



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 30, 2023

NINTH 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 ~ Baptized and Set Free ELW 453

FIRST READING ~ Acts 8:26-39 Pew Bible N.T. page 131

GOSPEL ~ Matthew 3:13-17 Pew Bible N.T. page 3

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters ELW 445

SENDING HYMN ~ To Be Your Presence ELW 546

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS **8:30 ~** Oris Griffin
11:00 ~ Sue Koch

LECTORS **8:30 ~** Susan Gallaher
11:00 ~ Brett Tjaden

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS **8:30 ~** Mary Elizabeth Skinner
11:00 ~ Judy Wilfong

SOUND **8:30 ~** Tom Pippert
TECHS **11:00 ~** Todd Hedinger

USHERS **8:30 ~** Tony & Sandy Randolph
11:00 ~ Mark Byerly, Pam Bergey

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS **8:30 ~** Oris Griffin, Susan Gallaher, Crystl Whitmire, Larry Blade
11:00 ~ Sue Koch, Cheryl Hoak, Brett Tjaden, Keira Miller

MUSICIANS Wade Meyers, Music Minister

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few highlights from Council...

Our Campus: Council and program staff members met for a 3-hour Muhlenberg campus visioning process Monday night, July 24. We started with Bible study and spiritual exercise utilizing the first 2 chapters of Nehemiah. We will continue the process in the coming month.

Our Constitution: Our Constitutional Task Force (Cathy Copeland, Brad Moyers and Pastor Lauren Eanes) continues to work with proposed revisions to our out of date constitution. We anticipate having this ready for congregational vote at our November 19 and again at our January congregational meetings.

Our Budget: Treasurer Sarah Sunde and I will soon begin meeting with congregation committees to determine what funds may be requested for next year's budget. To create a realistic budget, it would help to know how much we might expect in giving. Please take a moment to complete your Intent Card here: [2023-2024 Estimate of Giving \(google.com\)](#) if you haven't already done so.

Our T-shirts and Hats: we ordered a few extra MLC t-shirts and hats. If you are interested in purchasing one, they will be available in the Gathering Area **TODAY** (shirts \$20, hats \$25). [Reminder - this is a small part of our entrepreneurial efforts to meet the \$20,000 aspirational goal set in our budget at our November 2022 congregational meeting.]

Peace be with you,

Meg Wightman

Congregation Council President
mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

175TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING TEAM TODAY, 9:45 am in the Library

It's time to celebrate! We are preparing to kick off Muhlenberg's 175th anniversary year in December. The planning group is just getting formed with ideas for historical presentations, special events, and more! Help us tell our congregation's story by joining in today's meeting at 9:45 am in the library. Contact Pastor Lauren for more information.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP Wednesday, August 2, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you! If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone or have yarn you would like to donate to the group, please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net).

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER Next Sunday, August 6

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 7-11

Assistance Needed



Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs is one week away! Registration closed August 24, and **we are welcoming 66 kids!!**

One of the activities is a yoga class, and **we need yoga mats**. If you have a yoga mat that we could use for the week, please bring it to the nursery **Sunday, August 6**.

We will be **decorating and preparing packets for participants Tuesday, August 1 from 9:00 – 11:00 am** in the MAC. Stop by if you have a little time to help!

Please pray for the children, families, and volunteers as we prepare for an amazing week of fellowship for the kids of Muhlenberg and Shalom Mennonite Church.

Another way to help is by **providing supplies** needed for the week. Place donations in the designated collection bin in the Gathering Area.

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

USHER TRAINING

Sunday, August 13, 9:45 am

Attention all ushers and wannabe ushers! We're gathering Sunday, August 13 at 9:45 am for a "refresher" training to get us ready for the new program year. If you are regularly on the usher schedule, occasionally fill in, would like to give ushering a try, or simply curious about how things work behind-the-scenes on a Sunday morning, please plan to attend. Plus, we'll have snacks! Contact Karen Thomsen (kethomsen25@gmail.com or 540-421-4431) or Jeff Williams (sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org or 804-931-2274) with any questions.

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 resumes its regular meetings Wednesday, September 6.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

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).

COMMUNION IN THE PEWS



Holy Communion

For those who wish to receive Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, communion is served in the pews. **Please raise your hand as the Lay Assisting Minister comes into the sanctuary with the elements.** In addition to bread and wine, **grape juice and gluten-free bread** are also available. Please indicate your preference to the Lay Assisting Minister.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

THANK YOU FROM WADE MEYERS, MUSIC MINISTER!

I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the wonderful welcome I received on my first Sunday (7/16). The warmth, food, and sense of community were truly heartwarming!



As I prepared to play for worship the first time last Sunday, I was filled with anticipation. Music has the power to enhance our worship experience, deepen our faith, and connect us as a community. I'm honored to be serving your music ministry, and I'm eagerly awaiting the opportunity to collaborate with you all to make music to the glory of God.

Thank you once again for the warm reception and for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community.

Wade Meyers, Music Minister
mevers@muhlenberglutheran.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Wade will be formally installed as our Music Minister in worship August 20. That afternoon at 2:00 pm he will offer a recital in the sanctuary so please plan to join us.

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 should have recently received a mailing from us. This mailing included 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 your information to the church by **THIS Tuesday, 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@muhlenberglutheran.org) or reach either of them at the church office (540-434-3496).

