



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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October 4, 2020

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

PASTOR ALEX UPDATE

Pastor Alex continues to improve after his bout with COVID-19 and is regaining his strength and endurance. He continues to take on more of his Muhlenberg responsibilities, while being careful not to overextend himself.

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.*

NEW FALL SCHEDULE

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

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

TODAY (10/4), 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 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!

6TH – 8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP AND BIBLE STUDY

Meets **TODAY (10/4), 1:00-3:00 pm** at Hillandale Park (meet near shelter #1), led by Pastor Lauren and Karen Thomsen.

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
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:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 9/20: 8:30 Communion | 18 |
| 11:00 Total Live Views | 110 |
| Total Views this Week | 466 |
| Hours Viewed this Week | 112.4 |
| 9/27: 8:30 Communion | 21 |
| 11:00 Total Live Views | 89 |

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 | \$ | 3,155.00 |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds | \$ | 4,437.26 |
| Total Giving for the Week | \$ | 7,592.26 |

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

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **THIS MONDAY (10/5), 7:00 pm** via [ZOOM](#). Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us! *Contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com) for details.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566714450>

Meeting ID: 865 6671 4450

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,86566714450# US (NY)

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Each **Wednesday at 10:30 am**, participants 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."

PARKING LOT SERVICE

Sunday, October 11, 4:00 pm

On the second Sunday of each month, we gather at 4:00 pm in the Muhlenberg parking lot for a brief worship service. The audio of the service is broadcast through a radio transmitter, allowing participants to stay in their cars for the entirety of the service. Bring your own bread with you, as we'll be sharing communion at this service.



BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY

Our weekly Holden Evening Prayer begins **THIS Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 pm**. The service will be livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 containing information and activities to do on these two days are being prepared. 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.

You can improve the indoor air quality in your home with a high-efficiency particulate air plasma wave and odor reducing carbon filter. The filters can trap more than 99% of airborne particles. Some HEPA filters even fit in your central heating and cooling systems. Check it out next time you purchase filters!

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Contact Music Minister Elizabeth Williams for more information.

ADULT CHOIRS

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

Sanctuary Choir ~ Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00
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.

SECOND HOME NEWS

One of our returning 3rd grade students recently told me: “I prayed to God every day that I could go back to Second Home. I prayed, and prayed, and when my mother told me that Second Home had a space for me, I cried of happiness.”

It’s been five weeks since the HCPS year started and Second Home opened its doors to provide all-day care for 63 students. In addition to our usual before and after school care, we also work with HCPS to help with virtual education.

I am amazed by our teachers' perseverance as they guide the children to keep up with their schedules and stay focused during online classes and virtual assignments. This is not a small task with so many children from seven different grades, six different schools, having at least 40 different schedules and just as many different steps to access virtual classes. Each student in kindergarten - 2nd grade needs individual help, as they are too young to understand the login process.

Regardless of major connectivity issues and daily struggles, each day gets smoother and better. Our kids learn online and from our teachers. After these few weeks, our youngest 1st grade students are better at listening, following directions, and are learning important skills that they missed out on since the beginning of COVID-19.

When we hear our students tell us how much they like being at Second Home, it helps us keep going and showing up day after day for these amazing children.

Please continue your prayers for our fantastic staff, children, and families, and support our program as you are able. Thank you.

Krisztina Szekely, Executive Director



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Chair *Emily Wicht Carneal*
(emilywicht@gmail.com or 421-1994)
for more information.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

Local & Global Mission invites you to join us in prayer for brothers and sisters living both locally and globally that are suffering from injustice. Each month we will highlight a group in need of our prayers and support. We invite you to click on the links we provide to do more reading on your own. Each of us is called by Christ to love our neighbor!



October Focus:

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)

Fueled by a heat wave and unfavorable winds, wildfires have erupted across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states. At least 26 people have died, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes, and more than 3.7 million acres have burned across the three states. Some evacuees face the difficult decision of whether or not to stay in a shelter during the pandemic.

LDR is engaging with at least three Lutheran social services agencies and five synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond. We expect immediate needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized. What can you do?

Click [HERE](#) for more information:

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/US-Wildfires>

Pray: Please pray for the communities that lie in the paths of wildfires in the western United States. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.

Give: LDR brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. 100% of your gifts go directly to aid in disaster relief. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** www.elca.org.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time).
- **Mail:** make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response, designate *U.S. Wildfires* and send to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering:** make checks payable to Muhlenberg and designate *Lutheran Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent Financial members can direct their Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com Disaster Response for details.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FAITH BUILD

Local and Global Mission (LGM) is excited to share that Habitat for Humanity is organizing a Faith Build for 2021. It costs \$35,000 to partner with a family to begin construction on their home. The more churches that join in this effort, the lower the cost to each church. Imagine 10 churches working together! The cost would only be \$3,500 per church. In addition to the startup funds, each church sponsor would also be responsible for providing both skilled and unskilled volunteers. There would be many ways to serve!

