



Equipping All People to Live Out Christ's Love

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September 8, 2024

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

***“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”***

#### ELCA DAY OF SERVICE



**TODAY** all congregations are invited to reach out into their neighborhoods to become God’s hands and feet, to serve those in need and to share

God’s compassion with the world. Muhlenberg is participating in two projects:

#### OPEN DOORS’ SUMMER MEAL

**TODAY (9/8)**, Muhlenberg is providing food and servers for Open Doors’ Summer Outreach Meal in downtown Harrisonburg. Thank you to the volunteers who will be providing food and helping to serve!

#### RISE AGAINST HUNGER

**THIS Saturday, (9/14)** we will participate in this community effort to assemble and pack 40,000 meals, along with over 200 volunteers from 21 congregations. If you haven’t signed up yet but would like to join in, contact Karen Thomsen ([kethomsen25@gmail.com](mailto:kethomsen25@gmail.com)).

### FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Please join us in the Gathering Area **TODAY (9/8)** between services for refreshments, coffee, and conversation. Did you know September is National Preparedness Month? Visit our table to learn what to include in an emergency kit! Fellowship Committee will also meet to discuss upcoming activities. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please join us!

### CUB SCOUT PACK

Muhlenberg’s Cub Scout pack will be meeting for the first time **tomorrow evening (9/9) from 6:30-7:30 pm in the MAC**. We are off to a strong start with over 14 registered youth before the first meeting even happens, and that includes several who would have been unable to participate without the Mission Endowment Grant funds. You can keep up to date with what our pack is doing by going to [pack61hburg.org](http://pack61hburg.org) and if you are interested in helping out, feel free to email us at [pack61.vahc@gmail.com](mailto:pack61.vahc@gmail.com). We’re looking forward to a fun and exciting year!



## TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

**PRELUDE** ~ *Praise to the Lord The Almighty*  
(LOBE DEN HERREN) arr. Kevin McChesney

**CHILDREN'S TIME** ~ *Joseph's Colorful Coat*  
(A Chord Story) Kathleen Wissinger

**OFFERING**  
*A Gentle Presence* Kathleen Wissinger

**COMMUNION**  
*Promise* Kathleen Wissinger

**POSTLUDE** ~ *The God of Abraham Praise*  
arr. Gordon Young

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**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

### LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Wylie Walton

11:00 ~ Kathy Thompson

### LECTORS

8:30 ~ Susan Lawrence

11:00 ~ Robert Alley

### CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Bill Whitmire

11:00 ~ Sue Koch

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Bill & Crystl Whitmire, Judy Neumann,  
Susan Lawrence

11:00 ~ Sue Koch, Judy Wilfong,  
Robert Alley

### USHERS

8:30 ~ Bob Neumann, Jeannette Norfleet

11:00 ~ Steve Wilfong, Malcolm Wilfong

### SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Mark Byerly

**MUSICIANS** ~ Matthew O. Thomas, Organist  
Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Kath Wissinger, Director  
Aimee Buchanan, Bell Tree

## SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

Join us for Faith Formation for all ages at 9:45 each Sunday morning.

### NURSERY

Quality childcare is provided each Sunday in the Nursery, 8:15 am - 12:30 pm, so little ones (birth – age 5) have a safe space to be during worship and the Faith Formation hour.

### CHILDREN

This year we are having three classes in the MAC to better serve each age appropriately:

**Pre-K - 1<sup>st</sup> grade** will explore Bible stories and get to know who Jesus is. They will explore the stories through art, dramatic play and music.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades** will use both story style and NRSV Bibles to connect with the lectionary. They will explore what they have learned through games, art and adult-led discussions.

**4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades** will dig deeper into the lectionary of the day and come to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. They will have time to explore concepts with writing, art and Lego prompts to create something based on what they learned. They will work on projects for 6-week sessions and then display them in the Gathering Area for the congregation to see.

### YOUTH

**6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grades (Word)** meet in the *Augsburg Room* each week for an in-depth Bible study on the focus text of the Narrative Lectionary. This class is open to all who wish to dive into the Bible texts.



**8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades** (*Witness*) class meets in the *Campus Room* each week for fellowship and study around the central themes of our faith. As we shift our approach to Confirmation toward a student-centered and discernment-led invitation to discipleship, this class will be an opportunity to explore what discipleship means. We'll study the catechism, integrate our faith into everyday life, learn from the ways others live out their faith, and explore the varying faiths of our neighbors.

