



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](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org) ✚ Website: [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: [eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: [zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)



**August 20, 2023**

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

#### ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

For our *Food and Faith* series Sundays, August 20 & 27 and September 3, we will reuse our worship booklets. Hymn numbers and Scripture readings for each Sunday are provided in the booklet. Participants in worship are listed in *The Chimes* (see page 6 this week).

#### CREATION CARE:

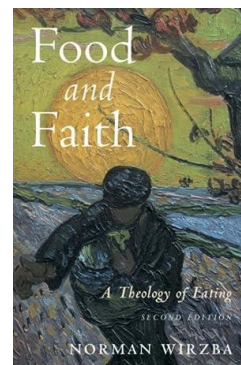
#### FOOD AND FAITH SERIES

Does what's on my dinner plate have anything to do with what I say I believe on Sunday morning? We'll explore this question together for the next three weeks in our *Creation Care: Food and Faith* sermon series. We'll examine how food is really about the relationships between us and the earth, fellow creatures and humans, and ultimately God. Next, we'll dig into our foods' roots in the soil, and why the way we treat the land as we produce food matters to God. Finally, we'll see how the sharing of food is the sharing of God's love.

On our final Sunday of the series, September 3, we'll welcome Deacon Phyllis Cox, who leads Care of Creation initiatives in the Virginia Synod, to lead us in a tree planting liturgy.

#### Thoughts on Food and Faith

“Food is a holy and humbling mystery. Every time a creature eats it participates in God’s life-giving yet costly ways, ways that simultaneously affirm creation as a delectable gift, and as a divinely ordered membership of inter-dependent need and suffering and help. Whenever people come to the table they demonstrate with the unmistakable evidence of their stomachs that they are not self-sustaining gods. They are finite and mortal creatures dependent on God’s many good gifts: sunlight, photosynthesis, decomposition, soil fertility, water, bees and butterflies, chickens, sheep, cows, gardeners, farmers, cooks, strangers, and friends (the list goes on and on). Eating reminds us that we participate in a grace-saturated world, a blessed creation worthy of attention, care, and celebration.” –Norman Wirzba, *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*



## MUSIC MINISTER WADE MEYERS INSTALLED TODAY!



We're delighted to "officially" install Wade Meyers as our Music Minister this morning! Wade has already blessed our community with his many gifts, and we look forward to our shared

ministry in the years to come.

In celebration of his installation, Wade will be giving a recital this afternoon at 3:00 pm. Please come to welcome Wade and to enjoy beautiful music! *See next column for details.*

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

This morning we will bless our students' backpacks and pray for students, parents, teachers, administrators, and all those involved in the work of education. When we bless something or someone, we invoke God's presence and invite the sacred into the mundane, the holy into the ordinary. We pray that God may be present for all who are starting a new school year!

## ISAAC CULLEN OREM Baptized, A New Child of God

Welcome Isaac Cullen Orem, son of Chris and Sarah Orem into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 11:00 service this morning! Isaac's sponsor is Dr. Ben Burks. Welcome to the Lord's family, Isaac! *Information will be distributed to worship participants so you can follow along and participate in this special part of the worship service.*



## WELCOME DR. BEN BURKS

Today we are delighted to welcome Dr. Ben Burks to serve as our Baptismal Minister for the baptism of Isaac Orem. Dr. Burks currently serves as Chief Operating Officer of Virginia Lutheran Homes (one of our Virginia Synod ministry partners), and is a longtime friend of the Orem family. He is a pastor within the Methodist church, and served as the Executive Director of the Wesley Foundation at JMU until 2003. Welcome to Muhlenberg, Dr. Burks!

## BLOOD DRIVE

TODAY (8/20), 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The American Red Cross is in the MAC for a blood drive! If you regularly donate or just want to give some time, please come. There's a serious shortage, particularly for type O blood. Please donate even if you haven't made an appointment!

**CANCELLED**



## PIANO RECITAL

TODAY (8/20), 3:00 pm

I hope you'll enjoy attending a piano recital I'm giving this afternoon, 3:00 pm in our Sanctuary, featuring music by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and others — reception to follow.

As your Music Minister, I'm thrilled to embark on this new season of music-making with you all. Our choirs are about more than music — they're about fellowship, service and praising God collectively. Mark your calendars, and get ready to rejoice in song. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any queries about joining. I look forward to seeing you soon! *See page 4 for details.*

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### CHOIR SOCIAL GATHERING

**THIS Wednesday, August 23, 6:00 pm**



Members of Celebration Singers and Sanctuary Choir are invited to a social gathering **THIS Wednesday, August 23, 6:00 pm** in the Music

Room. Lasagna and stuffed shells will be provided. Choir members are asked to bring salad, bread, side dishes, desserts and beverages. If you are interested in learning more about participating in choir, you're welcome to join us for this social gathering!

### LET'S LUNCH TOGETHER

**THIS Friday, August 25, 11:30 am**

The last Friday of the month is a time to gather for fellowship and lunch at Our Community Place (OCP) Friday Restaurant. The Restaurant is open from 11:30 - 1:30 and serves a delicious 3-course meal for just \$10. The Restaurant provides work for OCP's programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.



OUR  
COMMUNITY  
PLACE

**We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) at 11:30 am Friday, August 25.** Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Karen Thompson (540-421-4431).

## THE GREAT COMMUNITY PLAY DATE!

**THIS Saturday (8/26), 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

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. Donations may be placed in the Gathering Area **TODAY** or brought to the Play Date Saturday!

