



# 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 15, 2021**

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **WHAT'S THE BUZZ?**

### **NO RSVP REQUIRED**

Attendance at our 8:30 service has been well within the guidelines established by our Gathering Together Task Force, so **you are no longer required to RSVP to attend.** Please continue to wear masks at this time.

### **PASTOR LAUREN TAKING MEDICAL LEAVE**

After a long period of illness and testing, Pastor Lauren has been diagnosed with Epstein-Barr virus. This illness is similar to "mono" but has more systemic symptoms including overwhelming fatigue and cardiac issues. The treatment is time and rest, so she is taking a two-month leave of absence. We are deeply blessed to have Pastor Alex, Congregation Council and staff who will continue our ministry and the day-to-day operations of the church.

Please keep Pastor Lauren and her family in your prayers. If you see her out (shopping, children's activities, or simply taking a walk), please say hello and give her your grace and understanding during this difficult time. A letter with full details was mailed August 6.

## **YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED**

This past week we mailed and emailed a survey from Muhlenberg's **Gathering Together Task Force and Congregation Council**. The Gathering Together Task Force wants to hear your **reflections on safety measures** necessary for gathering for indoor worship this fall, and the Congregation Council wants **feedback on our newly proposed fall worship times: 8:30 and 11:00 am, with a dedicated Sunday School hour at 9:45.**

**Your voice is valued** and will help us make informed decisions for the best path forward as a congregation. **Please fill out one survey per person so we can get a clearer sense of data.** To complete the survey **digitally, click [HERE](#).** One hard copy was mailed, but **if you need additional copies, please pick them up from the Connection Box** outside the Gathering Area. You can return completed hard copies via the Connection Box, in-person worship, or by mail. Please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (540-434-3496) if you have any questions or need assistance.

**The deadline to receive completed surveys is TODAY, (8/15).**

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### NEW WORSHIP SERIES

Some of the best conversations start with good questions—questions we’ve been meaning to ask, questions that keep us curious, and questions that lead us deeper into courage and connection. **TODAY** (8/15), we begin a new worship series around four guiding questions: **“I’ve been meaning to ask... Where are you from? . . . Where does it hurt? . . . What do you need? . . . Where do we go from here?”** As you can see, these questions aren’t surface level; they invite us to tell our stories, share our pain, care for one another, and dream about a new way forward together. Today we begin with *where are you from?*

May this series help us to behold each other as images of the divine. May it help us strengthen our capacity for empathy and compassion. May it remind us of the power of unassuming questions. May it show us that courage is rooted in the heart. Through vulnerability and authenticity, may our courageous conversations lead us to glimpse hope, joy, and beauty—and to become the community God created us to be.

**A study guide/daily devotional is available in print from the Connection Box, and online by clicking [HERE](#).**



## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

8/1	<b>8:30 Communion</b> (in person-24 + Zoom-12).....	<b>36</b>
	<b>10:00 Outside/Communion</b> .....	<b>49</b>
	<b>11:00 Total Live Views</b> .....	<b>45</b>
	<b>Total Views this Week</b> .....	<b>213</b>
	<b>Hours Viewed this Week</b> .....	<b>65.7</b>
8/8	<b>8:30 Communion</b> (in person-31 + Zoom-9).....	<b>40</b>
	<b>10:00 Outside/Communion</b> .....	<b>47</b>
	<b>11:00 Total Live Views</b> .....	<b>41</b>

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$269,986	\$410,343	\$295,495
Total Receipts	\$327,287	\$460,120	\$376,485
Expenses	\$421,624	\$488,280	\$390,836
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$94,337)</b>	<b>(\$28,160)</b>	<b>(\$14,352)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 18,037.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 730.00
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 18,767.00</b>



To give online, scan here →

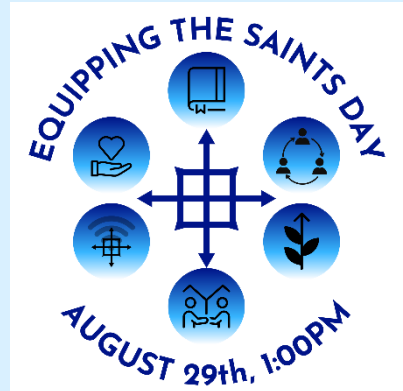
Muhlenberg has not suspended its ministry through this unprecedented time, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to maintaining our ministries, even if they are in a different form for now. We also want to be able to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. You can make a one-time or recurring donation through the [donation page](#) on our website, or mail your check to the church: 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

