



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*

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**September 24, 2023**

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

#### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At its September 18 meeting, our Congregation Council ...

- Had initial discussions regarding the **2024 proposed congregational budget**, having utilized information gleaned from the Treasurer and President's meetings with ministry chairs and staff members. The budget will be finalized at the October council meeting and will then be presented to the congregation to be discussed and voted on at the **November 19 Congregational Meeting. The meeting will be held at 9:45 and requires a minimum of 50 active voting members, so mark your calendars now!**
- Approved the installation of **4 EV Charging Stations** along the side of the MAC to serve as the only downtown electric vehicle fueling station (other than the 2 at HEC) for a reasonable rate to bring additional income to the church and care for the environment.
- Approved well deserved **Summer 2025 Sabbatical for Pastor Lauren.**
- Received a request for a MLC sponsored **Family Cub Scout Pack** from Matt Philippi as there is currently no cub scout pack in

Harrisonburg city. (Answers to essential questions are being sought out prior to moving forward).

- Discussed continued **updating of the MLC Constitution** in the next 2 weeks to share with the congregation for questions and input in October, and vote at the November and January Congregational Meetings.

Peace be with you,

*Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President*  
[mlccouncilpres@gmail.com](mailto:mlccouncilpres@gmail.com)

### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

#### FALL WORSHIP 2023: *WHO AM I?*

As we *fall in* to the true rhythm of life at Muhlenberg, worship is at the heart of our life together. *Fall in* with us to a sermon series focused on the theme of **identity**. Who am I? Who are we? What happens when we have an identity crisis? And most importantly: Who is God in the midst of these struggles? When we feel like we're falling, or failing, or frenzied, God's Word will call us back to who we are and whose we are.

*For deeper engagement with the biblical narrative, follow along with the [Narrative DAILY Lectionary online](#) to fill in the gaps of our Sunday stories!*

## TODAY'S WORSHIP INFO

### OFFERING

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
(arr. Roland Martin)

### POSTLUDE

*Prelude and Fugue, Anonymous*

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**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

### CRUCIFERS

**8:30** ~ Jim Doyle

**11:00** ~

### LECTORS

**8:30** ~ Tassie Pippert

**11:00** ~ Malcolm Wilfong

### LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

**8:30** ~ Kim Fawley

**11:00** ~

### SOUND TECHS

**8:30** ~ Tom Pippert

**11:00** ~ Bazil Gibson

### USHERS

**8:30** ~ Susan & David Lawrence

**11:00** ~ Jeff Williams, Ashley Saunders,  
John Mulder

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

**8:30** ~ Tassie Pippert, Jim Doyle, Gus Kagey,  
Oris Griffin

**11:00** ~ Malcolm Wilfong

### MUSICIANS

Wade Meyers, Music Minister

Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist

Celebration Singers (8:30)

Sanctuary Choir (11:00)

Cantors ~ Ed Rader (8:30), Dave Barnes (11:00)

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### LAMs' LUNCHEON

**TODAY (9/24), 12:15 pm**

Lay Assisting Ministers (LAMs) will gather in the Nielsen Room 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 becoming a LAM? Join the gathering or contact Mary Elizabeth Skinner ([homeofjuno@msn.com](mailto:homeofjuno@msn.com)) or 540-383-8556 for more information.

### FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

**Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (behind the church)

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

**Grades 6 - 8** ~ *Augsburg Room*

**High School** ~ *Campus Room*

**Civic Life and Faith** ~ *Pastor Lauren's Office*

**40-Day Journey Adult Class** ~ *Nielsen Room*

**Faith Lens Adult Class** ~ *Kairos Room*

**To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:**

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

**Next Sunday, October 1**, we will hold our monthly Confirmation class from **6:00 - 8:00 pm** in the Nielsen Room with dinner provided. All those in the Muhlenberg community interested in continuing the lifelong journey of confirming their baptisms are invited to join in.

† † † † †

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

† † † † †

## **THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG**

### **WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY**

Join Pastor Lauren **each Wednesday at 10:30 am** for Bible study via [ZOOM](#). This class dives deep into the upcoming Sunday's scripture text.

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

Or by phone ...DIAL IN – **301-715-8592** and enter Meeting ID / Passcode: **200491556#**

### **LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY**

#### **Dinner Wednesday (9/27), 6:00 pm**

We hope Muhlenberg will be a place where you will find renewal and a community rooted in God's grace. We hope 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.

