



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



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October 1, 2023

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

PASTORS AT MINISTERIUM

Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex will be attending the Gathering of the Ministerium, an annual event for the rostered ministers of the Virginia Synod, in Virginia Beach this Monday - Wednesday (10/2 - 10/4). If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office and speak with Parish Administrator Linda Depoy to be connected with the pastors. Outside of office hours, the Pastors' cell phone numbers are included in their voice mail greetings.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

175TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING TEAM

TODAY (10/1), 12:15 pm in the Library

It's time to celebrate! We are preparing to kick off Muhlenberg's 175th anniversary year in December. The planning group is exploring ideas for historical presentations, special events, and more! Help us tell our congregation's story by joining in the conversation. Contact Pastor Lauren for more information.

“WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!”

TODAY (10/1), 9:45 am

Interested in learning more about Muhlenberg or joining our church family? Join in a “Welcome to Muhlenberg” session today at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary to learn about the mission and ministry of the church. Meet leaders, take a tour, hear about Muhlenberg's history, and find out ways to get involved.

Who should attend “Welcome to Muhlenberg”?

- Those who have been worshipping with us for a while and would like to officially join.
- Those who are new to the community and are considering membership, but aren't totally sure yet.
- Those who are simply curious about Muhlenberg but aren't ready to make a formal commitment.

New members will be received in worship next Sunday, October 8.

HELLO

My name is



Today and the first Sunday of each month we ask you to be intentional about wearing a nametag to help others learn your name. Supplies are in the Gathering Area.

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFO

OFFERING

O Jesus, I Have Promised (8:30)

Lead On, O King Eternal! (11:00)

POSTLUDE

Fugue on the Magnificat 5th Tone, No. 10,
J. Pachelbel

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle

11:00 ~

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Linda Morrison

11:00 ~ Mark Warner

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

USHERS

8:30 ~ Bob Neumann, Jeannette Norfleet

11:00 ~ Sam, Emily & Liv McKeever

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle, Gus Kagey,
Linda Morrison, Crystl Whitmire

11:00 ~ Mark Warner

MUSICIANS

Wade Meyers, Music Minister

Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist

Celebration Singers (8:30)

Sanctuary Choir (11:00)

Cantors ~ Mark Briebl (8:30)

Malcolm Wilfong (11:00)

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

FOOD COLLECTION

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry 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. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.



LAY COMMUNION



Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning. They bring communion to homebound members once a month. If you are interested in receiving home communion, or if you are interested in serving as a Lay Communion Minister, please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Morrison.

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Pre-K – 5th 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)

CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES TONIGHT (10/1), 6:00 PM

Affirming our baptisms is not just something for 8th graders! All of God's people are called to gather around the Word and grow together into our vocation as Christ's disciples. To that end, everyone is invited to join us **TONIGHT, 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Nielsen Room** for Confirmation Class with the confirmands and their parents/guardians. **Dinner will be provided**, and you'll have the opportunity to learn and grow while supporting our youth in this valuable season of growth. A thorough study of the Bible will be the focus of our conversation each month, reviewing broad themes of scripture, coming to understand the narrative arc of God's Word, and seeking to find how God's Word meets us in our day-to-day life. Tonight's class will focus on **The Pentateuch: Understanding the First Five Books**. Contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) if you have any questions, if you'd like to help provide meals each month, and/or if you're planning to attend.

MYCAH MCNETT ORDINATION

Travel Sign-Up Deadline ~ TODAY (10/1)



We are delighted to celebrate the ordination of Muhlenberg member Mycah McNett to ministry in the ELCA! Her ordination will take place at the congregation to which she

has been called, 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, overnighting 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) **know by TODAY (10/1)** if you'd like to join!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Lauren **each Wednesday at 10:30 am** for Bible study via [ZOOM](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556).

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

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

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

THIS Wednesday (10/4), 5:30 pm

Join us this Wednesday at 5:30 pm as the church commemorates St. Francis of Assisi with an Ecumenical Blessing of the Animals. **The service will be at Hillandale 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.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG **(CONT'D)**

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY **Dinner at Blessing of the Animals**

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, October 4, 6:00 pm at the Blessing of the Animals Service (see page 3). If you need a ride, contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-309-2414).

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 or 540-746-3562).

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP **Saturday, October 7, 10:00 – 11:30 am**

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you! If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone or have yarn you would like to donate to the group, please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net).

WHY GROUPS POSTPONED

We've been planning for another round of *Why Groups* (short term small group) this fall, but everyone's busy schedules are making that tricky! **So we're postponing *Why Groups* until the spring.** In the meantime, prayerfully consider if you'd like to host a group. Please contact Pastor Lauren for more details.

