



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

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August 30, 2020

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

INTRODUCING THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Eugene Peterson notes when we read scripture, we “see our stories in God’s.” Beginning September 13, Muhlenberg will participate in God’s story as we follow the Narrative Lectionary in our weekly sermons and engage in study and reflection on these texts.

The Narrative Lectionary is designed to follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. The weekly texts have been selected to highlight the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture, while arranged in a narrative sequence to help us see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement. By the time we conclude in May we will have touched on the great stories of scripture and gone more deeply into their themes and context. You will also be able to make connections from God’s story and the stories of the saints of the faith, to your story!

Congregations of many denominations from all over the world have used the Narrative Lectionary since its development in 2010 at Luther Seminary. Muhlenberg joins a number of local congregations (Park View Mennonite, Trinity Presbyterian, First Church of the Brethren,

Community Mennonite, and Shalom Mennonite) who will also use the Narrative Lectionary this year. You can learn more at narrativelectionary.org.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

GUEST MUSICIAN AARON LOONEY

Today's prelude will be performed by Aaron Looney. Aaron graduated this year from Turner Ashby High School will attend St. Olaf College in Minnesota this fall where he will study Organ Performance. Aaron greatly appreciated the opportunity to practice at Muhlenberg over the summer in preparation for college. He is the grandson of Terry and Linda Looney.

ELLIOTT TAYLOR OHGREN

Baptized, A New Child of God

Welcome Elliott, son of Robert & Kimberly Ohgren into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family! Elliott was baptized Saturday (8/29), and the video will be part of our worship service. We continue to surround him with our promises and God’s promises through our responses in worship. Elliott’s sponsors are Jared & Kelsie Ohgren. Welcome to the Lord’s family, Elliott!

See pages 5-9 for a Task Force update and fall activities.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each **Sunday from 9:00 – 11:00** using this link:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

- **Sunday School** ~ All are welcome to join.
 - **9:00:** Faith Lens
 - **10:15:** Kids Story Time
- **Pastoral Care** ~ If you would like a private word with one of the Pastors, we will provide a private breakout room for you and the pastor “on call.”
- **Small Group Fellowship** ~ Want to catch up with a small group of friends? We have private breakout rooms for that!

If you don't have a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

Livestreamed worship at 11:00 am on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) continues.

WELLSTREAM PHONE

Are you missing out on worship because you don't have an internet connection? We want all members to have the opportunity to “participate” in worship and hear The Word. **Wellstream Phone is a service that works from your home or cell phone — no internet required. Simply call the number below and select an option. Information will be available by 11 am each Sunday.** Contact Linda Depoy (434-3496) with any questions.

Wellstream Phone Number:
1-434-205-8777

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

While we aren't meeting in person, we are able to track our online viewership:

8/16: 94 Total Live Views
418 Total Views
108.7 Hours of Content Viewed

8/23: 102 Total Live Views

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$358,288	\$468,438	\$394,194
Total Receipts*	\$432,960	\$528,048	\$448,659
Expenses	\$451,756	\$572,118	\$486,101
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$18,796)	(\$40,070)	(\$37,442)

* Includes \$12,331.53 – federal PPP proceeds

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 7,310.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 24,280.00
Total Giving for the Week \$ 31,590.00

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg is not suspending 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.

Physically Distant Fellowship @ Hillandale Park

SPACED
OUT 2
AUGUST 30TH, 2020

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church  A Wellspring of God's Grace

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Fellowship Committee is holding *Spaced Out*, a gathering of Muhlenberg members. You are invited to attend! We plan to hold three “new normal” gatherings at various locations and times. Here are the details about the second gathering:

TODAY!

Hillandale Park in Harrisonburg, Shelter #10, 11, or 12*

7:00 - 8:30 pm (No Restrooms)

- **There are still spaces available!** If you can, please RSVP to Fellowship Committee Chair Barbara Roadcap (bbroadcap@gmail.com or 540-830-1896) with the number attending from your family. **If you can't or didn't RSVP, COME ANYWAY!** If we have more than 20 or so people, we'll split into two groups.
- **Bring your own chairs and beverage/snacks**
- **Wear masks or face coverings/shields**
- **Observe social distancing while at event and follow directional flow**

Please attend *Spaced Out* only if you feel safe, well and comfortable doing so, for the sake of yourself and others.

** Shelters 10, 11 & 12 are all in sight of each other. Pastor Lauren will reserve the best one available, or we will meet in a circle in that area under trees if no shelter is available.*

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY NO MEETING SEPTEMBER 2

Our next session will begin **Wednesday, September 9, 10:30 am**. Participants will study the Narrative Lectionary text for the upcoming Sunday, including a deep dive into the text, information about the context, and connections between God's story and our stories. We'll also have a lot of fun and get to know each other better! All are welcome to join via [Zoom](#) using following link:

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

Note: Please be sure the name listed on your Zoom account is identifiable. If it simply says "iPad" or a random list of numbers, you will not be admitted into the meeting because we are trying to prevent "Zoom bombers" from entering the space.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

We will have a brief prayer service on [Facebook](#). Tune in live or watch later.

