



Equipping All People to Live Out Christ's Love

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July 28, 2024

TENTH 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. Fifty-five 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 midyear 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

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 (7/28), we conclude our *Christmas in July* mini-series that 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!

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten Wilbur Held

POSTLUDE ~ Noël

Louis-Claude Daquin

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Wylie Walton

11:00 ~ Wylie Walton

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Crystl Whitmire

11:00 ~

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Bill Whitmire

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Bill & Crystl Whitmire,
Gus Kagey, Larry Blade

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak, Sarah Sunde,
Bob Kolodinsky & Corey Reed

USHERS

8:30 ~ Linda Morrison, Jeannette Norfleet

11:00 ~ Steve Wilfong, Pam Bergey

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

MUSICIANS ~ Matthew O. Thomas, Organist

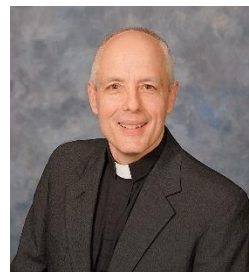
PASTOR LAUREN ON VACATION

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

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

WELCOME PASTOR HUMPHREY

Today we welcome Pastor and Bishop Emeritus Bob Humphrey to help us celebrate Muhlenberg's 175th Anniversary.



Pastor Humphrey served Muhlenberg as Pastor 2010 - 2017, when he was elected Bishop of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA. Pastor Bob served with Pastor Dave Nelson 2010 - 2012 and with Pastor Brett Davis 2012 - 2017. Pastor Humphrey received his BA from the University of Richmond in 1977 and his Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1981. He came to Muhlenberg from Grace Lutheran Church in Waynesboro, VA. Bob retired this past year after completing a six-year term as Bishop. He and his wife Barbra recently moved into independent living at VMRC.

Welcome back Pastor Humphrey! Please greet him in the Gathering Area today between services and after the 11:00 service.



Also today, we remember Pastor Brett (Davis) Wilson, who couldn't be with us but sent greetings. Pastor Brett served with Pastor Humphrey 2012 - 2017. She currently serves as Pastor of Georgetown Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. Here is an excerpt from her greetings:

“ . . . Nice to hear from you. I hope you are well! I join you in thanking God for Muhlenberg’s 175 years, and I wish I could be there, but unfortunately I don’t have the ability to be away for a Sunday this summer. I hope you all have a wonderful celebration, as you already have been, with the many events you’ve planned.

peace+

Pastor Brett”

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

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

THURSDAY MEN’S GROUP

THIS Thursday, August 1, 9:00 am

All are welcome to our monthly men’s group which meets for fellowship and Bible study the **first Thursday of each month** at Mr. J’s Bagels (1731 S. High St.), 9:00 am. For more info, contact Mark Warner (mjwcarpediem@gmail.com) or Dave Barnes (barnesda09@gmail.com).

PROPERTY WORKDAY

THIS Saturday, August 3, 8:00 am

The Property Committee will hold a workday this Saturday, August 3, beginning at 8:00 am and hopefully ending by noon. We need your help to paint the entry vestibule of the MAC and clean out the basement of the Ott House. If we have enough help, we will also work on preparing for the August 24 Yard Sale and trim some shrubbery. Coffee and donuts will be provided. All are welcome. Bring a friend. We hope to see you then!

For more information, contact Mark Byerly (540-271-1478 or msbyerlype@comcast.net).

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP

THIS Saturday (8/3), 10:00 – 11:30 am

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we’ll teach you basic stitches! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone, please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283).

NEW WORSHIP MINI SERIES:

OPERATION RESTORATION

Sundays, August 4 & 11

Muhlenberg is invited to participate in the lessons of Operation Restoration to be menders in God’s world. We



We will make connections between Bible stories and mending actions, and we will discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life. During our kids’ camp (*see details on page 4*), the children of Muhlenberg and Shalom Mennonite Church will explore language and practices to mend God’s world. As a congregation, we will explore those practices also. The people of Shalom Mennonite will be with us for a joint service August 11 at 11:00 am.

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 Sunday, August 4, 12:30 pm in Wayland Hall. We will collaborate and share information about Fall Startup. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kristee Trumbo (kristeejo13@gmail.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OPERATION RESTORATION

August 5 - 9



Operation Restoration is less than two weeks away with registration closing last Sunday. We have some stats to get really excited about! Last year we had 32 families participate; this year our camp will be serving 43 families. Last year we had 62 participants, and this year we have 76 campers signed up. This year we are offering a meal for families, and we plan to feed more than 100 people every evening. God is moving in Operation Restoration. If you would like to contribute with time or other resources, it's not too late! Many hands make work light, and camp week could always use more hands. Email Ashley (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).

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, 10:00 am – 12:00 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, 7:00 am – 12:00 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!

We're also hosting a bake sale from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon coordinated by Keira Miller. If you would like to donate treats (muffins, cinnamon rolls, cookies, cupcakes, brownies, pies, Rice Krispies treats, small bags of Chex mix, bread, etc.), email Keira (keira.anastasia.miller@gmail.com) and let her know what you're bringing.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Pastor Lauren (canes@muhlenberglutheran.org).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

MUHLENBERG TRASH TEAM... ASSEMBLE!