### **ADULT CLASSES**

#### **Engaging with Henri Nouwen Devotionals**

The group will read, ponder, discuss, and consider questions (and as usual generate more questions than we have answers to) surrounding the works of Henri Nouwen. This class meets in the *Nielsen Room* and is facilitated by Mark Warner.

#### **Civic Life and Faith**

The group will explore three different topics – Refugees, Sexuality, and Race, spending 14 weeks on each topic. This class meets in *Pastor Lauren's office* and is facilitated by Karen Thomsen and Brad Moyers.

#### **Parent Connection**

Want a place to connect and have child-free conversation while our children are in the nursery or in Sunday School? This is an informal space, not a class, for parents to have a chance to get to know each other better. Join us in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:45 am. We understand that life (and children) are unpredictable, so join as you are able.

The **weekly deadline** for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Wednesday at 12 noon**. 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)

## **THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG**

### **LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY**

**Tuesdays, 6:00 pm**

We hope that Muhlenberg will be a place where you will find renewal and a community rooted in God's grace. We hope that Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) will be a space in which you can find friendship, support, and care as you journey through this season of discernment and new studies.

LCM gathers for dinner this semester each **Tuesday, 6:00 pm in the Campus Room**

(downstairs). For more info, contact Pastor Alex ([zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-309-2414).

### **GLORIA DEI RINGERS**

**Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

If you're interested in learning more about ringing with the handbell choir, please contact Director Kath Wissinger ([longwalk3@aol.com](mailto:longwalk3@aol.com) or 540-289-6973). Rehearsals take place in the Sanctuary.

### **WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesdays, 10:30 am**

Led by Pastor Lauren, this study gathers each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons. Meets via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

### **INTRODUCING THE CHANCEL CHOIR!**

**Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

The Sanctuary Choir and Celebration Singers have made the decision to come together as one, the Chancel Choir. They will sing most Sundays in both the 8:30 and 11:00 am worship services. For more information, contact Matt ([thomas@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:thomas@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-434-3496).

# 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET ~ NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

All who have been part of our congregational life are invited to our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet to be held Sunday, September 15 in the Muhlenberg Activities Center (MAC). It will be a “homecoming” celebration with live music, a catered meal, desserts made from historical Muhlenberg cookbook recipes, and the unveiling of Muhlenberg’s heritage signature quilt. A newly updated history book is being developed and hopefully ready to distribute that day.

The banquet will begin with a reception at 12:15, and the meal and program will begin at 1:00. To offset the cost of the meal, we are suggesting a donation of \$20 per adult and \$10 per child under age 12; however, donations are not required to attend. Donations can be placed in the offering plate with “banquet” in the memo line, online at our website (using the link above), or paid by cash, check, or card the day of the event.

**The RSVP deadline was last Sunday (09/01). If you’d still like to attend, please contact Mark Byerly ([msbyerlype@comcast.net](mailto:msbyerlype@comcast.net)) ASAP to see if space is available.**

## Sign Up to Bring Dessert, Fruit or Cheese

Our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is a wonderful way to bring all of our congregation together to rejoice in the past, present and future of Muhlenberg. The meal will be catered by Vito’s Italian Kitchen, but we ask for your help in providing the reception food (fruit and cheese) and desserts.

In an effort to bring our past into our present, we are asking for favorite desserts made from cherished recipes (provided) used by members of our congregation who are no longer living but always stole the show with their covered dish offerings. For those of you who choose not to bake but want to help, there is a list of fruit and cheese items we will need.

If you have signed up to bring a dessert, please bring it to the MAC by 12:30 pm Sunday, September 15.

If you are providing fruit and/or cheese, please bring it to the MAC Saturday, September 14 at 10:00 am.

Thanks so much for your willingness to help make this a memorable day as we launch into the future of our thriving congregation. There are a few items still needed. Please contact Tassie Pippert ([pippertl@jmu.edu](mailto:pippertl@jmu.edu)) to sign up.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### THRIVENT MEMBER BRUNCH Sunday, September 22, 9:45 am



THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®

Calling all Thrivent members! Enjoy brunch and

fellowship at 9:45 am and hear about how you can get the most from your member benefits to impact the community. For more information, contact Thrivent Financial Advisor Sarah Sunde ([sarah.sunde@thrivent.com](mailto:sarah.sunde@thrivent.com)).