We will gather for dinner **THIS Wednesday, Sept. 27, 6:00 pm** here in the Campus Room (downstairs). For more information, contact Pastor Alex ([zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-309-2414).

### **COMFORT MAKERS**

#### **Thursdays, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon**

Join us in Wayland Hall anytime between 8:00 am - 12:00 noon. For more information, contact Linda Morrison ([lindamm778@gmail.com](mailto:lindamm778@gmail.com) or 540-383-5085).

### **LET'S LUNCH TOGETHER**

#### **Friday, September 29, 11:30 am**



**OUR  
COMMUNITY  
PLACE**

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 and creative menu.

**We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) at 11:30 am Friday, September 29.** Questions or need a ride? Call or text Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431).

### **“WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!”**

#### **Next Sunday, October 1, 9:45 am**

Interested in learning more about Muhlenberg or joining our church family? We offer a “Welcome to Muhlenberg” session that provides an opportunity to learn about the mission and ministry of the church. All are welcome to this overview of life at Muhlenberg, which includes a tour of the building and information on the many ways to get involved in our community. We'll also give details about how to become a member of Muhlenberg, although attending this session doesn't commit you to anything! Come and explore what Muhlenberg is all about **Sunday, October 1 at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.** New members will be received in worship Sunday, October 8. Sign up for “Welcome to Muhlenberg” on our [Fall 2023 webpage](#), and reach out to Pastor Lauren ([eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)) for more details.

### **FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER**

#### **Next Sunday, October 1**

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. No glass jars please. Also needed are paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all-purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products. Monetary donations also appreciated.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### COMMUNITY THANKFULNESS

November 30, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Registration Deadline (9/30)

The Interfaith Association of Harrisonburg-Rockingham is accepting registrations for Community Thankfulness: A Thanksgiving Opportunity for local residents to come together and express gratitude. Participants will offer a 5-minute artistic presentation of music, dance, or some cultural representation of their community. The program will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church (205 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg). Admission is free. Registration deadline is Sept. 30. Contact [IFAofHR@gmail.com](mailto:IFAofHR@gmail.com) to register or for more information.

### MYCAH MCNETT ORDINATION

Travel Sign-Up Deadline ~ October 1



We are delighted to celebrate the ordination of Muhlenberg member Mycah McNett to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA! Her ordination will take place at the

congregation to which she has been called to serve as pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon, PA, **Saturday, October 14** at 10:00 am. Would you like to attend? We will take two vans that we'd love to fill up with Muhlenberg members! We'll leave late Friday afternoon and return Saturday afternoon, with an overnight stay at a nearby hotel. Cost will be approximately \$125 per person for gas and hotel (price will depend on the total number of people going). **Please let Pastor Lauren**

[eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) **know by NEXT Sunday, October 1** if you'd like to join!

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Wednesday, October 4, 5:30 pm

Join us Wednesday, October 4 at 5:30 pm as the church commemorates St. Francis of Assisi with an Ecumenical Blessing of the Animals. **The service will be at Hillendale Park,**



**Shelter #11** at the end of the loop. Pets and service animals are welcome, leashed or properly restrained for the safety of your pet and others. Don't have a pet? You're still welcome to join us! Have a pet but they cannot attend? Bring a picture and join us anyway! Have a special stuffed animal that has become "real" through love and devotion? Bring them, too. Invite a friend – all are welcome!

You are welcome to bring your dinner and stay after worship to enjoy a time of fellowship with our neighbors and their fuzzy, feathery, or scaly friends!

This ecumenical service is hosted by Muhlenberg, Park View Mennonite, RISE, Shalom Mennonite, and Trinity Presbyterian.

### PROPERTY WORKDAY

October 7, 8:00 am – 12 noon



The Property Committee has scheduled a church workday for **Saturday, October 7 starting at 8:00 am** (but come anytime that's convenient). We will do some interior painting and exterior landscaping. Wear appropriate painting/outdoor work clothes and join us! Coffee and donuts will be provided. For more information, contact Russell Presnell ([russellepresnell@gmail.com](mailto:russellepresnell@gmail.com)) or 540-746-3562).

## **WHY GROUPS ARE BACK!**

### **Beginning the Week of October 8**

This spring, over 90 people participated in our Lenten *Why Groups*. These four-week small group experiences focused on gathering to get to know one another more deeply and explore questions of faith together. We heard overwhelmingly positive feedback about the experience, and so we're bringing them back this October!