CREATION CARE

Reuse or recycle as much packaging as possible. Know what you can recycle in your community and where. Most cans, glass bottles and jars, some plastics (check the bottom: #1 - transparent only - or #2), paper, plastic bags and household batteries are recyclable.



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

SAVE THE DATE!!

This Year Marks the 10th Anniversary of “God’s Work. Our Hands.” On Sunday, September 10, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service. “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday began in 2013 in connection with the ELCA’s 25th anniversary. It continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

One way Muhlenberg will participate in this special milestone is by joining other area churches in the **Rise Against Hunger** event **Saturday, September 9, 10:00 am at Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro.** Rise Against Hunger is an international aid program feeding those who are chronically hungry around the world with dehydrated meals of rice, vegetables and other fortified ingredients. Our task that day is to assemble 40,000 meals, pack them, and make them ready to ship out!

For planning purposes, please let Karen Thomsen know if you plan to attend. Carpooling is possible and encouraged so stay tuned for more details. This is a wonderful event that allows us to truly be the “hands and feet” of Christ.

You can contact Karen by phone, text, or email (kethomsen25@gmail.com or 540-421-4431).



RESERVING ALTAR FLOWERS



We offer the opportunity to reserve your special dates to remember or honor a loved one by providing funding for altar flowers! We ask you to sign up for both flower vases at **\$60 per week**. You are welcome to partner with another family to share the cost and worship booklet designation.

Please sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center or online by clicking [HERE](#). If you have questions, please contact Louise Layman (louiselayman@yahoo.com or 540-442-1524) to sign up. **Note: Sign-ups close on Sundays for the upcoming week.**

We request payment at the time of sign up. Please make checks payable to Muhlenberg with *Altar Flowers* on the memo line. Place your check in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the church office.

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

HEAR FROM ATTENDEES

Kathy Thompson: We had an absolutely wonderful time at Power in the Spirit! It's a spiritual retreat that I always look forward to and a time to connect with friends and make new ones throughout the Synod! The theme this year was *Seeking & Finding* — as it appears in Scripture (like the story of Zacchaeus) and in our own journeys of faith as well as the vision of the church. Seeking Jesus, and his seeking us, is the common ground we need to love one another. Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore, a Biblical scholar, ordained minister, and author. Our Bible study

leader was the Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell, who led us joyfully and humorously through the book of Jonah. The musicians were fantastic, and we participated in an original jazz service for one of the evening worship services. We worshipped every day, had meals together on campus, and SO MANY workshops to choose from! Judy Wilfong and I led a workshop on Biblical Storytelling. I also attended a session on Truth in Love: Conflict Management and The Church and Race. And also, of course, Judy's commissioning as a Lay Preacher at the final service Saturday morning was a highlight indeed!!

Judy Wilfong:

Kathy did a super job of summing up our wonderful Power in the Spirit experience.

In addition to all Kathy has shared, we took a workshop that went back to 1600's to show the progression of how "the church" and the issues, laws and injustices regarding race unfolded. Lutherans are the "whitest" denomination with nearly 95% white population. Our country and the Anglican Church have created many injustices in the past. It is important to know and understand our history so we can better move forward to create change.

Children's Minister Ashley Saunders:

I was given the opportunity to run the children's programming for Power in the Spirit this year. We enjoyed games, movie nights, and did activities based around God's love for us and the Zacchaeus story. In the evenings we sat together for worship. It was a really special time that I am looking forward to next year!



CELEBRATION CORNER

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.

CONGRATULATIONS JUDY WILFONG AND KRISTEE TRUMBO LAY PREACHING ACADEMY CLASS OF 2023!



Join us in offering congratulations to Judy Wilfong for being commissioned Saturday, July 15 as a Lay Preacher in the Virginia Synod! Judy joins Muhlenberg members Kathy Thompson and Kristee Trumbo (*commissioned in June at Synod Assembly*) as commissioned preachers in the Synod, who have gone through a year of biblical and homiletical training, and now use their gifts to offer support through supply preaching around the Virginia Synod. God bless you Judy, Kathy, and Kristee in this vital ministry.

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Preacher and joining the next class of students, please contact the pastors, and visit the [Virginia Synod Website](#) to learn more. Registration for the next round of courses has not opened yet, but we hope you'll use this time as one of faithful discernment.



Pictured above are Judy Wilfong (second from right) and attendees of the Commissioning service.

At left is Kathy Thompson conducting Biblical Storytelling workshop.

At right is Kristee Trumbo with Muhlenberg pastors from her Commissioning service.



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

7/16	8:30 Holy Communion	61
	11:00 Holy Communion	73
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	26
	Total Views this Week	146
	Hours Viewed this Week	35.7
7/23	8:30 Holy Communion	60
	11:00 Holy Communion	109
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	35

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 Actual	2023YTD Budget	2022YTD Actual
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	\$ 21,838.06
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 845.00
Total Giving	\$ 22,683.06

To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 31 – August 6, 2023

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

- Mon 1:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
- Wed 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group
- Sun Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Food Pantry, Lay Communion and
Name Badge Sunday
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 the following:

*Lynne Stover
Joan Strickler
Sarah Sunde, Sarah Whitley, Henry, Caroline,
and Emerson
Ron and Ellie Swadley
Cheryl Talley*

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](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).