



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 28, 2022

TWELFTH 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 Deepening Our Welcome has been scheduled for **August 28 at 10:00 am** (*see p. 2 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

WELCOME JENNY ANNE FLORY

We are blessed to have guest musician Jenny Anne Flory in worship today! She is from Harrisonburg and graduated with her M.M. in Opera Performance, as a member of the University of Maryland Opera Studio (May 2017). She received her 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.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION



SEASON OF CREATION

Last Sunday we began 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 (8/28): Larry Blade will share from his 24 years of experience working with forest fires through the National Forest service, and 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 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.

DEEPENING OUR WELCOME

TODAY, 10:00 am in the Gathering Area

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 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.

WELCOME BACK COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Lutheran Campus Ministry is excited to welcome students back. All students, faculty, and staff are invited to join us **TODAY** for worship where we will have an LCM Blessing, and then gather at **2:30 pm by Turner Pavilion** 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!



SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION



Our back-to-school supply drive for Minnick School concludes this week. Some of the general supplies needed 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**. You may also make a monetary donation by placing a check in the offering plate, visiting Muhlenberg's online giving page by clicking [HERE](#) or by visiting Minnick's website, encircleall.org/minnick-schools

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

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.

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry **NEXT Sunday, September 4** in the Gathering Area. 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 personal hygiene products.



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).

FALL KICKOFF ~ SEPTEMBER 11

Congregation Council and staff have been busy planning meaningful worship and a variety of activities for all ages. Join us September 11 to learn how you and your family can be "Living in God's Promises" through worship and activities such as music, learning opportunities for all ages, special worship and fellowship events, and so much more! *See pages 4 – 8 and watch for even more information to come.*

CHURCH PICNIC

September 18, 4:00 pm

Attention all Muhlenbergers! Save the date for the upcoming church picnic at Purcell Park. *See page 8 for details.*

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

If every household in the United States replaced one 25-ounce bottle of petroleum-based dishwasher detergent with a 25-ounce vegetable-based product, it would save 81,000 barrels of oil — enough to heat and cool 4,600 homes for an entire year.





Fall at

MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join us for
worship, learning,
music, and more!

MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fall 2022 at Muhlenberg begins **SEPTEMBER 11!**

 **YOU'RE INVITED to Fall Kickoff
at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church!**

Fall Kickoff Sunday - Sept. 11

Join us for worship at 8:30 & 11:00am, Sunday Class startup for all ages, Roller Skating Fun at Funky's (4:00-5:30pm), "God's Work. Our Hands." projects, and much more!

Church Picnic - Sunday, Sept. 18

Come join the Muhlenberg family for food, fellowship, and fun! Sun. Sept. 18, 4:00pm, Purcell Park Shelter 2.

Fall Programs, Music, and Events

This Fall at Muhlenberg has so much in store for you and your family - music and learning opportunities for adults and kids, special worship and fellowship events, and so much more. Find full details at

muhlenberglutheran.org/Fall2022

Highlights for Sept. 11

Worship & Christian Formation

Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 am.
Christian Formation for all ages at
9:45 – 10:45 am.

Roller Skating Fun at Funky's

A private party just for us! We'll have the rink all to ourselves 4:00 - 5:30 pm! Skate rentals are covered, and snacks and drinks will be provided. This is open to all families of kids from Pre-K to High School.

God's Work. Our Hands. **Service Project**

Knowing Our Neighbor

Local & Global Mission invites the congregation to take part in providing a bag dinner for Second Home families.

See page 9 for details.



Sunday Morning Worship

In Person ~ Sundays, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Gather with the community to encounter God's love and grace through prayer and fellowship, Scripture and story, music and meal. Build relationships and journey in faith together!

Online ~ Sundays, 11:00 am

If distance or health prevents in-person attendance, connect via our [Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube](#) for a full worship experience. The worship bulletin and *The Chimes* are easily available at the Muhlenberg website, too!



Kids and the Nursery

Children are always welcomed and encouraged to be a part of our worship services, and their presence and participation are important! Activity packs are available in the Gathering Area that include quiet activities related to worship and the weekly Scripture reading. We are returning to a weekly children's message in worship as well.

For our very youngest (birth to age 4), quality childcare is provided each Sunday in the nursery 8:15 am - 12:30 pm, so little ones will have a safe space to be during worship and Christian Formation.

