



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 2, 2022

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

A MONTH OF JOY

Looking ahead at the calendar throughout the month of October, we have many joyful events on the horizon: the Blessing of the Animals, Giving of the Word Sunday, Diamond Jubilee, Trunk-or-Treat, Reformation Sunday, and more! It's going to be a joyful month, and we want to be intentional about naming "joy" here at Muhlenberg. While joy is often marked by smiles, laughter, fun, and delight, joy is inherently something much deeper than mere happiness or entertainment. Joy is to happiness what purple is to lavender; it is deeper, richer, and, in its own way, more enduring.

Hebrews 12 says, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."* Joy does not deny the harsh realities of our world, even the cross, but seeks a deeper purpose, hope, and delight in the midst of it all.

In this way, we want to lift up stories of joy in our community this month. Beyond just our official events, where do you find **joy** in everyday life? Where do you see the intersection of faith, joy, and life in your day to day experiences?

We invite you to share your stories with our Pastors or Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) and watch for these stories on social media, in *The Chimes*, and on the bulletin board by the back red doors. Use #MuhlenbergJoy as you share stories of joy with family and friends. Follow us on Instagram (@MuhlenbergLC) or Facebook (facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran) to see and share these stories from our community. May your October be filled with **JOY!**



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

It's FALL at Muhlenberg Everyone!! Your Congregation Council met September 19 for our monthly meeting. We were most excited to share JOYS this month. The BIG highlight for us was our CHURCH PICNIC!!! We had nearly 100 folks in attendance! It was such a great time of fun and fellowship. We had great food, conversation, and connections with neighbors in our Shepherd areas. A HUGE thanks to the Fellowship Committee, led by Barbara Roadcap, for organizing this wonderful event that we all needed! We hope many more similar events will follow, continuing to bring us together as a Muhlenberg Family.

In addition to the picnic, we also were excited by the energy at our Fall Kickoff! So many people and families ready to participate in Christian Formation — it's an exciting time indeed!!

Aside from gushing about the picnic, we spent the remainder of our time together reviewing the upcoming 2023 budget documents. We are trying to be realistic in our expectations for gifts and offerings while also faithfully moving forward in mission and ministry. More discussion will continue through the month, as this is not an easy task. Keep your Council in your prayers as we prayerfully discern.

See you in the pews!!

Greta K. Willis, Congregation Council President



A newsletter with full details about Fall 2022 at Muhlenberg is available at the Connection Center.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CLASS LOCATIONS

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

Devotional Classics High School & 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)

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry **TODAY (10/2)** 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 MINISTRY

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.



CHORAL EVENSONG AT EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL

After a hiatus of more than two years, Emmanuel Episcopal Church is delighted to bring back their Evensong Series, generally offered on the first Sunday of the month.

Choral Evensong, a contemplative service of sung prayers and anthems, is offered at the even point between active day and restful night. This 475-year-old Anglican choral music tradition was established around 1549. Guest choirs from the surrounding area lead the musical portion of the service. Emmanuel's Fellowship Committee provides a simple reception following the service.

We are happy to announce that Muhlenberg's combined adult choirs will serve as the guest performing choir for Emmanuel's service **TODAY (10/2) beginning at 5:00 pm**. Please plan to attend and show your support for our faithful singers.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

No meeting this week (10/3)

Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry next month (11/7). For details, contact Jennie Warner (540-476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com).

PROPERTY WORKDAY

This Saturday, Oct. 8, 8:00 am – 12 noon

Come anytime that's convenient to help with interior painting and exterior landscaping. Wear appropriate painting/outdoor work clothes and join us! Coffee and donuts will be provided. Questions? Contact Russell Presnell (russellepresnell@gmail.com or 540-746-3562).

FAITH ON THE ROAD

Wednesday: Meal ~ 6:00; Talk ~ 6:30

Don't miss our first *Faith on the Road* evening **THIS Wednesday, October 5!**

After a delicious homemade meal of Liberian Jollof Rice (a tasty one-pot meal with chicken, veggies, and rice), we'll hear from **Philip Quoqui** who will speak about his family's experience escaping the 1990s Civil War in Liberia, and how his lifelong Lutheran faith has impacted his journey. **The meal will be served at 6:00 pm** in Wayland Hall, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. **Philip's talk will begin at 6:30 pm**. If you're not able to be there in person, join us by [ZOOM](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87248917953), using this link:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87248917953>

The series will continue throughout October. We'll start each week with a meal, then hear the stories of travelers who encountered God in new ways while on the road. Special activities for kids will be offered, so adults can focus on the speaker while the kids learn more about the global community with Miss Ashley.

Future speakers include...