BLESSING OF THE DEVICES

Often the start of a new school year brings a "Blessing of the Backpacks," but this year we'll be doing a "Blessing of the Devices!" Since so many students of all ages will be engaged in virtual/digital learning this fall, our worship service **NEXT Sunday, September 6** will include a special blessing for them and their devices during the Children's Message. (Chromebooks, iPads, laptops...whatever device they're using to connect with their teachers and classmates!) We invite all students to have their devices with them as we worship that morning.

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

Lutheran Campus Ministry



Muhlenberg Lutheran Church

WELCOME BACK TO OUR CAMPUS MINISTRY STUDENTS

Classes began this past week for our Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) students at JMU, Bridgewater, EMU, and BRCC, with online and in-person options. This is certainly going to be a weird semester, but we will embrace the weird in the full confidence that God's grace and love will meet us in this season of uncertainty. Please keep our LCM students, faculty, and staff in your prayers for a safe and healthy semester.

We will have an opportunity next Sunday to surround these students in love and prayer, blessing the school year ahead. If you have questions about LCM, contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhleberglutheran.org) or follow @LCMatMLC on Instagram!

SECOND HOME NEWS

LEADERSHIP NEEDED

Second Home needs Board Members, teachers, and volunteers. Do you have some time to invest each week? For more information, contact Second Home's office staff (secondhomeharrisonburg@gmail.com or 432-7989).





TASK FORCE UPDATE

From the Gathering Together Task Force:

Thanks to all who responded to the survey about Muhlenberg's fall ministries! The overwhelming response was a desire for Muhlenberg to maintain and expand our digital ministries, and not rush to in-person events. However, some did express a desire for increased in-person opportunities. And the biggest takeaway was that almost everyone is greatly missing the sacrament of communion.

After reviewing the survey, current COVID trends in Harrisonburg, our congregation's mission and vision, and input from staff and Congregation Council, the Task Force is recommending an expansion of worship opportunities and at-home devotional resources, while maintaining our current guidelines for use of the building and parking lot. A new 8:30 am Sunday worship service will take place via Zoom, and will include communion. The second Sunday of each month, an afternoon "Parking Lot Worship" will occur at 4:00 pm, also with communion, and as the name suggests, this will be in-person in our church parking lot. Our 11:00 am YouTube/Facebook Service of the Word worship will continue in its current format, with full liturgy, music, and sermon.

There are also many creative new opportunities for Christian Formation, Music, Fellowship, and Service being developed, and a full description of these events will be sent to every household next week. Additionally, highlights of these opportunities are included on the next three pages. As always, if you have any questions or feedback for the Task Force, don't hesitate to contact any of the team members.

In Christ,

Neil Alexander

Erin Burke

Pastor Lauren Eanes

Cynthia Page

Kevin Stees

Crystl Whitmire

Greta Willis

Pastor Alex Zuber

FALL AT MUHLENBERG

Staff is busy planning for fall at Muhlenberg. These pages will provide an overview of what to expect in worship, music, education, and more. Stay tuned for more information as details continue to be confirmed and communicated.

WORSHIP

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [Zoom](#)* each Sunday from 8:30 – 11:00 using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>. Here's what Sunday mornings at Muhlenberg will look like beginning September 13:

- 8:30 - 9:00 Communion Service via Zoom
- 9:30 – 10:00 Pre - K-3rd Grade Class, led by Diane Bayer
- 9:30 - 10:00 4th - 5th Grade Class, led by Holly Haney
- 9:30 -10:30 Adult Faith Lens Class, led by Jean Helmick
- 9:30 – 10:30 Adult 40-Day Journey Class, led by Mark and Jennie Warner
- 10:15-10:30 Pre-K Class, story time led by Sam Lewellen
- 10:30 – 11:00 Fellowship
- 11:00 Worship on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and Wellstream Phone

** If you don't have a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.*

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Sundays ~ 4:00 pm

Each first Sunday we will have a special worship, music, or education event:

- October 4** Blessing of the Animals, parking lot
- November 1** All Saints' Concert, in-person and live-streaming options
- December 6** Advent-ure Sunday, parking lot

Parking Lot Worship ~ Second Sundays. 4:00 pm in the parking lot

Each second Sunday we will have worship in the parking lot:

- September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13**

Wednesday Evening Prayer

We are finalizing plans for a new, livestreamed evening prayer service on Wednesdays.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact Music Minister [Elizabeth Williams](#) for more information.