Christian Formation for All Ages

Our main Christian Formation time happens on Sunday mornings 9:45 - 10:45 am for all ages. Adult classes are offered with hybrid options for participants to join in-person or via Zoom. Zoom participants can log in with the *Sunday Mornings at Muhlenberg* link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>

Pre-K to 5th Grade ~ Muhlenberg Activities Center (MAC) and Outside *(weather permitting)*

Led by Children's Minister Ashley Saunders, kids will have an opportunity to grow together through the "Living the Word" curriculum, which follows the Narrative Lectionary. Kids will enjoy learning biblical stories, doing activities to put the stories into action, and building strong relationships. Older students will have the opportunity to help share the stories with younger students to cultivate a collaborative community.

6th - 8th Grade Youth Group and Bible Study (Confirmation) ~ Augsburg Room

Led by Pastor Alex, our confirmands will grow together in their understanding of faith and what it means to live out our baptismal calling. This class will offer opportunities for learning and engagement in and out of class as students participate in a year-long game. We'll work together to outsmart *Lartin Muther*, Martin Luther's diabolical twin who wants to undermine the Lutheran movement. We need the help of our youth because we've unfortunately discovered... *The Bishop is Missing!* Join us for a family meeting September 11 at 9:45 am to learn more!

High School Youth Group and Sunday School ~ Kairos Room

Our High School students will be a part of the Faith Lens class on Sunday mornings, studying the Narrative Lectionary text for the day and discuss how we can live out and apply its message to our lives (*see below*). Beyond Sunday mornings, we'll have the opportunity for some exciting Youth Group events. *See page 10 for details.*

Faith Lens Senior High School and Adult Class ~ Kairos Room

Youth and adults partner in an intentional intergenerational discussion about the Narrative Lectionary text for the day, and lively conversation ensues! Explore the background and context of Biblical texts, and consider how it applies to our lives today. Convener: Jean Helmick

Devotional Classics Adult Class ~ Nielsen Room

In this interactive class for adults of all ages, participants read and discuss Christian literature. From St. Augustine and Teresa of Avila to Thomas Merton and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, explore short selections of classic writing that spark conversation on the Christian life. Convener: Tilton Weaver

Wednesday Morning Bible Study~ via Zoom, 10:30 - 11:30 am beginning September 7

Based on the Narrative Lectionary, this class gathers each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons and dive deeper into God's word. Led by Pastor Lauren, this group will meet via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

Music

Choirs are open to all, even if you haven't participated in the past. If interested, contact Music Minister Elizabeth Williams for more information (williams@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

Adult Choirs

Celebration Singers ~ Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm beginning August 30. Our first rehearsal (8/30) will begin with fellowship time at 5:45 pm.

Sanctuary Choir ~ Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm starting August 31. Our first rehearsal (8/31) will begin with fellowship time at 5:45 pm.

Children's Choirs

Cherub Choir ~ Sundays, November 6 – December 18, 12:15 – 12:45 pm

For ages 4 – grade 2; led by Rachel Peters. The Cherubs will practice in preparation for singing in worship during Advent and Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will take place in the Music Room.

Tweens and Teens ~ Sundays, November 6 – December 18, 12:15 - 12:45 pm

For grades 3 – 8; led by Music Minister Elizabeth Williams. The Tweens and Teens will practice in preparation for singing in worship during Advent and on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary.

Handbell Choir

Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm beginning August 30

Led by Handbell Director Kath Wissinger. *Special note: the first two rehearsals (8/30 & 9/6) will be “open ring” night! Anyone interested in ringing or just learning more about bells is welcome to attend. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary.



Church Picnic

Sunday, September 18

4:00 pm



Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 pm! We're holding a church picnic to wind up the busy summer. Meet and greet old and new friends and welcome the fall season.

The picnic will be held at **Purcell Park, Shelter #2 (near Kids Castle)**

Food: Bring your favorite potluck side dish or dessert to share! Church Council members will be cooking up hamburgers and hotdogs. The Fellowship Committee will provide paper products and drinks!

Fellowship: Bring outdoor chairs or picnic blankets to sit on. We hope everyone will get to know their church family neighbors and neighborhood shepherds by eating in our neighborhood groups.

Fun: If you have corn hole or other outdoor games, bring them along! We'll play kickball with some of the "Mule 'N Bergers with Cheese" kickball team, and have other fun family field games for all ages.



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

KNOWING OUR NEIGHBOR



It's Monday and it's been a long day at work. You go to pick your child up at daycare and the first thing you hear is "What's for dinner?" You

wish someone would wave a magic wand and dinner would just appear. Well Muhlenberg, the Local and Global Mission Ministry team invites you to help make some magic happen!

