



# 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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August 7, 2022

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



Muhlenberg family, THANK YOU! Since beginning this *Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign in May, your generosity and support have been remarkable. We have reached our goal of pledges and, secured our second \$5,000 challenge grant, and we look forward to celebrating this achievement with you in the weeks ahead. The Holy Spirit is moving at Muhlenberg, and we are grateful for the ways that you have responded joyfully and generously to God's work in this place.

It's still not too late to make a commitment if you and your family haven't had a chance. Just visit our website to learn more:

[muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope).

## TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK?

That is the question each week for our gathered assembly. As Muhlenberg's Gathering Together Task Force decides on guidelines for our church community, they rely on several factors, including the COVID-19 Community Levels released each week by the CDC. Unfortunately, the CDC typically updates this resource on Thursday evenings, after *The Chimes* has been printed. Therefore, *The Chimes* won't be the best way to get information on our masking status. **There will always be a statement of our masking status in the Friday email, which will now be sent out later in the day on Fridays to provide this up-to-date information. Any changes in status for masking will be communicated through our social media and signs on the doors.** It never hurts to keep a mask in your car so you're prepared either way!

If you'd like to know the current status for our area, you can check the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>. If the community level is "orange," transmission in the area is high, and the CDC strongly recommends all people wear masks in indoor settings. Our Congregation Council decided this spring that if the community level for

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

Harrisonburg OR Rockingham County is orange, we will require masks in the building.

No matter what “color” we're in according to the CDC, masks will always be welcome, and we request that anyone who is having any symptoms stay home and worship online.

Thank you for your patience as together we navigate this next stage of the pandemic. We're all trying to do the best we can to care for our neighbor and keep the most vulnerable among us safe. If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to reach out to the pastors or any member of the Gathering Together Task Force: Erin Burke, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, and Greta Willis.

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### NEW PRAYER PETITIONS



Starting today, you'll notice a new petition as part of our Sunday prayers. Each week, we will lift up five households from our congregation in prayer. We'll do this using our directory of active members, going alphabetically by last name — and when we get to the end, we'll start back again at the beginning! In this way, we'll get to pray together for each person in our congregation over the course of the year. We encourage you to pray for these five households throughout the week. And when it's your week to be prayed for, take comfort in knowing your Muhlenberg family is thinking of you and praying for you!

Why are we doing this? Prayer is at the heart of the life of faith and so prayer is also at the heart

of a community of faith. We pray for each other because, in the grace of God, we have been given to each other as siblings in Christ—given to each other to love and to care for, to support and to encourage. As we pray for each other, we commit each other to the love, mercy, and wisdom of God.

We hope you find this a valuable addition to your prayer practice. Also, please note: if you or someone you know is inadvertently omitted from the prayer list, please contact the church office. We work hard to keep our records accurate and up-to-date, and we appreciate your assistance in helping us do so.

Our prayer families for this week are:

*Mona Ageon*

*Ray Alderfer and Cynthia Page*

*Mac Alfriend*

*Robert and Linda Alley*

*Gus Alvez*

*Please note: if you prefer your name not be listed, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)) to opt out.*

### FOOD COLLECTION

**TODAY** (8/7) in the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food 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 hygiene products.



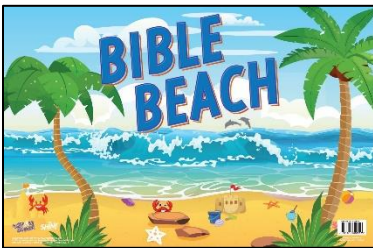
### LAY COMMUNION MINISTRY

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning.

# PASSPORT to PEACE

## VBS Starts Tomorrow (8/8)

Vacation Bible School for kids Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade starts tomorrow and runs through Friday, 5:45 -7:45 pm each evening!