10/12 ~ Russ Eanes (husband of Finance Manager Jane Eanes and Pastor Lauren's father-in-law), author of "The Walk of a Lifetime: 500 Miles on the Camino de Santiago," will share his experiences on a pilgrimage in Spain.

10/19 ~ Maren Corliss, Jacob Dunlap and Remington Willis will share stories and reflections from their time in Young Adults in Global Mission and Lutheran-Episcopal Volunteer Network.

10/26 ~ Pastor Alex Zuber will offer reflections on "Holy Stories in Holy Lands", sharing experiences of Egypt where the Coptic Christian and Muslim faiths grew side by side.

GIVING OF THE WORD DAY

Next **SUNDAY, October 9, 2022**

On Sunday October 9, as the congregation hears the story of God giving the 10 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 students in 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 9. We hope you'll take some time to share with our young members what God's word means to you!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

NEXT Sunday, October 9, 2:00 pm



Join us in the yard behind the MAC for a brief service of blessing for all our furry, fuzzy, and feathery friends! 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. 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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCHEON

October 23, 12:15 pm

Diamond members (those who are 75 or more), 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!

FIRST ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Saturday, October 29, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Join in a time of fun and celebration for the Muhlenberg community and our neighbors! **From 4:00-5:00 pm**, children of all ages will have the opportunity to "trick or treat" around cars parked in the Ott Street and MAC parking lots. 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. **From 5:00-6:00 pm, we will have snacks: hot cider, games, and a dance party!** Invite your friends and neighbors to mark their calendars now. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).



MUHLENBERG NEWS

REFRESHED SPACES

You may have noticed some spaces on our campus are looking spiffed up!

Our **Gathering Area** has had a refresh thanks to Russell Presnell. He's made the space more open and welcoming, and has also added some special fall touches. Russell is also ensuring the plants are getting watered on a regular basis.

The **Augsburg Room** (downstairs, next to the kitchen) has a fresh coat of paint thanks to Ray Alderfer and Jeff Williams, new (to us!) couches thanks to Philecta Staton, and a beautiful piece of art featuring Muhlenberg from the family of Katie Ray. This space is now cozy and comfortable for small groups, classes, and support groups to meet.

Finally, the two large upstairs **classrooms in the MAC** have been deep cleaned and repainted by Bob Curry and Jeff Williams. Our Sunday school kids are enjoying meeting there, and during the week Second Home makes good use of the space. We are blessed with an amazing facility, and we give thanks to all who help us steward this gift for our congregation and community's use.



The updated Augsburg Room

CREATION CARE TIP

Consider using a natural toothpaste. Most toothpastes are filled with hard-to-pronounce ingredients like polyethylene glycol, methylparaben, and triclosan that are bad for your health and the environment. Eco-friendly toothpastes are made with natural ingredients like baking soda, spearmint, and tea tree oil that have no harmful effects.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choirs

Celebration Singers ~ Tuesdays, 6:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir ~ Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Children's Choirs

Cherub Choir ~ Sundays,
November 6 – December 18
12:15 – 12:45 pm

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

Tweens and Teens ~

Sundays, Nov. 6 – Dec. 18, 12:15 - 12:45
For grades 3 – 8; led by Music Minister Elizabeth Williams. The Tweens and Teens will practice in preparation for singing in worship during Advent and on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary.

Handbell Choir

Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Tuesdays, 7:00 pm
Led by Handbell Director Kath Wissinger. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary.

CARE COMMITTEE NEWS

SHEPHERD/VISIT AREA NEWS

Do you know your Muhlenberg neighbors? Members of the Care Ministry team were in the Gathering Area last week with maps and neighborhood lists to help members learn who their Muhlenberg neighbors and shepherds are. If you missed the opportunity to get your list, contact the church office and your neighborhood list can be mailed to you.

SENIOR HIGH NEWS

SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP

NEXT Sunday, October 9, 2:00 pm

Join us for our next Youth Group event, **October 9, 2:00 pm** as we attend the Blessing of the Animals service, and follow that up with an animal related service project. High School students are also invited to participate in the Faith Lens Sunday School class at 9:45 am. It's an intergenerational opportunity for youth and adults to be in conversation together about the ways that we live out our faith.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

CONFIRMATION FAMILY SIGN-UP

Confirmation has resumed for the '22-'23 year, and we're excited to get rolling. The class meets each Sunday at 9:45 am in the Augsburg Room downstairs. Parents are asked to sign up [HERE](#) for a date to attend classes and provide supervision and snacks. **Members of the congregation**, please keep our Confirmands in your prayers as they begin this journey. If you would like to attend a class and offer your support, please contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org).