GIVING OF THE WORD DAY **Next SUNDAY, October 8**

Sunday October 8, as the congregation hears the story of God giving the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel, Muhlenberg will join in the work of sharing God's Living Word through the generations. During worship we will have a time of blessing for our students who will be receiving new Bibles designed for their age group.

This week, members of the congregation are invited to write their favorite Bible verses and stories on bookmarks in the Gathering Area, which will be given to the students receiving their Bibles October 8. We hope you'll take some time to share with our young members what God's Word means to you!

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH **NEXT Sunday, October 8, 12:15**

Members ages 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!*) NEXT 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).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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. You should have received a mailed invitation last week. (If you didn't receive one, call the church office to ensure we have your birthdate.) Plan to join us as we celebrate YOU! Please RSVP to Sandy Randolph (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). Invite your friends and neighbors to mark their calendars.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

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

MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

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 / 540-434-3496) with any questions.

CREATION CARE

One of the easiest ways to keep plastic out of the landfill is to refuse plastic straws. Simply inform your waiter or waitress that you don't need one, and make sure to specify this when ordering at a drive-thru. Purchase a reusable stainless steel or glass drinking straw.



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

† † † † †

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Most of us actively plan for our family's future. We take care of the present day and dream and invest in what is ahead. The same can be done with our Muhlenberg family. Through our gifts of time, talent and treasures, we take care of the present. The Muhlenberg endowment funds are ways to invest in the future. The Seminary Scholarship Endowment fund may provide assistance someday to that child sitting in the pew in front of you. The Mission Endowment Fund will ensure that Muhlenberg can continue to support local and global programs and fund items outside the church budget. Your participation in growing these funds, through regular designated offerings and memorials or through estate planning, can be an integral part of the continued assistance Muhlenberg Lutheran Church can offer in the future. Please contact Endowment Committee Chair Doris Stone (dmstone99@gmail.com or 540-289-5520) for more information.



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:

The book of Acts tells the story of the early Church. How can the experiences of the early Christians inspire your involvement in the Muhlenberg community? What lessons from the early Church can you apply to strengthen and serve your present-day faith journey?

SECOND HOME

NEW PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Second Home Learning Center is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant to provide academic enrichment, and remediation to 50 students from Spotswood Elementary School. This funding from the Virginia Department of Education is a major recognition of our work and requires rigorous programming for the funded students in literacy, math, STEM, and social-emotional learning. Grant funding may be renewed for two more years. We are very excited about this opportunity.

However, funding is school specific, and **only covers 50%** of our program. We are determined to provide the same quality of education and services **to all of our students** and their families regardless of what school they go to. We are determined to choose compassion over business. We serve many of the most marginalized students in the City, (e.g., the single parent family with 3 children that recently became homeless). Or the single parent family with 7 children of whom 3 are cared for at Second Home Learning Center.

There are many **meaningful ways you can partner with us** to serve the community. We are looking for volunteers to tutor and help with literacy activities. We



are also looking for specific in-kind donations, and for donors to sponsor some children's tuition. We charge parents \$35/child/week, while the real cost of caring for the children is \$88/child/week. The fees cover breakfast and afternoon snacks, background checked staff, space use and program supplies. If you are so called to help, please contact Krisztina Szekely, Executive Director (executivedirector@secondhomeinc.org or 540-432-7989).



MULE 'N BURGERS WITH CHEESE Last Game of the Season

The Mule 'N Burgers with Cheese kickball team had their last game of season! While their record may not be noteworthy, much fun was had by all and that's what really counts!



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

9/17	8:30 Holy Communion	67
	11:00 Holy Communion	90
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	35
	Total Views this Week	172
	Hours Viewed this Week	55.6
9/24	8:30 Holy Communion	54
	11:00 Holy Communion	88
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	41

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 Actual	2023 YTD Budgeted	2022 YTD 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)	\$(28,811)	\$(2,259)	\$65,319

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 4,111.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 595.00
Total Giving	\$ 4,706.00



To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 2 - 8, 2023

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

Tues	6:00 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via ZOOM
	5:30 pm	Blessing of the Animals (Hillandale)
	6:00 pm	LCM Dinner
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sat	8:00 am	Property Work Day
	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group
Sun	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Faith Formation in person & via ZOOM
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person & Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube
	12:15 pm	Young Adult Lunch



Our prayer families for this week are new members who joined since we started listing prayer families:

*David and Karen Barnes
Sarah, Jeremy, and Mila Bundy
Jeremy, Lauren, Isla, Tucker, Rowan,
and Oliver Fuller
Tom, Kristina, Jefferson, James
and Bryson Gladin
Jennifer and Eli Hawkinberry*

***We will restart through the directory in 2 weeks.**

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).