Small Group Discussion  
Grades Pre-K-2, Ashley Saunders  
Grades 3-5, Meg Wightman



Arts & Science  
led by Karen Thomsen



Physical Activities  
led by Adam Copeland

**Additionally, Middle and High Schoolers will have an opportunity to fellowship in a small group led by Lily Harmison!**

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (8/8), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### BLOOD DRIVE

August 21, 9:00 am- 1:00 pm



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

Appointments are encouraged. **To sign up online, click [HERE](#).** If you don't have computer access to sign up online, or for more information, contact Linda Morrison (540-383-5085 or [lindamm778@gmail.com](mailto:lindamm778@gmail.com)). Linda will be glad to sign you up.

### CHURCH PICNIC

September 18, 4:00 pm

Attention all Muhlenbergers! Save the date for the upcoming church picnic at Purcell Park, Shelter #4. More information will follow soon.



## ALL LUTHERAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

NOVEMBER 3 - 5

Held at the Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center, the theme is *Bloom Where You Are Planted - Thriving in Times of Change*. The retreat leader is Donna Marie Todd, motivational speaker, master storyteller, and singer. **Registration deadline is October 4.** Registration information is available at the Connection Center or you can get more information and register online at <https://sites.google.com/view/alwretreat>.

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### ADULT KICKBALL TEAM

Wanted: Players for Muhlenberg's very own adult coed kickball team, **The Mule 'N Bergers with Cheese!** Games will be played Tuesday evenings, **August 16 – October 18** at Ramblewood sports complex. No experience necessary; all skill levels desired. To sign up, contact Russell Presnell (540-746-3562 or [Russellepresnell@gmail.com](mailto:Russellepresnell@gmail.com)).

### CREATION CARE TIP

Recycle your milk and juice cartons. The average American consumes more than 3,200 half gallons of milk during their lifetime, but just 2 percent of the paper cartons are recycled. It takes more than one *trillion* kilowatt hours of energy and more than 740 million tons of greenhouse gases to manufacture, ship, and provide landfill space for that many milk cartons. The same amount of energy could power New York City for 16 years!



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are in need of worship servants: lectors, crucifers, ushers/greeters, 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](mailto:thompskb@jmu.edu))*. If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

### [Worship + Serve in Worship](#)

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

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### YOUTH MINISTRY

As you have heard, Congregation Council has been working diligently to implement our Strategic Plan. As part of that plan, Council has examined the staffing needs to accomplish our spiritual development goals. One very important component of the plan is to uplift our focus and attention on youth ministry.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hiring a part-time Youth Minister. This person will provide creative and dynamic leadership, in addition to oversight for youth ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Youth Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in people from grades 6 - 12 and their families.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### JUMP INTO RINGING

**August 27, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Have you listened to Gloria Dei Ringers during worship and said to yourself, “Gee, I’d love to do that!” Here’s your chance to give it a try. Mosaic Handbell Ensemble is offering a Beginners Workshop at Harrisonburg Baptist Church to help “Jump Start” the ringing season!! All equipment is provided. No ringing experience needed. Muhlenberg’s Gloria Dei Ringers’ Director Kath Wissinger will present one of the three ringing sessions. See [MosaicBells.com](http://MosaicBells.com) (or use the QR code below) for more information. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, full-time. If you have questions or want more information contact Kath (540-289-6973 or [longwalk3@aol.com](mailto:longwalk3@aol.com)).

A Workshop for Beginning and Level 1 Ringers  
presented by **MOSAIC**  
Handbell Ensemble



**Jump  
Into  
Ringing!!**



Sat. Aug. 27, 2022 10-1  
Registration Deadline Aug. 20



## SECOND HOME NEWS

### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Second Home Learning Center, in partnership with Muhlenberg, exists to ensure that working families have access to safe, affordable, quality childcare, with a firm focus on academic services. Being all inclusive and having low fees and scholarships assure that the program is available for even the lowest income families. No children are ever turned away due to the inability to pay fees. The program provides care for 100 HCPS students in grades K - 5 before and after school. Second Home is a fully licensed, independent non-profit 501(c)(3) agency governed by a Board of Directors.