LOST AND FOUND

November 18-20

The Virginia Synod will hold Lost and Found (an annual faith-sharing retreat for 7th and 8th graders and their adult advisors) **Friday, November 18 - Sunday, November 20**

**LOST
AND
FOUND**

at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. Lost and Found includes large group gatherings with lots of singing, energy, comedy, worship, and a presentation on our event theme. After each large group gathering, participants gather in small groups. These are made up of a handful of youth and a couple of adult leaders. Participants will get to know other Lutheran youth from Virginia and discuss life and faith and other topics that arise throughout the weekend.

Early registration discount ends **October 24, 2022!** Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register, or talk with Pastor Alex.

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/434-3496)

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

NEW DIRECTORIES

Active Membership are available at the Usher's Table in the Gathering Area near the Sanctuary entrance.

DIGITAL MINISTRY

To help share information from our social media with those who don't have access or may have missed it, we are starting this new column in *The Chimes*. Here is some recent information from Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) page.

Our Saturday "Prayers of the People" posts are from our very own Muhlenberg members. As we enter an exciting new year of programming at the church, our prayers focus on "hope."

This Saturday's (9/24) prayer comes from Muhlenberg members, Bob Kolodinsky and Corey Reed. Thank you, Bob and Corey, for this beautiful prayer for hope and comfort for our neighbors and community in need. We invite all of you to engage in the comments with your own prayers for our families, friends, and community...

Prayers of the People

Lord Jesus, provider of our eternal promise and daily comforter in the form of the Holy Spirit. Even though suffering, sin, and distraction are part of the human condition, your promises help provide us refuge and comfort as we attempt to navigate each day in alignment with you. We pray for comfort and resources for those who need them most. And please continually nudge those of us who live in comfort and with resources to take action on opportunities to help others. In community, in prayer, we praise you for your mercy and grace. Amen.

Prayer by Bob & Corey Kolodinsky,
Muhlenberg Members



[Facebook](#) also has lots of great photos from the church picnic held September 18. Visit our [website](#) or pick up a hard copy of last week's issue of *The Chimes* to see some of those.

VA SYNOD NEWS

SOUTHERN VALLEY FALL GATHERING

NEXT Sunday, October 9, 2:00 pm

Join women of the Southern Valley Conference, **Sunday, October 9** at St. Jacobs-Spaders Church. The program "What can I do about climate change?" will be presented by Deaconess Phyllis Cox. Registration is at 2:00 pm; program begins promptly at 2:30. See details at the Connection Center.

ALL LUTHERAN WOMEN'S RETREAT November 3 - 5

Held at the Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center, the theme is *Bloom Where You Are Planted - Thriving in Times of Change*. The retreat leader is Donna Marie Todd. **Registration deadline is October 4**; information is available at the Connection Center or at sites.google.com/view/alwretreat.

NAME BADGES

As we return this fall, please make a name badge so fellow members can learn your name. Supplies are located at the welcome table in the Gathering Area.

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

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TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 9/18 | 8:30 Holy Communion | 46 |
| | 11:00 Holy Communion | 97 |
| | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 29 |
| | Total Views this Week | 106 |
| | Hours Viewed this Week | 49.2 |
| 9/25 | 8:30 Holy Communion | 50 |
| | 11:00 Holy Communion | 72 |
| | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 30 |

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Moving into the second half of the fiscal year, income and expenses continue to trend lower than the previous year. We did see an increase in gifts and offerings in the month of August, as the fall program year begins, I am hopeful gifts and offerings will remain higher than in past months. As per the 2022 spending plan, money from a bequest and reserve funds was moved into the budget which means the budget shows an excess. Thank you for your continued support of Muhlenberg!

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 2022

| | 2022 YTD <u>Actual</u> | 2022 YTD <u>Budget</u> | 2021 YTD <u>Actual</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gifts & Offerings | \$350,108 | \$410,000 | \$391,258 |
| Total Income | \$432,664 | \$469,167 | \$456,370 |
| Total Expenses | \$368,112 | \$552,695 | \$542,140 |
| Excess Income/(Deficit) | \$64,552 | \$(83,528) | \$(85,770) |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Giving in support of our Spending Plan | \$ 3,546.50 |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds | \$ 335.12 |
| Total Giving | \$ 3,881.62 |

Aug. Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$26

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 3 - 10, 2022

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

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| Mon | 1:00 pm | Weekly Staff Meeting |
| Tues | 6:30 pm 7:00 pm | Celebration Singers Gloria Dei Ringers |
| Wed | 10:30 am 6:30 pm | Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM Sanctuary Choir |
| Thur | 8:00 am | Comfort Makers |
| Sat | 8:00 am | Property Workday |
| Sun | Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 2:00 pm | Holy Communion in person Christian Formation in person & via ZOOM Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube Blessing of the Animals |



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

*Paul, Cannie, Grayson and Isaiah Campbell
RW, Emily Wicht and Russell Carneal
Marion Carr
Chris and Donna Childers
Bill Compton*

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).