October *Why Groups* will focus less on the question "Why?" and more on the question "Who?" Who are we? We'll dig into stories about Moses, Ruth, and David to learn more about how God's people discover who they are, and whose they are. Some groups will be structured to focus on a particular season of a person's life, such as young adults, parents of teens, retirees, etc., while others will invite any and all people to join around an activity such as hiking or trying new restaurants in town. See the *Why Groups* handout for full details!

*Why Groups* are a 4-week, one-hour-a-week commitment, **beginning the week of October 8**. Interested in hosting a group? It's not too late to add a group to the list. All you have to do is make the arrangements for the meeting time and place, and we'll give you all you need from there. Contact Pastor Lauren ([eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)) to learn more.

## **YOUNG ADULT LUNCH**

**Sunday, October 8, 12:15**

Members aged 21 to 35ish are invited to join in fellowship and discernment for the future of Young Adult Ministry at Muhlenberg. *(If you feel like the term "young adult" applies to you, join us!)* Sunday, October 8, we'll meet in the Gathering Area after the 11:00 service and walk together to a restaurant near the church to spend time

getting to know one another and discerning the needs of our young adult community.

At our first gathering, we'll discuss the specifics of how our group will gather going forward, but we plan to meet the second Sunday of each month. Childcare will be provided in the nursery during our time together. If you plan to attend or have questions, contact Pastor Alex ([zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

## **DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCHEON**

**October 15, 12:00 noon**

Diamond Members (those who are age 75 plus), please save the date for our Diamond Jubilee luncheon and social gathering in the MAC. Look for details and a mailed invitation soon and plan to join us as we celebrate YOU! Please RSVP to Sandy Randolph ([cerprek@gmail.com](mailto:cerprek@gmail.com) or 540-828-2033).



*\*Please note the time for this event was incorrect in our fall newsletter, so be sure to mark your calendar for **12 noon** on October 15!)*

## **TRUNK OR TREAT**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 4:00 - 6:00 PM**



Is Halloween your favorite holiday? Do you like seeing all the kids dressed up? Adults and groups are encouraged to sign up and use their creativity to decorate their trunks and have a chance to win the Trunk Cup. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Ashley Saunders ([saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Invite your friends and neighbors to mark their calendars.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### NURSERY COORDINATOR UPDATE



Last week we welcomed Brittany Rose as our Nursery Coordinator. She lives in Harrisonburg with her husband and stepson, and is attending Bridgewater College. She has experience in this role and is very familiar with a church setting. Please join us in welcoming Brittany to Muhlenberg.

While Brittany is talented and experienced, she will need help in the Nursery during the 11:00 am service. Most children attend church with their parents at that time (5-9 kids), and they range in age from twin babies to 5 years old. Could you sign up for one Sunday a month so parents can enjoy worship without worrying about their little ones? Reach out to Brittany on Sunday or email Ashley Saunders ([saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

### ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS



Our sharing in the offering each Sunday is an important act of worship, as we offer up to God

the gifts that God has first given us. Many in our community choose to give electronically, which is a simple way to give regularly and faithfully — but it can leave people feeling awkward when the offering plate is passed!

If you make electronic donations, we invite you to place a laminated Electronic Contribution card (located in the pews) in the offering plate. This allows you to participate in this act of worship in a tangible way, as the representation of your

gift is placed with others and blessed. Thank you for your faithful generosity, in whatever form it takes! Contact Finance Manager Jane Eanes ([finance@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:finance@muhlenberglutheran.org) / 540-434-3496) with any questions.

### CREATION CARE

There are several ways to maximize the efficiency to boil water:



- Use lukewarm rather than cold water to start.
- Boil only the amount of water needed.
- Use the heating element on the range that fits your kettle/pot.
- Listen for the whistle or watch the pot. Turn the heat off as soon as the water boils.

### CONFIRMATION CORNER

Confirmation isn't just for middle schoolers! All the baptized who have been confirmed are called to grow in faith and affirm God's promises in their life. You can support the hard work of our middle school students by reflecting on these Confirmation Corner thoughts each week. Here's a confirmation prompt for this week:

*Luther maintained that there is no spiritual divide between priests and laity; there is simply "one estate" to which all baptized believers belong. Because justification by faith puts all baptized believers on equal footing, there are no tiers of spirituality or hierarchy in accessing God. In Luther's mind, this made parents the "Bishops of their homes," pastoring to their priestly children! For parents, how do you feel about this role of Bishop? For all, what does it mean to you to be a part of this holy calling?*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Choirs are open to all, even if you haven't participated in the past. If interested, contact Music Minister Wade Meyers for more information ([meyers@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:meyers@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-434-3496).

