



# 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 14, 2022

TENTH 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

### MISSION MOMENT: MINNICK SCHOOL



Jennifer Hitt joins us today to share a Mission Moment about Minnick School where she is the principal. Minnick helps students, ages 5 to 22 who have experienced challenges in public schools, reach their academic, behavioral, vocational, and developmental goals. The educational staff supports students so they can return successfully to their home public school or make the transition to life after school.

This year enCircle, the organization under which Minnick School falls, is focusing on a Back-To-School supply drive to help fuel students' success in the new academic year. Our Local & Global Mission ministry wants to support this drive by collecting supplies here at

Muhlenberg. Thank you to our Vacation Bible School, which just completed their week of learning and fun, for participating in this drive. We are off to a good start!

Some of the general supplies would be: **Crayola markers, college rule spiral notebooks or loose-leaf paper, #2 pencils, packs of construction paper, children's safety scissors, and also reams of white copier paper and 8.5x11 laminating sheets.** A donation bin will be located in the Gathering Area **August 21 & 28** to accept supplies.

If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation by placing a check in the offering plate or visiting Muhlenberg's online giving page by clicking [HERE](#).

Jennifer will be available in the Gathering Area between services today for anyone who wants to learn more about Minnick School. You may also visit their website:

<https://encircleall.org/minnick-schools>

### NEW PRAYER PETITIONS

Starting last Sunday, we began 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:

*Herb and Lori Amato*

*Martha, Jay, Caleb, Isaac & Evan Andrews*

*Wendy Arbogast*

*Norma Armentrout*

*Clay, Gloria Goeres, Hannah & Gavett*

*Arthur*

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

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION



## SEASON OF CREATION

Next Sunday, we begin a three-week series as we celebrate the Season of Creation. The Season of Creation is a global, ecumenical movement of Orthodox, Catholic, and

Protestant churches, intended to be a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. We'll join Christians around the world in prayer and action for our common home under the theme "Listen to the Voice of Creation."

Each week, we'll listen carefully to the words of Scripture and to the cry of creation as we contemplate the beauty of God's creation and consider our place in the midst of it. We'll also be blessed by special mission moments in worship shared by members and friends of Muhlenberg who are involved in the care of creation.

**August 21:** Abby Moyers will share her experience in environmental studies in Alaska, and help us hear the voice of glaciers.

**August 28:** TBD

**September 4:** Doug and Lydia Price will share their experiences working at the Wildlife Center of Virginia, and help us hear the voice of animals.

Plan to stick around in the Gathering Area for a few minutes after the 8:30 service, or come a few minutes early for the 11:00 am service, to talk to these presenters, see pictures, hear stories, and ask questions.

You can learn more about the Season of Creation at [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org).

### BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

Next Sunday, August 21 we will bless **public educators, students of all ages and their backpacks** at each service. Bring your backpack to church and come forward to receive a blessing for the coming school year.



## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### 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.

### CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

This week we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Linda Depoy's service to our congregation as our Parish Administrator. She has been a true blessing to us in so many ways. Linda has faithfully overseen the production of thousands of bulletins and newsletters, mentored countless office assistants, provided leadership for millions of financial and administrative tasks, and just generally kept us all on track! Her dedication to this place, her attention to detail, and her care and compassion for each person who comes through the door of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church is greatly appreciated. Be sure to congratulate and thank her in recognition of this important milestone!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### DEEPENING OUR WELCOME

August 28, 10:00 am

We all want Muhlenberg to be a friendly, welcoming place to everyone who enters our doors. But sometimes we forget how to do that! Have you ever noticed someone who you thought may be new, but didn't know how to introduce yourself? Or have you met a visitor and felt unsure of how to help them get connected to the Muhlenberg community? Join Communication Minister Christian Perritt August 28 at 10:00 am in the Gathering Area for a training session that will help you feel more empowered to be a welcoming presence in our congregation.

### CHURCH PICNIC

September 18, 4:00 pm

Attention all Muhlenbergers! Save the date for the upcoming church picnic at Purcell Park, Shelter #2 (close to the Kids Castle). 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

### CREATION CARE TIP



Think twice before using your blow dryer. The average hair dryer uses 45kWh of energy a year. That's enough to burn a 60-watt light bulb for 3,259 hours. During warm weather, letting your hair air dry will save a lot of energy. On the days when you do use your hair dryer, be sure to unplug it when you're done so it's not using power needlessly.

### 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 **September**. 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

### NURSERY COORDINATOR POSITION SEARCH

We are excited to announce that we are searching for a Nursery Coordinator. Thanks to the strategic vision of our Congregation Council and the generosity of so many of you contributing to our *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign, we are now in a position to hire someone to care for

our youngest members. Our new Nursery Coordinator will support the mission of the congregation by providing a faithful, safe, nurturing, clean and loving environment.

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.

## REMINDER

### 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. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



It's not too late to join the Mule 'N Bergers with Cheese kickball league! Games will be played Tuesday evenings, August 16 – October 18 at Ramblewood Athletic Complex, so come on out and support the Mule 'N Bergers!