### YOUNG ADULT FAITH & FELLOWSHIP Sunday, September 22, 12:15 pm

Members aged 21 - 35-ish are invited to join in fellowship, study, and service with Young Adults at Muhlenberg. (If you feel like the term “young adult” applies to you, join us!) Each month, we’ll gather for a BYO lunch, joining in biblical study, community service and mutual support.

We regularly plan to meet in the Campus Room after the 11:00 service the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. **However, our September meeting will be held Sunday, September 22.** If you plan to attend or have questions, contact Jenna Guenther ([jguenth5@yahoo.com](mailto:jguenth5@yahoo.com)) or Pastor Alex ([zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

### LAM’S LUNCHEON Sunday, September 29, 12:30 pm

Lay Assisting Ministers (LAMs) will gather in Wayland Hall for food, fellowship, support and helpful information/tips from the pastors. All current LAMs are asked to attend. Are you interested in learning more about serving as a LAM? Please join us at the luncheon or contact Mary Elizabeth Skinner ([homeofjuno@msn.com](mailto:homeofjuno@msn.com) or 540-383-8556) for information.

### RECITAL ~ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Music Minister Matthew O. Thomas will play a recital at Muhlenberg Sunday, September 29 at 2 pm. This piano and organ recital will include music of Scarlatti, J.S. Bach, Mozart, Franck, and Ginastera. Join us for an afternoon of music; bring your family and friends!

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### SERMON NOTES AVAILABLE FOR ALL

One element of the Confirmation process is a responsibility to be engaged with worship. This call to gather around word and sacraments is essential for all baptized, so we are delighted to equip our community with tools for engaging in deeper reflection. Sermon and worship notes are available on a table in the Gathering Area .

Confirmation students may place their notes in the Confirmation mailbox in the Administrative Hallway or hand them to Pastor Alex on the way out. Everyone else is encouraged to take your notes home as a tool for further study.

### THRIVENT ACTION GRANTS

Our Action Sundays are made possible by Thrivent members’ access to Thrivent Action Team Grants. To learn more about Thrivent and the benefits of membership, please contact Thrivent Financial Advisor Sarah Sunde ([sarah.sunde@thrivent.com](mailto:sarah.sunde@thrivent.com)).

### CREATION CARE

Many consumers have already been buying organic produce, dairy and meat. The more we shift our budget to organic and sustainably raised foods, the more choices we’ll continue to have and the cheaper those choices will become.

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### TEACHERS NEEDED

Children's Faith Formation looks a little different this year. (See page 2 for details.) Because some of our little ones have moved up, we need more help on Sunday mornings to better serve our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade kids.

If you are willing to sign up for a 6-week unit, you will make a great impact on our children's faith formation. Contact Ashley Saunders ([saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)) to let her know which age group you'd like to work with (Pre K-1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades). We provide the curriculum; you provide the time!

## THRIVENT NEWS

### THRIVENT EVENT WATCH PARTY

**THIS Thursday, September 12, 7:00 pm**

Join Thrivent for a unique virtual event watch party – *Leaving a Legacy Letter* at The Offices, 31 N. Federal St. in Harrisonburg. During this event, we will explore how to share life lessons and inspire generosity with those we love. We'll equip you to write an impactful and lasting legacy letter with a step-by-step digital workbook because leaving a legacy isn't only about financial wealth. It's also about ensuring your loved ones know how much their relationship means to you. **RSVP by September 9** to Thrivent Financial Advisor, Sarah Sunde ([sarah.sunde@thrivent.com](mailto:sarah.sunde@thrivent.com)).

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*Devotional booklets for  
October - December are  
available at the Connection Center  
and in the Connection Box outside.*

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION OUTREACH

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

This month, Muhlenberg collected **50 pounds** of non-perishable food, paper products, cleansers, diapers, and personal hygiene products for Patchwork Pantry. Thank you for your donations!



### THANK YOU, MUHLENBERG!



**CWS**  
Church World Service

Your recent offerings provided 16 gift cards and \$775 for local migrant children to use for emergency needs and back-to-school clothing and supplies. Your Thrivent Action Team also gave 47 Celebration Cake Kits! We are so grateful! Especially for those whose education has been interrupted by instability and migration, this is a wonderful way to say, "Welcome!" and help families celebrate on their journey. It's clear you have responded to God's grace and mercy in your lives by being gracious and merciful to neighbors in need. The children and families say, "Thank you so much!" We also invite you to join us for a first-ever CWS gala September 21!