ADULT CHOIRS

Meet via ZOOM every other week starting September 15:

Celebration Singers ~ Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

September 15 & 29 October 13 & 27 November 10 & 24

Sanctuary Choir ~ Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

September 16 & 30 October 14 & 28 November 11 & 18*

* two weeks in a row due to Thanksgiving

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS: RESTRUCTURED AND NEW

Meet via ZOOM Tuesdays beginning September 15:

Children's Choir ~ 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Cherub Choir and SonShine Singers will be combined into one for age 4 – 5th grade. Miss Rachel will lead the group; if interested, contact her at rgpeters@gmail.com by Sept. 8.

Tweens and Teens ~ 5:00 – 5:30 pm

A new choir for grades 6 - 8, led by Miss Elizabeth. If interested, contact her by Sept. 8.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Tuesdays, 7:00 pm beginning September 1

Resume weekly outdoor rehearsal (weather permitting) at the home of Handbell Director Kath Wissinger. Contact her (longwalk3@aol.com or 289-6973) for more information.



Choirs are open to all, even if you haven't participated in the past.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Classes are open to all. Contact Christian Formation Minister [Diane Bayer](#) for more information.

SUNDAY MORNINGS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 13 VIA ZOOM

Pre-K Story Time ~ 10:15 – 10:30

Preschoolers will hear a Bible Story with Miss Sam Lewellen.

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade Class ~ 9:30 – 10:00

Children hear stories that follow the Narrative Lectionary. Join Miss Diane and Miss Kathy to hear and discuss a Bible story, perhaps play a virtual Bible game, and close with a prayer.

4th – 5th Grade Class ~ 9:30 – 10:00

Children join Miss Holly to read and learn about Martin Luther using the graphic novel “Papa Luther” and a social distancing gathering to view the movie “Martin Luther.”

40-Day Journey Adult Class ~ 9:30 – 10:30

An interactive class for adults of all ages where participants read and discuss Christian literature. Facilitators: Mark and Jennie Warner.

Faith Lens Adult Class ~ 9:30 – 10:30

Participants read the Narrative Lectionary text for the day and discuss how we can live out and apply its message to our lives. Facilitator: Jean Helmick.

ADDITIONAL FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Confirmation Class (6th – 8th Grades)

Youth group and Bible study combined from 1:00-3:00 pm at Hillandale Park, led by Pastor Lauren and Karen Thomsen on the following dates: September 20, October 4, October 18, November 8, November 22, December 6.

High School Class/JCrew (9th – 12th Grades)

Leaders are working on plans for the fall. Stay tuned for details.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study ~ 10:30 – 11:30

Adult Bible study based on Narrative Lectionary; meets via [ZOOM](#), led by Pastor Lauren.

Pastors’ Book Club ~ Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Meets via [ZOOM](#) to discuss the book of the month on the following schedule:

September 23 *Raising a Rare Girl* by Heather Lanier

October 21 *For All Who Hunger: Searching for Communion in a Shattered World*
by Emily M.D. Scott

November 18 *information coming soon*

December 16 *information coming soon*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

September's Pastors' Book Club selection is *Raising a Rare Girl* by Heather Lanier. This memoir about raising a child with a rare syndrome raises questions about what it means to be human, the deepest challenges of parenting, and society's attitudes toward disabilities.

The book is available at online retailers like Amazon and bookshop.org. Since it just came out, it is a little pricier than books we've done in the past. If you'd like to borrow a copy from the church to read, please contact Pastor Lauren and we'll do our best to get you one.

Join the conversation via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81394502762)
Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 pm:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81394502762>

Note: Just because we call this a book "club" doesn't mean there are any "membership" requirements! A different group gathers each month based on who is interested in the book. So feel free to jump right in, even if you've never attended before!

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP



Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or rsanders97@verizon.net.

You can have a big impact on the environment by shopping for a gallon of milk instead of two half-gallon containers. In fact, it takes so much less energy to manufacture a bigger container, the average household could save enough energy to run a refrigerator for three days by shopping for a gallon - or more - of milk. Remember to put your empty milk jug in the recycle bin!

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

ZOOM WEBINAR

WITH THE REV. LENNY DUNCAN



**WHAT NOW?
DISCUSSING THE SIN
OF RACISM AND
DISMANTLING
SYSTEMIC RACISM.**

A ZOOM WEBINAR WITH
VISITING THEOLOGIAN
THE REV. LENNY DUNCAN

September 12, 2020 at 7 PM

Luther Memorial, Blacksburg invites Virginia Synod congregations to attend a Visiting Theologian Zoom Webinar with The Rev. Lenny Duncan entitled, "What Now? Discussing the Sin of Racism and Dismantling Systemic Racism." This free webinar includes a moderated Q&A session, and will take place **Saturday, September 12, 7:00 pm.** Rev. Duncan is the author of "[Dear Church: A Love Letter to the Whitest Denomination in America.](#)" To register for the upcoming webinar, click [HERE](#).

