



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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September 27, 2020

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

PASTOR ALEX UPDATE

Pastor Alex continues to recover from COVID-19 and is starting to get some of his strength back. He has slowly begun taking on some of his Muhlenberg responsibilities, while being careful not to overextend himself.

Pastor Alex appreciates your continued prayers and grace until his health is fully restored.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

COMMUNION SERVICE

Our new 8:30 am service is a simple, spoken word service that follows the outline of the liturgy. We invite you to have bread and wine/grape juice ready before the service, as we will share in communion together. We connect through [ZOOM](#), which can be accessed by computer, tablet, or simply through a regular phone. *See p. 2 for Zoom phone-in details.*

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER CLASS

Have you been joining in our online worship? Are you considering membership? Are you curious or just want to learn more about us? We invite you to explore with us what it means to be a Christian, a Lutheran, a follower of Jesus and a member of the Muhlenberg family. We invite you to meet with us **TODAY (9/27), 1:00 – 3:00 pm via [ZOOM](#)**. We'll discuss more in depth the mission and ministries of Muhlenberg and how you can be part of the life of this congregation as a member or associate member. New members will be received Sunday, October 11.

If interested, please join us or contact one of the pastors for more information.

NEW FALL SCHEDULE

Our new fall schedule has begun. For details about worship, education & fellowship opportunities, click [HERE](#) for the fall newsletter which includes details.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

SUNDAY MORNINGS

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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

8:30 – 9:00 Communion Service via Zoom
 9:00 – 11:00 “Coffee Hour” Fellowship
 9:30 – 10:00 K - 3rd Grade Class
 9:30 – 10:00 4th - 5th Grade Class
 9:30 – 10:30 Adult Faith Lens Class
 9:30 – 10:30 Adult 40-Day Journey Class
 9:30 – 10:30 Young Families
 10:15– 10:30 Pre-K Story Time
 11:00 Worship on [Facebook](#),
[YouTube](#), Wellstream Phone

- **Pastoral Care** ~ If you would like a private word with the pastor on call, we will provide a breakout room for you.
- **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.

WELLSTREAM PHONE

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 ATTENDANCE

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

9/13: 8:30 Communion 15
 11:00 Total Live Views 99
 4:00 Parking Lot Worship 49
 Total Views this Week 473
 Hours Viewed this Week 115.5

9/20: 8:30 Communion 18
 11:00 Total Live Views 110

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$419,780	\$545,620	\$443,246
Total Receipts*	\$524,368	\$624,631	\$517,220
Expenses	\$512,005	\$663,104	\$565,839
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	\$12,364	(\$38,473)	(\$48,619)

* Includes \$12,331.53 – federal PPP proceeds

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 3,395.00
 Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 3,333.40
Total Giving for the Week \$ 6,728.40

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.

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

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 the 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 because we are trying to prevent "Zoom bombers."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 4, 4:00 pm in the parking lot, we will have a Blessing of the Animals Service! This service is traditionally held on a day near the church's commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi.



Pets and service animals are welcome (leashed or properly restrained for the safety of your pet and others). We will meet in the parking lot for a brief service and blessing of each pet. Masks and distancing are required (for the humans). You're welcome to stay in your car for the entirety of the service if you prefer — you'll be able to listen in through our radio transmitter.

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!



POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 7

Holden Evening Prayer scheduled to start in September **has been postponed until October 7**. The service will be livestreamed on **Facebook** and **YouTube Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**. This beautiful service will be led from the sanctuary by Music Ministry Accompanist Linlin Uta and a rotating slate of singers, including the pastors. The service will be recorded and available to view any time.

PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

In October, we'll discuss the book *Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times* by Amanda Henderson. In *Holy Chaos*, an interfaith leader, activist, and pastor Amanda Henderson shares personal stories and practices from her work at the intersection of faith and politics to help us find connections in the midst of the religious and political divides in our country, our communities, and our families and friendships.

Join us for this timely conversation via **ZOOM Wednesday, October 21, 6:30 pm:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81394502762>

Just because we call this a book "club" doesn't mean there are "membership" requirements! A different group gathers each month based on interest, so feel free to attend, even if you haven't before!



REFORMATION AND ALL SAINTS DAY ACTIVITIES GATHERING THE NAMES OF SAINTS

The end of October and beginning of November bring two special days in the life of the church: Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday. *Worship-at-Home* boxes are being prepared for all church members, containing information and activities to do on these two days. You can pick up a box at the Parking Lot Worship Service **October 11 at 4:00 pm**, or anytime between October 11-24 from the pick up/drop off box outside the Gathering Area.

Each year on All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have died and rest in the promises of God by surrounding our worship space with a paper chain, each link bearing the names of those we hold dear. This year, you are invited to submit the names of the saints digitally **through October 16**. Saints can be persons living or deceased who have enriched your spiritual life or the life of the church. Click [here](#)* to provide names, and a paper link will be created and hung in the sanctuary. You may submit as many names as you like.

We will share a video of the paper chain/links during All Saints Sunday worship, November 4. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to observe how the saints of our lives link us together.

*If you don't have internet access, please call the church and leave a message for Diane Bayer (434-3496, option 6).

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.