*Jennifer Davis Sensenig*

*Church World Service—Harrisonburg*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We need worship servants: lectors, crucifers, ushers/greeters, communion assistants, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook in the Gathering Area for **October**. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate training is needed on the sign-up sheet or contact Kathy Thompson (540-578-4830 or [thompskb@jmu.edu](mailto:thompskb@jmu.edu)). If you prefer to sign up online, follow this path from our website: [Worship + Serve in Worship](#)



## VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

### EPIC CONFERENCE AT MUHLENBERG Saturday, October 19



#### Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations

(EPIC) is a one-day leadership development conference designed to strengthen congregational leaders for their ministry in the congregation and in the world. There will be four separate opportunities to attend the event at four locations throughout the Synod, including one hybrid event here at Muhlenberg.

During EPIC we will explore what it means to have Strong Connections with topics that explore how to have:

- Strong Connections in the Congregation
- Strong Connections in the Community
- Strong Connections in the Synod
- Strong Connections in the Wider Lutheran Expression
- Strong Connections in God

The event will feature times of worship and large-group presentations as well as small-group breakout sessions covering a variety of topics led by Synod staff and local leaders from each host area. We hope attendees will also share ideas and resources for some holy cross-pollinating!

For more info including event dates, times, locations, and workshop descriptions, visit <https://vasynod.org/epic>. The registration deadline is **Thursday, October 10**.

## UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY (ULS) AGING GRACE-FULLY SEMINARS

ULS invites you to join the Aging Grace-Fully speaker series! Aging Grace-Fully examines how to age with grace and live, fully, with the physical, mental and social changes that are often difficult to accept when growing older.

Seek understanding and acceptance of these challenges in an eight-part series featuring leading authors who share their knowledge and experiences about aging including suffering, love and loss. All events will be livestreamed from the Gettysburg campus of ULS. The first two speakers and their books are...

- Rabbi Steve Leder, *The Beauty of What Remains*, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024
- Sloane Crosley, *Grief Is For People* Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024

For more information or to register, visit <https://ulsforms.wufoo.com/forms/q14a7kh117vl7oy/>. You can sign up for one or more speakers individually, or the whole series.

## A CUP OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE: 2024 ALL LUTHERAN WOMEN'S RETREAT November 7-9, Glen Allen, Virginia

Our world feels more divided than ever. Polarization, racial violence, and inequity leave us asking, "Is it even possible to heal?" Award-winning author and theologian Dr. Jacqueline A. Bussie believes it is. The retreat will focus on her book *Love Without Limits – Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions*. She challenges us to practice a love so deep it subverts the social order, so radical it scandalizes the powerful, so vast it excludes no one. Pastor Colleen Montgomery will be the retreat chaplain. To register **by October 11** or for more info, visit <https://alwretreat.org/>.

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

8/25	8:30 Holy Communion .....	75
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	95
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	35
	Total Views this Week .....	102
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	48
09/01	8:30 Holy Communion .....	82
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	90
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	28

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Income exceeds expenses in August for several reasons: increased gifts and offerings (thank you for your faithful giving), a grant from the Virginia Synod for Campus Ministry, and proceeds from the yard sale. The deficit remained stable. We anticipate seeing the deficit decrease as fall ministries and programs swing into full gear and expenses are stable into the fall.

*Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 2024			
	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$361,263	\$503,333	\$348,442
Total Income	\$460,774	\$589,851	\$497,259
Total Expenses	\$515,719	\$592,131	\$525,598
<b>Excess Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(54,945)</b>	<b>\$(2,280)</b>	<b>\$(28,339)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 13,277.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 370.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 13,647.00</b>

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 9 - 15, 2024

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Tues	6:00 pm	Lutheran Campus Ministry Dinner
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sat	10:30 am	Rise Against Hunger
Sun		Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Faith Formation in person & via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>
	12:15 pm	175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception
	1:00 pm	175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Meal and Program



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

*Bonnie Stidley*

*Doris Stone*

*Lynne Stover*

*Sarah Sunde, Sarah Whitley, Bennett,  
Caroline and Emerson Sunde*

*Krisztina Szekely & Paul Boisen*

*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))*