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTER



No doubt about it.... I love my choir members! They are faithful servants each and every week (especially September – mid-June!), and when it's time for a brief sabbatical during the summer, my choir members are still eager to sing! Thank you, choir, for sharing your love of singing both in July (7/3) and August (8/7). I look forward to returning to our regularly scheduled rehearsals in a few weeks.

I would also like to thank all of our special guest musicians who have provided us with exceptional Sunday morning music this summer including:

6/12 ~ Judith Ofcarcik, organist (Professor of Music, JMU); Kath Wissinger (MLC Handbell Director) piano & bells; Linda Morrison, harp; Sue Utterback, bell tree –MLC members.

6/19 ~ Music Ministry Accompanist Linlin Uta, piano & voice

6/26 ~ MaryBeth Rizio, vocalist, Washington DC resident (and dear friend of MM Elizabeth)

7/3 ~ Celebration Singers & Sanctuary Choir

7/10 ~ Robert Curry, trombonist, MLC member

7/17 ~ Judith Ofcarcik, organist, 8:30 service; Kath Wissinger, pianist, 11:00 service

7/24 ~ Rachel Peters, flutist, MLC member

7/31 ~ Edward Gant, cellist

8/7 ~ Celebration Singers & Sanctuary Choir

8/14 ~ Greta Willis, flutist, MLC member

8/21 ~ Cynthia Page, vocalist, MLC member

I am so pleased to announce the return of Ms. Jenny Anne Flory, mezzo-soprano, to our church Sunday, August 28. Ms. Flory has sung in worship several times, and was also a Guest Artist for our 2022 Lenten Recital Series. Jenny

Anne Flory is from Harrisonburg, Virginia. She graduated with her M.M. in Opera Performance, as a member of the University of Maryland Opera Studio (May 2017). She holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from James Madison University (May 2015).

Ms. Flory has a contract to sing Siebel in Detroit Opera's 2022 production of Faust and is also excited to join The Academy of Vocal Arts as a Resident Artist starting Fall 2022. She was a Young Artist with the Palm Beach Opera during their 2021 Festival season, where she sang Second Lady in their production of Die Zauberflöte and Romeo in the Discovery Series Production of I Capuleti e i Montecchi. Ms. Flory was an Apprentice Artist at Palm Beach Opera for their 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 season.

She will sing at both services August 28. You do not want to miss her glorious voice!

*Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister*

### JUMP INTO RINGING

Have you listened to Gloria Dei Ringers during worship and said to yourself, "Gee, I'd love to do that!" Try us on for size!! Gloria Dei is planning two weeks of "open rehearsals" **Tuesdays, August 30 and September 6, 7:00 – 8:30 pm** for anyone interested in ringing with this wonderful group! Contact Kath Wissinger ([Longwalk3@aol.com](mailto:Longwalk3@aol.com)) or another Gloria Dei ringer with any questions or to let us know you're interested.

**Also - August 27, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm** Mosaic Handbell Ensemble is offering a Beginners Workshop at Harrisonburg Baptist Church to help "Jump Start" the ringing season!! Visit [MosaicBells.com](http://MosaicBells.com) or contact Kath Wissinger for more information.

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

|      |                                   |      |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 7/31 | 8:30 Holy Communion .....         | 41   |
|      | 11:00 Holy Communion .....        | 54   |
|      | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 45   |
|      | Total Views this Week .....       | 168  |
|      | Hours Viewed this Week .....      | 53.8 |
| 8/7  | 8:30 Holy Communion .....         | 36   |
|      | 11:00 Holy Communion .....        | 56   |
|      | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 38   |

### 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<br><u>Actual</u> | 2022 YTD<br><u>Budget</u> | 2021 YTD<br><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 | \$ 16,128.06        |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds       | \$ 38,029.64        |
| <b>Total Giving</b>                    | <b>\$ 54,157.70</b> |

July Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$11

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 15 - 21, 2022

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

|      |                   |  |
|------|-------------------|--|
| Mon  | 6:30 pm           | Congregation Council Mtg   |
| Tues | 1:00 pm           | Weekly Staff Meeting   |
| Sun  |                   | Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  |
|      |                   | Back to School Blessing  |
|      | 8:30 am           | Holy Communion in person   |
|      | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm | Blood Drive  |
|      | 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)

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## JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

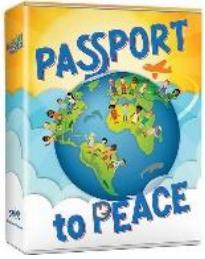
*This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, 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 Leo Snider who will celebrate his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday August 28! If you would like to send a card, his address is 1033 Toppin Boulevard, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.



✝ Thank you, Muhlenberg! You deserve an applause for donating over 300 pounds of supplies to Patchwork Pantry this month!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



What a week we had at VBS! We had 19 kids learning about peacemaking all over the world. This past week wouldn't have been possible without the amazing volunteers who gave their time and gifts to the kids. I would like to recognize the hard work of Meg Wightman, Lily Harmeson, Karen Thomsen, Adam Copeland, Krisztina Szekely, Carol McCormick, Linda Morrison, Justin Creasy, and Grover Saunders. These adults went above and beyond and the impact will last forever. Thank you everyone who made VBS a success!!

*Ashley Saunders*