It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it... and that someone is US! Muhlenberg has the opportunity once again to serve our neighbors by providing a Trash Collection Crew for the Rockingham County Fair, August 12 - 17. Throughout Fair Week, we'll gather each morning and haul off the previous day's bagged trash and replace the bags for the day ahead! Last year 41 volunteers came together to clean up this important event for our community and did so cheerfully! In the process, our volunteers earned the gratitude and compliments of the Fair's leadership and secured a **\$3,000 donation to Muhlenberg!** If you're available to help any one (or every!) day August 12 - 17, contact Pastor Alex ...

zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org



MULE 'N BERGERS WITH CHEESE KICKBALL TEAM CANCELED

Due to lack of enrollment, this year's City of Harrisonburg Adult Kickball League is canceled, leaving our Mule 'N Bergers with Cheese team disappointed. The registration deadline was July 19, and only four teams had registered. Meg Wightman is processing refunds for those who signed up for our team.

CREATION CARE

Use Green Transportation: How do you get from place to place? Make a plan for how you can reduce your footprint. Does your city/town have public transportation? Are there places where you can walk or bike instead of drive? Are there places you can carpool? School, work, and small group meetings are great places to carpool when it is safe to do so. Make a commitment and plan to improve your carbon footprint.



FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER NEXT Sunday, August 4



We collect non-perishable food items in the Gathering Area for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all-purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products. Monetary donations are also appreciated — make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.

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).



RISE AGAINST HUNGER

RSVP Deadline THIS Tuesday (7/30)

This year's *RISE Against Hunger* event is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, September 14 at Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro. There are currently 22 congregations, including Muhlenberg, participating with the goal of preparing 30,000 meals. It is important that we plan for volunteers. Please contact Karen Thomsen (540-421-44312 or kethomsen25@gmail.com) by **July 30** if you plan to participate in this event. She will share our numbers with the organizers.

ISAIAH 117 HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our Isaiah 117 House Lemonade Stand on July 14. Exactly \$117 was collected! Brochures are still in the Gathering Area if you'd like to learn more about this new community group supporting children going into foster care in our area.

REMINDER

ACCESS SERMONS ONLINE

Following the Narrative Lectionary allows us to tell a continuous story of faith week after week. If you missed or would like to revisit a particular sermon, you can find a [playlist on YouTube](#) that is updated weekly! Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) to see the sermons posted, and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)!

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

FALL INTO MUSIC AT MUHLENBERG

Enhancing worship and fostering community, music is a sweet spot in our ministry together at Muhlenberg! But did you know that music is also a numbers game? It takes a village as the saying goes. At Muhlenberg, not only are you welcome to share your musical gifts, but encouraged to try something new! Many opportunities are available this fall: **Celebration Singers, Sanctuary Choir, Gloria Dei Ringers Handbell Choir, Children's Choir, Youth Ensemble** and opportunities for instrumentalists.



Gloria Dei Ringers ~ the handbell choir is offering a 3-week “try ringing on for size” experience! Join Gloria Dei Ringers in rehearsal **at 7:00 pm August 20, 27 and September 3**, and ring in worship Sunday, September 8. The music will be easy, and Director Kath Wissinger is a brilliant music educator and will have you up to speed in no time! Come see if this exciting ensemble is right for you! Regular rehearsals continue Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Sanctuary beginning September 10.

Celebration Singers and Sanctuary Choir will sing as a combined choir in both services for our fall kickoff Sunday, August 18. Our combined rehearsal will be **Wednesday, August 14 at 6:30** in the Music Room.

Celebration Singers ~ rehearsals are **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm** in the Music Room beginning August 20.

Sanctuary Choir ~ rehearsals are **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** in the Music Room beginning August 21.

Choir Social ~ Can't decide if one of our choirs is right for you? Well, then join us for our choir social **Sunday, August 11, 5:00 pm** at the home of Tassie & Tom Pippert. This is a pizza potluck! Please bring your favorite cheese, toppings and drinks. Tassie will make the dough, and, if the weather permits, we will fire up the pizza oven outside. If not, we will “bake” inside instead. Please join us for this time of fun and fellowship... and deliciousness!

Children's Choir ~ directed by Music Minister Matt Thomas and **Youth Ensemble** directed by Linlin Uta will rehearse Sunday afternoons **November 10 - December 22** and will share their gifts in worship Advent II and Christmas Eve (4 pm).

If you are interested in being a part of the music program at Muhlenberg, please email Music Minister Matt Thomas (thomas@muhlenberglutheran.org) or show up for one of the opportunities mentioned above.

Get in where you fit in and shine as you Fall into Music at Muhlenberg!

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

7/14	8:30 Holy Communion	57
	11:00 Holy Communion	72
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	34
	Total Views this Week	159
	Hours Viewed this Week	50.5
7/21	8:30 Holy Communion	47
	11:00 Holy Communion	63
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	26

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	\$ 15,350.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,1670.69
Total Giving	\$ 17,020.69

June Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$7

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 29 — August 4, 2024

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Thu	9:00 am	Thursday Men's Group
Sat	8:00 am	Property Workday
	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group
Sun	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	
	Food Pantry, Lay Communion & Name Badge Sunday	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube
	12:30 pm	Ministry Committee Chair Meeting



Each week, we lift up in prayer five households from our congregation. Our prayer families this week are:

*Kristen Runion-Linn, Kevin, Conner,
and Camryn Linn*

Richard Ryman

Diane Sacco

Sam Sampson & Denise Hill

Ramona Sanders

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 depy@muhlenberglutheran.org)

The **weekly deadline** for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Wednesday at 12 noon**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy: (depy@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)