The mission of Muhlenberg is *“to equip all people to live out Christ’s love.”* Our vision is, *“to be a Wellspring of God’s grace”*. Our values are to be *“Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving.”* By joining in the Faith Build with Habitat for Humanity, we will be living out our mission, vision and values.

Joining in the Faith Build will take all of us. Before moving forward with a letter of intent, we want to know that Muhlenberg members are behind this exciting opportunity to share our faith with our neighbors. Please click on the link below and answer the questions in the survey. If you cannot complete the survey online, contact LGM Chair Emily Wicht.

<https://forms.gle/86WDWn2sSq1jA6Vf9>

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



NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE WEEKEND

National Faith & Blue Weekend (NFBW) is a collaborative initiative that builds bridges and breaks down biases through activities and outreach amongst law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. This year's NFBW will be held **October 9-11**. To find out more, please visit www.faithandblue.org.

CAROLINE FURNACE UPDATES

NEW! Winter Camp at Home (online)

Meets **weekly Sunday afternoons, 4:30-6:00 pm**. Join in for community building, small group discussions, and engaging activities!

Session One: Oct. 18 – Dec. 13

Session Two: Jan. 17 - March 14, 2021

Cost is \$20 per three-month session. Sign up for Camp at Home clicking [HERE](#).

Adventure Weekend, Oct, 30 – Nov. 1

Come and get outside with your family! Late October will be perfect for horseback riding, rock climbing, hiking, biking, and fishing. Our family rate is \$200-250 per night for your own heated cabin with meals provided. Some activities may cost extra. Call (540) 449-0012 or email julie@carolinefurnace.org to reserve your cabin. Basic health pre-screening is required for all overnight guests. Book at least 14 days in advance!

REMINDERS

WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

The worship booklet and *The Chimes* are emailed electronically every week while we are not meeting in person. Have you been receiving them? If not, first, make sure it didn't end up in your spam or promotions folders. To subscribe or verify that you are on the list, send your email address to *Parish Administrator Linda Depoy* (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

COMMUNICATING WITH MEMBERS WITHOUT ONLINE ACCESS

Members who cannot read *The Chimes* online can request a copy be mailed to them weekly. If you are interested, or know a member who is, contact *Linda Depoy*.

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!

PREPARING WORSHIP SPACE AT HOME

Pastor Lauren and her daughter Keira recorded a video with suggestions for preparing your home for worship. While the video was created for worship during Holy Week, now would be a good time to review it and prepare your worship space for the fall. The video can be found [HERE](#):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlsQbjWRerc>

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.

NEW NICHEs AVAILABLE

An additional 24 Columbarium niches have been added to the Caring Corner. If you are interested in a niche or want additional information, please contact Bill Compton (437-8933 or compton1080@gmail.com).

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

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

MUHLENBERG YOUNG FAMILIES

Young families, your church is here for you! We get it — these parenting years are full of last-minute scheduling snafus, exhaustion and exhilaration. We have established a standing Young Families **ZOOM*** meeting **Thursdays, 8:00 pm. “Drop in” whenever you can** for fellowship and community building. Young Families is open to all, but especially focused for families with kids under the age of 8.

Find the group on **Facebook**:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/417143212243610>

If you have questions or want to be added to the email list, contact Catherine Creasy (creasy.catherine@gmail.com or 540-209-5467).

***This Zoom info will work each week:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87104488491?pwd=algwUHdTYjNjNExodTFyNytsWFo1QT09>

Meeting ID: 871 0448 8491

Passcode: 060219

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87104488491#,,,,,0#,,060219

US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,87104488491#,,,,,0#,,060219

US (Chicago)

JAMERS OUTSIDE MEETING

Elementary Youth Group (Grades 2-5)

Mark your calendars to join Miss Diane and Miss Holly **NEXT 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.

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



~ Christian Formation News continues on the next page~

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: TODAY & Oct. 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

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 (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.) contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy at 434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org. Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors & editor.

✚ We offer sympathy to the family and friends of Hilda Arnaud who died September 25. A funeral service was held yesterday (10/3) with Pastor Lauren officiating.

✚ 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

October 5-11

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Eldercare Support Group
Via [ZOOM](#)
- Tue. 5:00 pm** Tweens and Teens
5:30 pm Children's Choir
- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Thu. 8:00 pm** Muhlenberg Young Families
Via [ZOOM](#)
- 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](#)
New Members Received
- 4:00 pm** Parking Lot Service
12:30 pm JAMers

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:*

[\(\[depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496\]\(mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496\)\)](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

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