Second Home is seeking new members to join the Board. If you feel called to become part of this organization, or to get more information, contact Krisztina Szekely ([executivedirector@secondhomeinc.org](mailto:executivedirector@secondhomeinc.org)) or Caleb Chaplain ([boardsecretary@secondhomeinc.org](mailto:boardsecretary@secondhomeinc.org)).



## REMINDERS

### DIAL 988

### MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE

### ABUSE CRISIS ASSISTANCE

You can now dial 988 and get directly connected to a counselor who can assist you in a mental health or substance abuse crisis. This new easy dial hotline became universal across the United States in July. A 911 phone call still connects you to a dispatcher for police, fire, and ambulance calls. Read more about 988 through this link to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

<https://afsp.org/988-suicide-and-crisis-lifeline/?fbclid=IwAR0uksGBBb0XHdUWiGRiBxrakFzmBs4TAcKpoQ8MWihw1yXctT0T8qr1sX4#about-988-and-crisis-response-services->

### 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](#)!

### NICHES AVAILABLE

An additional 24 Columbarium niches have been added to the Caring Corner. The Property Committee has made upgrades to this room with new lighting, including eternal spotlights shining on the niches. If you are interested in a niche or want additional information, please contact Bill Compton ([compton1080@gmail.com](mailto:compton1080@gmail.com) or 437-8933).

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

*Jesus said, "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes...." Matthew 25*



**People  
Helping  
People**

People Helping People is hope for many. It is an ecumenical crisis ministry of churches and faith communities serving Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. They are an organization whose purpose is to

...

- Coordinate services for people in need
- Partner with clients by helping them with assistance they may require
- Improve the quality of life for individuals and families in our community

People Helping People, located in the Ott Street house on Muhlenberg's campus, is open limited hours Tuesday through Thursday by appointment. If this ministry speaks to you, contact Director Leanne Shepherd ([Peoplehelpingpeopledirector@gmail.com](mailto:Peoplehelpingpeopledirector@gmail.com) or 540-433-7286) to discuss volunteering or how you might help those in need in our community.

## COMMUNION IN THE PEWS

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.



Holy Communion

## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

At a moment's notice, natural disasters cause widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

100% of your gifts given to LDR go directly to aid in disaster relief. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about LDR's work. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time).
- **Mail:** make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering plate:** make check payable to Muhlenberg and designate Lutheran *Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent Financial members can direct their Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) Disaster Response for details.



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

7/24	8:30 Holy Communion .....	39
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	45
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	41
	Total Views this Week .....	210
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	54.5
7/31	8:30 Holy Communion .....	41
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	54
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	45

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

*As we finish the first half of the year, I hoped gifts and offerings would be a little more, but we had strong giving in June due to the Strength for Today campaign. Thank you for your continued gifts and your prayerful consideration in how you will support the ministries of Muhlenberg. Expenses are much less than they have been in past years. Kudos to the staff and ministry teams who have been fiscally prudent in their spending.*

*Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2022

	2022 YTD <u>Actual</u>	2022 YTD <u>Budget</u>	2021 YTD <u>Actual</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$245,449	\$307,500	\$283,695
Total Income	\$313,058	\$351,875	\$326,939
Total Expenses	\$337,341	\$416,506	\$417,068
Excess Income/(Deficit)	<b>\$(24,283)</b>	<b>\$(64,631)</b>	<b>\$(90,129)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 9,786.35
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 735.06
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 10,521.41</b>

June Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$61

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 8 - 14, 2022

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

Mon – Fri. 5:45 – 7:45	Vacation Bible School
Mon 7:00 pm	Ministries Night via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
Tues 1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Sun	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>

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)

## JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

*This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.), contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.*

✝ Congratulations to Norma Armentrout who will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday August 8! If you would like to send a card, her address is 2668 Minie Ball Lane, Keezletown, VA 22832.