Check the hose behind your washing machine. A kinked hose is more likely to crack and leak. Even a few tiny cracks can lead to a lot of wasted water and possible water damage. Your washing machine will also use more energy pushing water through a kinked hose. If the hose is kinked, take a few minutes to straighten it. If the hose is cracked, replace it.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Contact Music Minister [Elizabeth Williams](mailto:Elizabeth.Williams@church.org) for more information.

ADULT CHOIRS

Celebration Singers ~ Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30
September 29 October 13 & 27
November 10 & 24

Sanctuary Choir ~ Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00
September 30 October 14 & 28
November 11 & 18

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Tweens and Teens ~ Tuesdays, 5:00 – 5:30
For grades 6 - 8

Children's Choir ~ Tuesdays, 5:30 – 6:00
Ages 4 – 5th grade. Contact: Rachel Peterson (Rgpeters9@gmail.com or 570-975-5457).

HANDBELL CHOIR

Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Tuesdays, 7:00
Contact: Handbell Director Kath Wissinger (longwalk3@aol.com or 289-6973).

PICK UP/DROP OFF BOX

This new box is located outside the Gathering Area on the edge of the planter nearest the MAC. Members can use the box to pick up and drop off materials. It is stocked with devotionals, perhaps a few Bibles, and other materials as needed. Christian Formation and Music Ministry materials may be left for specific members. The box will be checked weekdays for anything left there for staff.

Note: NOTHING OF VALUE should be left in the unlocked box, especially offerings which should still be mailed to the church directly.



Devotional booklets for October - December and the fall Narrative Lectionary are available for pick up, or call the church office to request a copy be mailed to you.

REMINDERS

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.** 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!

PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex are available for phone conversations, email, and video meetings, and in-person meetings as needed. Simply email or call the church office — they'll be happy to hear from you!

I NEED PRAYERS...

One way the Muhlenberg family cares for each other is through the **Prayer Chain**, a ministry that provides confidential prayers for the needs of church members, their families, and friends. The Prayer Chain itself consists of an email list of members who commit to prayerful support, while maintaining the confidentiality of information specific to each petition.

To ask for prayer via the Prayer Chain, direct your specific request to Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org), Crystl Whitmire (whitmire@muhlenberglutheran.org), one of the pastors, or the church office. When requesting the support of this ministry, please provide the name(s) and information to be shared. Some petitions are intentionally vague (e.g. for "health and healing" or "comfort during difficult times") while others may include more detail. If you would like to serve in this ministry, contact Linda or Crystl.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

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

YOUNG FAMILIES

TODAY (9/27), 9:30 am meet via the Sunday morning [ZOOM](#) link with other parents of Young Families. We hope to decide as a group what we want to do and when we want to meet on a regular basis. Please plan to attend so we can get everyone's input.

JAMERS OUTSIDE MEETING

Elementary Youth Group (Grades 2-5)

Mark your calendars to join Miss Diane and Miss Holly **Sunday, October 11, 12:30-1:30 at Westover Park** (up on the hill by Pavilion #2). We will have fun outside together while social distancing. Everyone will need to wear a mask as we share what we have been doing and play some JAMers games together.

Please have lunch before you come — no food at this event. Also, bring your own water bottle and dress for the weather.



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FALL CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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

SUNDAY MORNINGS 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

6th – 8th Grade Youth Group and Bible Study

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

9th – 12th Grade Youth Group and Bible Study

Meets twice monthly. *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:

October 21 *Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times* by Amanda Henderson

November 18 *For All Who Hunger: Searching for Communion in a Shattered World* by Emily M.D. Scott

December 16 *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can be Made Right* by Lisa Sharon Harper

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS



The Synod offers many events, activities, and educational opportunities for congregational members. Click [HERE](#) to see their Weekly Update and learn more!

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

- ✚ Congratulations to Dorothy Harpine who celebrates her 94th birthday today (9/27). If you wish to send a card, Dorothy's address is 1308 Woodland Park Circle, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.
- ✚ Congratulations to Sam and Katy Hopkins on the birth of their baby girl, Kendall Marie Hopkins, August 30.
- ✚ We offer sympathy to Jesse and Sara Eppard, their children, and extended family following the death of Jesse's father. Jesse Randolph Eppard died September 16.
- ✚ Feeling connected to one another can be challenging during this time of social distancing. One way to help others and yourself is to call or send cards. If you know someone is celebrating a birthday, living alone, or could use a word of encouragement, consider calling or sending a card.
If you need a member's address, consult the password protected online directory available from our website. If you need the password, an address that is not listed, or you have no internet access, contact Linda Depoy.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 28 — October 4

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
- Tue. 5:00 pm Tweens and Teens
5:30 pm Children's Choir
6:30 pm Celebration Singers
7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers
- Wed. 10:30 am Wed. Morning Bible Study
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
- Sun. [Sunday am ZOOM link](#)
8:30 am Communion Service
9:00 am "Coffee Hour" begins
9:30 am K – 3rd Grade Class
9:30 am 4th - 5th Grade Class
9:30 am Faith Lens Class
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
10:15 am Pre-K Story Time
11:00 am Service Livestreamed
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
4:00 pm Blessing of the Animals

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:*

depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496

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