# ***EQUIPPING THE SAINTS DAY***

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29**

*(Please note the date change from 8/22)*

Join us **Sunday, August 29 at 1:00 pm in the MAC** for our first *Equipping the Saints Day* at Muhlenberg! As we shared in the spring, Congregation Council has been working under the guidance of a new mission statement. For years we have recognized our vision for ministry as *Muhlenberg Lutheran Church strives to be a Wellspring of God's Grace in Jesus Christ*. While a vision statement points us toward the hope of our future, a mission statement roots us in who we are and our purpose in this community. A mission statement gives us a roadmap for how we achieve this vision, and our mission is simple: *To equip all people to live out Christ's love.*



How will you be equipped through our life together? *Equipping the Saints Day* is an opportunity to gather with your Muhlenberg family and learn about the various areas of ministry offered throughout the fall. From music to care teams, from Sunday School to Eldercare, there are countless opportunities for you to identify your gifts and live out our mission.

From 1:00 – 3:00 pm our campus will be open for a time of food, fellowship, and a ministry fair. You'll have the opportunity to learn more about many of Muhlenberg's ministry teams and connect with others who share similar interests. You will also be able to tour the sanctuary and see our new *Wellstream* system in action and discover the behind-the-scenes process for how we will continue to offer vibrant digital ministry each week. Mask wearing will be required in the sanctuary, and strongly encouraged in the MAC when not eating. There will be space and tents outside for fellowship if you prefer that option.

We're excited for a fun day of connecting our members, learning about what's happening this fall at Muhlenberg, and leaning into our shared Mission, Vision, and Values! We hope to see you there.

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### FINANCE MANAGER NEEDED

We are hiring a paid part-time Finance Manager to replace Elizabeth Fletchall who recently resigned her position. We need a staff member who can truly manage our financial affairs, while also working with our Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Parish Administrator and volunteers. 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](#). We hope to fill this position quickly, so please lift up our search in prayer.

### CREATION CARE TIP



or 433-1165).

*Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: ([rsanders97@verizon.net](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net))*

### More information about trees and their benefits:

Trees act as nature's buffers. They act as natural flood control, improve neighborhoods, and decrease adverse effects from man-made environmental changes. Tree's natural production of oxygen and reduction of smog and its effect in large cities creates cleaner, healthier spaces for us. As storms become more and more severe, cities and states are turning towards trees to minimize the damage. New studies suggest that trees planted around rivers may reduce the height of flooding as much as 20 percent. The true benefits of planting trees is for future enjoyment and safety. Plant trees now and they will lessen environmental impacts in the future.

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### 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...." from Matthew 25*

People Helping People is hope for many people. 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 (Monday and Wednesday) by appointment. If you are vaccinated and this ministry speaks to you, please contact Director Leeanne 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.

### THANK YOU

The Local and Global Mission team would like to thank everyone who donated feminine hygiene products. The items were delivered August 6 to Thomas Harrison and Skyline Middle schools and to Second Home. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

## WELLSTREAM DIGITAL INSTALLATION

We are excited to announce that “Phase 2” of our Wellstream initiative is well underway! This past week, we completed the installation of our live-streaming system which will enable us to stream full worship services, live from the Sanctuary. This is a significant development in equipping Muhlenberg to better reach our online faith community that we grew over the past year.

Worship is where we gather around the true *Wellspring of God’s Grace* — the Word and Sacraments of Jesus Christ. Worship, and the community we find there, is still at the heart of who we are. Part of creating a culture of welcome, hospitality, and care involves making that core aspect of worship available to a variety of communities — local or at a distance, online or in person — so that we are reaching as many as we can with God’s story.

In 2020, we learned that online services were not just good “alternatives” to in-person worship but they helped create a whole new way to engage with and grow our faith community. With our new live-streaming system, we’ll be able to operate as a truly hybrid church, returning to full worship in the Sanctuary, while providing those online with a rich and full worship experience.



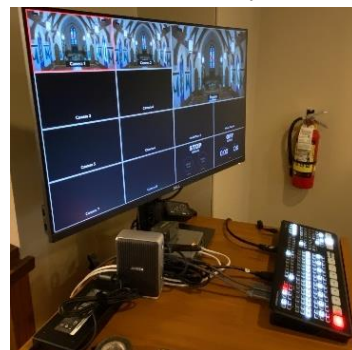
The new streaming system includes three high-resolution remote-control digital cameras mounted inconspicuously throughout the sanctuary, along with a switcher, dedicated laptop, and all necessary equipment to broadcast an online live-stream video. All of this will be run from the balcony of the church (next to the current soundboard).

Our Communications Team spent countless hours researching the best solution that would meet our needs while keeping costs as low as possible and honoring the beautiful aesthetics of Muhlenberg. The result is a low-profile, unobtrusive system that will allow us to replace our pre-recorded services with a live-stream of the 11:00 service each Sunday.