VOTING REFLECTION GUIDE

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, a program of Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, has produced a voting reflection guide for faith communities. This nonpartisan guide offers reflection questions for people of faith about moral issues in this year's election. VA IPL also invites members of faith communities to take the Faith Climate Justice Voter Pledge, with the opportunity to receive a \$500 grant towards congregational environmental projects. Learn more at <https://vaipl.org/>.

TRANSITIONS AT MUHLENBERG

We have some “Welcomes” and “Thank Yous” to extend in our Muhlenberg community, as we announce transitions in our staff and volunteer leadership.



First, a welcome to our newly hired Communication Minister, **Christian Perritt**! Christian brings a wealth of experience from his 26 years as Creative Director at the Gravity Group. He is excited to use his gifts to help Muhlenberg tell God’s story and our story. Christian, his wife Melissa, and their kids Billy and Henry have been Muhlenberg members for 10 years. Christian will begin on September 8.

A huge thank you goes out to **Janet Simmons**, who has served as our Financial Secretary for 27 years and is now stepping down. This is a volunteer position that requires a great deal of commitment and competence, and Janet certainly brought both. She served faithfully and adapted as financial management moved from paper to computer, and developed efficient systems for managing funds. We are grateful for her dedication over several decades at Muhlenberg!



Welcome to **Tim Wessel**, who steps into the Financial Secretary role. Tim has served as Financial Secretary, and in other financial roles, in multiple congregations prior to his retirement from the U.S. Air Force and move to Harrisonburg. He has a passion for financial management and stewardship in the church, and we’re thrilled he’s bringing that enthusiasm to Muhlenberg. Tim and his wife Katy are relatively new members of Muhlenberg, so he looks forward to getting to know everyone better.

~continued on next page~

TRANSITIONS AT MUHLENBERG (CONTINUED)



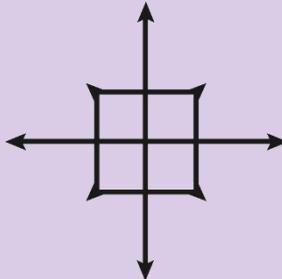
A big thanks next to **Clay Arthur**, whose position as High School Leader at Muhlenberg has ended. Clay stepped into this position shortly before the pastoral transition, and has shepherded the high school youth through the past few years. We've greatly appreciated his relational gifts as he's worked with the youth of Muhlenberg!

Finally, thank you to our nursery staff, **Crystal Weaver** (pictured) and **Heaven Emrich**, who nurture our littlest ones so well each Sunday morning. Their positions have been furloughed until we are worshipping in person again and can reopen the nursery.



We've certainly seen our fair share of changes in the way church works over the past few months! Transitions can be hard, but they also bring new opportunities for our community. And through all the changes, we remember that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

We are excited to see where the Holy Spirit takes us as we continue to strive to be a Wellspring of God's Grace in Harrisonburg.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer
(434-3496 or bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org)
for more information.

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

Miss Diane and Miss Kathy invite children to join Story Time **Sunday mornings at 10:15** via [Zoom](#). We will hear a Bible story and visit with our church friends. See p. 2 for sign in instructions.

VIRTUAL VBS COMPASSION CAMP



We had a great time with our Virtual VBS! If you missed last week's recap, click [HERE](#).

This is a collage of pictures colored by VBS participants of all ages.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 31 — September 6

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
- Wed. 12 noon Service Livestreamed on [Facebook](#)
- Sun. [Sunday AM Zoom link](#)
 - 9:00 am Faith Lens Class
 - 10:15 am Kids Story Time
 - 10:30 am "Coffee Hour"
 - 11:00 am Service Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
 - 7:00 pm *Spaced Out 2*

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:

depay@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496

Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).

PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex are working to stay connected with as many people as possible. Our pastors are returning to in-person pastoral care, when necessary, and with specific guidelines in place as identified by the Gathering Together Task Force.. Additionally, they are both available for phone conversations, email, and video meetings. Simply email or call the church office — they'll be happy to hear from you!

ENTERING THE CHURCH

Staff continues to work mainly from home. **All doors are locked at all times.** To keep everyone safe, **we ask that congregation members refrain from coming to the church building unless necessary. If you need to be in the building, use the Gathering Area doors to enter and exit (NOT the back red doors which Day Care uses).** We suggest you wear a mask as much as possible. If you have something to drop off, arrange with a staff person to receive it ahead of time. Thank you!