8:30 Holy Communion	57
	11:00 Holy Communion	72
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	34

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

For the second month in a row, we are seeing an increase in gifts and offerings compared to the previous year, which is wonderful news. Expenses are similar to last month and slightly less than last year at this time. Thus, we see a slight decrease in the deficit. If we continue to see expenses remain stable and gifts and offerings grow we will continue to lessen the deficit. Thank you for your generosity!

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2024			
	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$257,703	\$377,500	\$245,697
Total Income	\$328,048	\$442,388	\$368,115
Total Expenses	\$377,115	\$445,210	\$384,362
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(49,067)	\$(2,822)	\$(16,247)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 8,027.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 177.00
Total Giving	\$ 8,204.00

June Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$7

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 22 - 28, 2024

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Thu	5:30 pm	Christmas in July Cookout
Sun		Tenth 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 in prayer five households from our congregation. Our prayer families this week are:

Jeff Revercomb

Evelyn Rickman

Libby Robinson

Andrew & Kacey Runion

Bob Runion

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 depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)

FROM OUR TREASURER...

THANK YOU, FAITHFUL STEWARDS
 God's blessings continue to shine in the congregation! During the past month, we discussed the financial buckets for our ministry spending plan and asked you to prayerfully consider your financial support. Thank you for your generosity and supporting God's work. June was the second largest month for gifts and offerings in 2024. It is not typical to see such generous gifts in the summer months, so thank you for being faithful stewards of God's gifts.