This system also gives us the ability to simultaneously stream to a number of different platforms including Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, etc. The live-stream will also be automatically recorded, so that each worship service can be part of Muhlenberg’s YouTube archive to be viewed anytime.

Our next steps include system testing and training of a team of operators, so that our live-stream process is as sustainable as possible. We hope to premiere our first live-streamed services in September, and we’ll keep you posted on our progress.

This focus on becoming a truly hybrid church is not about simply keeping up with the latest trends. Digital communities are here to stay, and we’ve learned that we can reach people online, as well as in person, in truly deep and meaningful ways. We look forward to experiencing this new and exciting chapter together!





# SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## 8:30 AM HYBRID SERVICE: IN THE SANCTUARY AND ON ZOOM

### In-Person Attendance

- **Update: No advanced registration required to attend this service.**
- A well-fitted facemask is required at all times in the building.

### Online Participation

- To connect online, simply go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>.

To join in Holy Communion, have bread and wine or juice ready before the service.



## 10:00 AM OUTDOORS: IN THE OTT ST. PARKING LOT (BEHIND THE MAC)

- Bring your own chairs, shade and/or coolers! When you arrive, please check in at the Welcome Tent. There will be special music but no congregational singing at this service.
- Given the latest CDC recommendations, masks are optional at this outdoor service.
- **THIS SERVICE IS WEATHER PERMITTING.** If weather does not allow us to gather, an email will be sent Sunday morning by 8 am, and a notice will be put on Muhlenberg's website.



## 11:00 AM WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

- Join in worship wherever you are at [www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran) or [www.youtube.com/c/muhlenberglutheranchurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/muhlenberglutheranchurch)
- Sing hymns and enjoy special music, as well as a full Service of the Word with sermon, prayers, etc.
- Practice generosity through online gifts at [muhlenberglutheran.org/give](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/give)

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### FAITH LENS COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Several members of the Muhlenberg Faith Lens class joined with Our Community Place (OCP) August 11 to help start their pavers project. We gathered materials together such as concrete, foil trays, bits of glass, broken tiles, pebbles, shells, etc. What a treat to work alongside both staff and several members of their community of homeless. We experimented with the size of the trays, drew pictures of possible patterns using glass, tiles, stones, and shells. A couple from Maryland provided music, and we all had lunch together as the day ended.

In two weeks, we plan to go back to see how our pavers has turned out. We will continue to work with these great people to make enough pavers for the path to OCP's public water access for the homeless. Dates will be provided in *The Chimes* as they become available and any who would like to help are welcome. For more information, please call Jean Helmick at 540-830-1930.



*Please note:* The Faith Lens adult class **will not meet Sundays August 22 - September 5**. Class will resume September 12. Time and place will be announced later.

## REMINDERS

### CONTACT INFORMATION

With our ever-changing lifestyles, it's sometimes difficult to be sure everyone has your correct contact information. Have you recently ...

- **moved?**
- **cancelled your home phone?**
- **changed your cell phone number?**
- **changed your home/work email address?**

If so, please be sure we have your updated information by contacting Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496).

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Natural disasters devastate the areas they hit. 100% of gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response go directly to aid in disaster relief. Ways to 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, designate if there is a particular disaster you would like to support, and send to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering:** make checks payable to Muhlenberg, and designate Lutheran *Disaster Response*.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent members can direct 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.

## 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 [depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.*

✚ Please pray for the family of Carole Einarsen Alfriend following her death this past Wednesday, August 11. Carole grew up at Muhlenberg and was the daughter of the late Ruby Einarsen. In 1974 she married Malcolm “Mac” Alfriend. Carole lived in Richmond and was an active associate member at Muhlenberg.

## REMINDERS (CONT'D)

### COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WITHOUT ONLINE ACCESS

Those who cannot read *The Chimes* online can request a copy be mailed to them weekly. If you know someone without online access, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496).

### SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Are you on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter? Why not Like or Follow Muhlenberg? Get informative updates regularly throughout the week, photos, prayers, and inspirations/devotionals. It is also a great way to let your friends know about your church and our ministry. Find us on Facebook by searching for Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, or follow us on Instagram and Twitter at @MuhlenbergLC.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 16-22

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting  
**6:30 pm** Congregation Council Mtg.
- Sun. Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday am ZOOM link**  
**8:30 am** Hybrid Communion Service  
**9:00 am** [ZOOM](#) “Coffee Hour” begins  
**10:00 am** Outdoor Worship  
**11:00 am** Faith Lens Class via [ZOOM](#)  
**11:00 am** Service Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

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## SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each **Sunday from 8:30 – 9:30** using this link [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878) or call 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

**No internet access? Call Wellstream Phone:**  
**1-434-205-8777**

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Thursday at 8 am**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. *Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy:*

*([depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)/434-3496)*

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