On Monday, September 12, in conjunction with the ELCA's Day of Service, Muhlenberg will provide a bag dinner for the families and staff of Second Home Learning Center. We invite everyone to be part of the magic:

1. On Sundays, August 28, September 4 and September 11 write an encouraging message on the white bags we will use for the dinner. Bags, markers and suggested words of encouragement will be in the Gathering Area. We need to decorate 350 bags, so do as many as you can!
2. We received a Thrivent Action Grant to help with purchasing hot dogs and carrots, but to help stretch our budget we are asking for donations of boxes of variety snack-size chips and bags/boxes of cookies that we will repackage. Your donation maybe dropped off anytime by September 11.
3. Help us welcome our neighbors! Join us September 12 anytime between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to put the bag dinners together and to hand them out to happy parents and kids from Second Home. Our goal is to let the parents, children, and staff of Second Home know that we are happy they are on our campus and we pray they have a terrific school year.

If you have questions or are able to volunteer September 12, please contact Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431 or kethomsen25@gmail.com).

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.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

CONFIRMATION RETURNS!

Letters have been sent 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 **September 11:** Senior High Sunday School at 9:45 am, a Kline's ice cream outing at 3:00 pm, and roller-skating fun at Funky's 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Reconnect with old friends and meet new friends too!

Beyond Sunday mornings this fall, we'll have the opportunity for some exciting Youth Group events. Mark your calendars for the dates below and plan to attend!

- **September 11, 3:00 pm** ~ Ice Cream at Kline's; 4:00 pm Muhlenberg Skate Party @ Funky's
- **October 2, 2:00 pm** ~ Blessing of the Animals Service, 3:00 pm Service Project (animal related)
- **November 6, 12:30 pm** ~ Lunch together after church; 2:00 pm Escape Room
- **December 4, time TBD** ~ for ADVENTure Sunday

VA SYNOD NEWS

2022 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly convened in Columbus, Ohio, August 8-12, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Gathering under the theme, *Embody the Word*, voting members participated in plenaries and worship while acting on key legislative business and hearing reports on the work of the church. Imran Siddiqui was elected to a six-year term as Vice President, the highest position a lay person can hold in the ELCA.

Bishop Eaton led the assembly in a public apology to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina, Stockton, Calif. The assembly also received a presentation on the “Declaration of the ELCA to American Indian and Alaska Native People” adopted by the ELCA Church Council last September. Voting members acted on memorials related to the restructure of the governance of the church, called for reconsideration of the social statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” and encouraged deeper engagement with Indigenous partners through the Land Back movement. You can find all the actions of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly in the [Legislative Update](#) or click [HERE](#) to access full details.

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.

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.

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 at 434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org. Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors & editor.

✚ Thank you for the kind words and expressions of gratitude on the completion of 20 years of service to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church! It has been a pleasure to serve the people of Muhlenberg over the years, and I look forward to serving you for more years to come. Your kindness and appreciation touched my heart!

Linda Depoy, Parish Administrator

✚ Congratulations to Leo Snider who celebrates his 92nd birthday today (8/28)! If you would like to send a card, his address is 1033 Toppin Boulevard, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.



✚ Saturday, August 20, The Rev. Matthew Folkemer-Leonard was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Many of you may remember Matt as a Bridgewater College and LCM alum (Class of 2016). He has been called to serve as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson, Pennsylvania. Please keep Pastor Matt in your prayers as he begins his new call, that the joy of his Muhlenberg and campus ministry family goes with him in this new season!



✚ The Care Committee thanks those who turned out for the Red Cross blood drive last Sunday in the MAC. Even though not everyone was able to donate, we thank everyone who tried and those who were able. Everyone counts in this service to those in need! A special thanks to our Pastors and Elizabeth who came after the 11:00 am service to “roll up their sleeves” and to Linda Morrison who organized the event.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

8/14	8:30 Holy Communion	34
	11:00 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	49
	Total Views this Week	179
	Hours Viewed this Week	74.1
8/21	8:30 Holy Communion	38
	11:00 Holy Communion	70
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	42

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 <u>Actual</u>	2022 YTD <u>Budget</u>	2021 YTD <u>Actual</u>
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)

Gifts and Offerings for 8/14 & 8/21, combined

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 27,407.91
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 3,417.40
Total Giving	\$ 30,825.31

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 29 — September 4, 2022

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

Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed.	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Sun		Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
		Food Pantry/Lay Communion Sunday
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	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:



Allison, Charles, Cassidy, Chase
& Barrett Bechtel
Ashley and Nathaniel Bergey
& Brendan Washington
Roger and Pam Bergey
Tom Bertsch
Steve and Ann Bird

Please note: if you notice an unintentional omission in our list or prefer your name not be listed, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org).