



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 21, 2022

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings, Muhlenberg!! Your Congregation Council had their monthly meeting August 15. Here are a few of the items we discussed:

- We learned another two Muhlenberg members will be taking the Synod's class to become Lay Preachers: Kristee Trumbo and Judy Wilfong. We are so excited for them both and wish them well in their studies!
- The Local and Global Mission ministry will be preparing Second Home families a bagged dinner as part of their mission of taking care of our neighbors.
- Two representatives from the Care Committee joined us to share ideas of how our leaders and entire congregation can work together to strengthen our relationships and care for one another.
- In keeping with our Welcome, Hospitality, and Care initiative in the Strategic Plan, a refresher course on Extending Our Welcome has been scheduled for **August 28 at 10:00 am** (*see p. 3 for details*). Our very own, Mr. Welcome himself, Christian Perritt, will lead this for us.

- The new Building Use Policy was adopted. A HUGE thanks to Administrative Assistant Liz Engleking for her time spent creating such a well-crafted and detailed document.

Your Council is here for you and wants to hear from you. Feel free to stop any one of us when you see us if you have questions, concerns, etc. You may also reach me anytime at mlccouncilpres@yahoo.com. See you in the Pews!

Greta K. Willis, Congregation Council President

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

BLOOD DRIVE TODAY!

9:00 am- 1:00 pm

The American Red Cross will be in the MAC for a blood drive. There's currently a serious shortage of blood, so please donate! If you're seeing this article ahead of time and want to **sign up online**, click [HERE](#). If you didn't sign up, no problem; just walk over to the MAC and donate today! For more information, contact Linda Morrison (540-383-5085 or lindamm778@gmail.com).



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION



SEASON OF CREATION

Today 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.

TODAY (8/21): Abby Moyers will share her experience in environmental studies in Alaska, and help us hear the voice of glaciers.

August 28: We will have someone share their experiences to help us hear the life giving and destructive voice of fire.

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

TODAY (8/21) 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.



SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

Our Local & Global Mission ministry wants to support Minnick School's back-to-school supply drive by collecting supplies here at Muhlenberg. Thank you to our Vacation Bible School kids for participating in this drive. We are off to a good start! Some of the general supplies are **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**. Place donations in the donation bin in the Gathering Area **TODAY (8/21) & next Sunday, August 28**.

You may also make a monetary donation by placing a check in the offering plate or visiting Muhlenberg's online giving page by clicking [HERE](#). You may also visit Minnick's website: <https://encircleall.org/minnick-schools>

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

DEEPENING OUR WELCOME

Next Sunday, 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 next Sunday, 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING CIRCLE

Wednesday, September 7, 6:30-8:00

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you basic stitches! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. For more information, contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283).

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.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Friday (8/19) we celebrated the 20th 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!

ANN FOLTZ FUNERAL SERVICE



A funeral service will be held here at Muhlenberg **Tuesday at 11:00 am.** You may attend in person or digitally. The link for the livestream will be available from our [website homepage](#) Tuesday morning.

Details about funerals and other timely events/activities are relayed via special congregational emails using the same list we use to send weekly Friday emails. If you are not receiving our emails, contact Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) with your email address to be sure you don't miss important information.

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) 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 or contact Kath Wissinger for more information.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

CONFIRMATION RETURNS!

Letters went out this week to students in 6th - 8th grades and their families, inviting them to a new year of Confirmation classes at Muhlenberg. Classes will be happening each Sunday during the Christian Formation hour as students learn about the foundations of our faith and living into our baptismal callings. If you did not receive a letter from Pastor Alex, please reach out at zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org to learn more about our plans for the year, which kicks off September 11 at our Family Meeting!

SENIOR HIGH NEWS

SENIOR HIGH RETURNS!

A full season of senior high ministry is in the works for this fall! All 9th - 12th graders are invited to join in our Fall Kick Off events on September 11: Senior High Sunday School at 9:45 am, and roller-skating fun at Funky's from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Reconnect with old friends and meet new friends too! Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

WELCOME BACK COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Classes begin soon for our area Universities, and Lutheran Campus Ministry is excited to welcome students back. For returning students, we will join with RISEU *tonight (8/21)* for a S'mOrientation at **7:00 pm**. We'll meet at JMU's Student Success Center, walk around campus together, and conclude at Muhlenberg with s'mores around a campfire!

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to join us **next Sunday, August 28** for worship where we will have a LCM Blessing, and then gather for *Sundaes on Sunday* with our friends at RISEU and UKirk to learn about congregations in the area and get connected as the semester begins! Join us in welcoming all students back home for a great new school year!

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.

CREATION CARE TIP

Switch to an all-natural dishwasher detergent. Your dishwasher detergent probably contains petroleum-based products. Petroleum, made from the same crude oil used to manufacture gasoline, is a known carcinogen. Opt for vegetable-based dishwasher detergent that is milder and made from all natural ingredients.

VA SYNOD NEWS

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>.

WOMEN IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN Bible Study by Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick Tuesdays Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, and Oct 4 7:00-8:15 pm via Zoom

The Gospel of John is filled with stories of Jesus' encounters with women – Mary, the Mother of Jesus; Martha of Bethany; the Samaritan woman at the well; Mary Magdalene; and many others. From these experiences we learn much about Jesus (Martha tells us he is “the Messiah, the Son of God”!) and much about how Jesus calls us all to follow, to witness, and to lead (Mary Magdalene is the first to proclaim: “I have seen the Lord!”). Expanded from Pastor Kelly's Power in the Spirit Workshop, this study invites participants to dig deeper.

Participants are welcome to attend just one session or all five. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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). 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 92nd birthday August 28! If you would like to send a card, his address is 1033 Toppin Boulevard, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.



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.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

8/7	8:30 Holy Communion	36
	11:00 Holy Communion	56
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	38
	Total Views this Week	147
	Hours Viewed this Week	47.8
8/14	8:30 Holy Communion	34
	11:00 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	49

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

As we move into the second half of the year, we are fortunate that expenses continue to trend lower than previous years and the amount budgeted for 2022. Thanks to staff and ministry teams for mindfully spending! Gifts and offerings continue to lag behind, fortunately, additional income is helping us maintain pace with last year's income. This month you will notice that Muhlenberg has an excess, not a deficit. As per the 2022 spending plan approved by the congregation, we disbursed the bequest money into the budget. I am hopeful as we move into the fall that gifts and offerings will increase. Thank you for continuing to support Muhlenberg through your financial gifts.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2022			
	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget	2021 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$302,307	\$358,750	\$339,658
Total Income	\$377,964	\$410,522	\$386,664
Total Expenses	\$320,237	\$484,869	\$452,678
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$57,727	\$(74,347)	\$(66,014)

Finance Manager Jane Eanes took a well-deserved vacation this week, so offering information not available this week.

July Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$11



To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 22 - 28, 2022

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

Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Sun		Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	10:00 am	Deepening Our Welcome
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube

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)

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran

PRAYER PETITIONS

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



David, Jackie, Mackenzie &

Camden Baker

Janessa Baker

Keith and Joanne Baker

Ashley Barnes-Burgoynne, Wes, Adrienne,

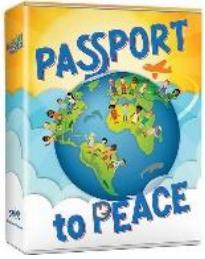
Andrew & Daniel Burgoynne

Emily Becher-McKeever, Martin, Samuel,

& Olivia McKeever

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



What a week we had at VBS August 8-12! We had 21 kids learning about peacemaking all over the world. VBS 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