To see a list of the items requested and the ways you can donate, visit our webpage [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/playdate.html](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/playdate.html)

Join us **THIS Saturday, Aug. 26, 2:00 - 4:00 pm**. Interested in helping? Contact Karen Thomsen ([kethomsen25@gmail.com](mailto:kethomsen25@gmail.com)), Ashley Saunders ([saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)), or Pastor Lauren ([canes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:canes@muhlenberglutheran.org)).



## MULE 'N BURGERS WITH CHEESE ARE BACK!



The Mule 'N Burgers with Cheese kickball team is on a roll! You're invited to join the team for upcoming games:

**Tuesday, August 22, 6:00 pm**  
Tuesday, August 29, 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, Sept. 5, 6:45 pm  
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6:00 pm

Games are held at Ramblewood Athletic Complex. Contact Pastor Lauren or Pastor Alex if you have questions, or just throw on some sneakers and come out for a good time!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### "FALL IN" TO COMMUNITY WITH MUHLENBERG

Our fall worship and programs are launching on our "Fall In" weekend, September 9-10! Mark your calendar now for the start of Sunday School September 10 at 9:45 am.



Our annual church picnic will be the following Sunday, September 17 at 4:00 pm at Purcell Park. Be sure to watch *The Chimes*, your email inbox, and your mailbox for details about all our fall events, activities, small groups, and classes.

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CREATION CARE

Do you know where your food comes from? Pay attention this week to the foods you eat, and learn what you can about their sources. Are workers fairly paid? Are sustainable, environmentally-friendly farming practices used? How much waste is generated in its production? Consider small steps you can take to care for the earth when you plan your meals, such as buying local food, eating less meat, and reducing food waste.



## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### REHEARSALS BEGIN

**August 29 - 30, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Exciting news for all music enthusiasts in our community! I'm thrilled to announce the return of our music groups.

- **Celebration Singers** will meet Tuesday, August 29 at 6:30 pm.
- **Sanctuary Choir's** first rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 30 at 6:30 pm.
- **Gloria Dei Ringers** hand bell choir, directed by Kath Wissinger, returns Tuesday, August 29 at 7:30 pm.

First rehearsals for all groups are open to all. No commitment or pressure, just having fun making some music together! Our music ministry offers a supportive and friendly environment to grow musically while serving our community. Prior music experience is not required but is helpful for the Sanctuary Choir.

Wade Meyers, Music Minister  
[mevers@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:mevers@muhlenberglutheran.org)



## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### PATCHWORK PANTRY

August Patchwork Pantry donations totaled 72 pounds. Thanks to all who brought food and supplies! Your generosity is appreciated.

### RISE AGAINST HUNGER

**Saturday, September 9!!**



**This Year Marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday.** 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kethomsen25@gmail.com) or 540-421-4431).

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

At a moment's notice, natural disasters like the wildfires in Hawaii can cause widespread destruction. Please pray for those impacted and those assisting with recovery.

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. Visit the Connection Center for more information. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) or click [HERE](#) to specifically give to wildfire relief.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time).
- **Mail:** make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response, designate Hawaiian wildfire relief 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 Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched. Visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) Disaster Response for details.



## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

### CRUCIFERS

**8:30** ~ Bill Whitmire

**11:00** ~ Cheryl Hoak

### LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

**8:30** ~ Larry Blade

**11:00** ~ Linda Alley

### LECTORS

**8:30** ~ Linda Morrison

**11:00** ~ Dave Barnes

### SOUND TECHS

**8:30** ~ Tom Pippert

**11:00** ~ Mark Byerly

### USHERS

**8:30** ~ Karen Thomsen, Susan Gallaher

**11:00** ~ Sue Totty, Malcolm & Judy Wilfong

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

**8:30** ~ Linda Morrison, Oris Griffin,

Meg Wightman, Bill Whitmire

**11:00** ~ Cheryl Hoak, Dave Barnes, Sue Koch

**MUSICIAN** ~ Wade Meyers, Music Minister

*Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and  
in honor of Frank & Betty Lambert's  
63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.*

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

✦ Thank you to everyone who came out early in the morning this week to the Rockingham County Fairgrounds to help pick up trash. Your hard work will result in a \$3,000 donation to the church in support of youth ministry. It was a dirty job, but we had fun together!



## 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.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ A GREAT SUCCESS!



We had an amazing week of fellowship for the kids of Muhlenberg and Shalom Mennonite Church! *Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs* welcomed 67 children from 35 families across Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. We were supported by 20 adult volunteers and 10 youth volunteers, with a good representation each from Muhlenberg and Shalom. Our volunteers put in hours of planning and hard work that made this week go so smoothly. The kids were excited and ready to come back the next night. Thank you to everyone who made this such a successful event!



Ashley & Georgia (from Shalom Mennonite Church)





## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

8/06	8:30 Holy Communion .....	56
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	67
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40
	Total Views this Week .....	302
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	68.5
8/13	8:30 Holy Communion .....	55
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	88
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	20

### 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 July 2023

	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budgeted	2022 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$302,682	\$369,833	\$301,117
Total Income	\$430,553	\$448,453	\$377,964
Total Expenses	\$447,976	\$510,678	\$317,724
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(17,423)	\$(62,225)	\$60,240

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	7,578.07
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	832.50
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,410.57</b>

**July Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$53**

To give online, scan here ➡



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**August 21 – 27, 2023**

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Congregation Council Mtg
Tue	6:00 pm	Mule 'N Burgers w/Cheese Game
Wed	6:00 pm	Choir Social Gathering
Fri	11:30 am	OCP Lunch
Sat	2:00 pm	The Great Community Play Date
Sun		Thirteenth 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>



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

*Fay Voigt*

*Karl and Kathy von Reden*

*Matthew Wade, Kelly Atwood, and Emerie*

*Billy Walton*

*Wylie and Diane Walton*

*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](mailto: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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) /540-434-3496) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).