### Adult Choirs

Celebration Singers ~

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Sanctuary Choir ~

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

### Children's Choirs

Cherub Choir ~ Sundays,

November 12 – December 17

12:15 – 12:45 pm

For ages 4 – grade 2; led by Rachel Peters. The Cherubs will practice in preparation for singing in worship on the Second Sunday of Advent and at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will take place in the Music Room.

Tweens and Teens ~

Sundays, November 12 – December 17

12:15 - 12:45 pm

For grades 3 – 8; led by Music Minister Wade Meyers. The Tweens and Teens will practice in preparation for singing in worship on the Second Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary.

### Handbell Choir

Gloria Dei Ringers ~

Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Led by Handbell Director Kath Wissinger. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary.

## 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, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.*

✚ With great joy, we share that a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Muhlenberg member Ramona Sanders for her unwavering commitment to the people of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and Living Wage Virginia.

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).

## CHURCH PICNIC

Due to weather, we moved the picnic from Purcell Park to the MAC, but that didn't stop the fun from happening! Thanks so much to everyone who joined us and all who made the picnic a great success! Photos are available on our [Facebook](#) page and the bulletin board at the back entrance to the church.



## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

|      |                                   |      |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 9/10 | 8:30 Holy Communion .....         | 68   |
|      | 11:00 Holy Communion .....        | 107  |
|      | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 37   |
|      | Total Views this Week .....       | 180  |
|      | Hours Viewed this Week .....      | 53.1 |
| 9/17 | 8:30 Holy Communion .....         | 67   |
|      | 11:00 Holy Communion .....        | 90   |
|      | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 35   |

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

As we move into fall programming, gifts and offerings are trending slightly higher than last year, which is promising! Expenses are outpacing income and with high inflation the cost of goods and services just makes everything cost more. Fortunately, expenses are lower than projected. I am looking forward to a vibrant fall at Muhlenberg with an abundance of gifts and offerings.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

### FINANCIAL REPORT

| Through August 2023     |                    |                      |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                         | 2023 YTD<br>Actual | 2023 YTD<br>Budgeted | 2022 YTD<br>Actual |
| Gifts & Offerings       | \$348,442          | \$422,667            | \$348,398          |
| Total Income            | \$497,259          | \$549,184            | \$445,664          |
| Total Expenses          | \$526,070          | \$551,443            | \$380,345          |
| Excess Income/(Deficit) | <b>\$(28,811)</b>  | <b>\$(2,259)</b>     | <b>\$65,319</b>    |

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Giving in support of our Spending Plan | \$ 10,813.34        |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds       | \$ 420.00           |
| <b>Total Giving</b>                    | <b>\$ 11,233.34</b> |

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 25 — October 1, 2023

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

|       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| Tues  | 6:30 pm                                       | Celebration Singers Rehearsal  |
|       | 7:00 pm                                       | Gloria Dei Ringers   |
| Wed   | 10:30 am                                      | Bible Study via <a href="#">ZOOM</a>   |
|       | 6:00 pm                                       | LCM Dinner   |
|       | 6:30 pm                                       | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  |
| Thurs | 8:00 am                                       | Comfort Makers   |
| Fri   | 11:30 am                                      | Our Community Place Lunch  |
| Sun   | Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost             |  |
|       | Food Pantry/Lay Communion & Name Badge Sunday |  |
|       | 8:30 am                                       | Holy Communion in person   |
|       | 9:45 am                                       | “Welcome to Muhlenberg”  |
|       | 9:45 am                                       | Faith Formation in person & via <a href="#">ZOOM</a>   |
|       | 11:00 am                                      | Holy Communion in person & Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a> |
|       | 6:00 pm                                       | Confirmation   |



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

*Robert, Shannon, John, and Wendy Wilson  
Bob and Diane Wolfe  
John Yeich  
Pastor Alex Zuber and Renna Nouwairi*

*\*This ends this reading of the directory. We will include new members for the next 2 weeks (5 each week) before restarting through the directory.*

*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 [depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)).*