



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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October 8, 2023

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

This week, we announced that Wade Meyers is resigning from his position as Music Minister of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church. Below is a letter from Wade and a message from Pastor Lauren Eanes.

Dear Muhlenberg Family,

I am writing this letter with a heavy heart and after much thoughtful deliberation. After a wonderful yet short period serving as the Music Minister at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, I have decided to resign. This decision comes as a result of a complex set of personal factors involving my family and our new home in Monterey. Rest assured, this is not due to any issues with the pastoral leadership, working environment, or the Muhlenberg community, all of which I have found to be incredibly rewarding and positive.

From the moment I joined the Muhlenberg community, I have been welcomed with open arms. I have felt a strong sense of belonging and purpose here, and I cherish the relationships we have built. The staff, volunteers, choir members and musicians are some of the finest people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish in the time I

have been here and I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition.

Although I won't be serving as I had hoped and planned, my thoughts, prayers, and good wishes will forever be with the Muhlenberg congregation. I consider it a true blessing to have been a part of such a warm, welcoming, and God-centered community.

As for the path forward, the Pastors and Congregation Council are busy developing a solid plan. More information will be shared soon, but please know that I am committed to aiding in a seamless transition in any way possible.

Once again, thank you for the incredible experience, the faith you've placed in me, and the opportunities to serve this wonderful congregation. What you have at Muhlenberg is genuinely special. I will greatly miss being a part of this community, but I am comforted knowing that Muhlenberg will continue to thrive and be a sanctuary for all who enter its doors.

Wishing you all God's blessings now and always,

Wade Meyers

~see page 2 for a message from Pastor Lauren Eanes~

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFO

OFFERING

A Servant In Your Heavenly House
(Pepper Choplin)

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F major (V. Lübeck)

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Bill Whitmire

11:00 ~

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Larry Blade

11:00 ~ Meg Wightman

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Kim Fawley

11:00 ~ Lori Reich

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Tom Pippert

11:00 ~ Bazil Gibson

USHERS

8:30 ~ David & Susan Lawrence

11:00 ~ The Copeland Family

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Larry Blade, Gus Kagey,
Bill and Crystal Whitmire

11:00 ~ Meg Wightman

MUSICIANS

Wade Meyers, Music Minister
Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist
Celebration Singers (8:30)
Sanctuary Choir (11:00)
Cantors ~ Wylie Walton (8:30)
Karen Barnes (11:00)

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

Dear people of Muhlenberg,

When Wade shared his resignation with me, I was—like many of you—surprised and disappointed. Wade has brought many gifts to this role of Music Minister, and has been a great addition to our ministry team over these past few months. We'd been looking forward to a long and fruitful partnership.

But sometimes the circumstances of life interrupt our best-laid plans. I am grateful to Wade for the time he has spent with us and for all that we've learned from one another, and pray for God's blessing to accompany him and his family as they navigate the next chapter of their lives. Wade's last Sunday with us will be October 15, and I invite you to express your appreciation to Wade in the coming days as he wraps up his ministry here.

As the Muhlenberg community looks to our future, we do so with great hope and anticipation of where God is leading us to be. I'm working with our Personnel Committee and Congregation Council to develop an interim plan for music ministry, and look forward to sharing the details in the coming week. We are so very blessed by a large number of talented musicians in our congregation who will continue to contribute their gifts in our worship together.

And most of all, we are blessed by a God who promises to be with us always. We will most certainly continue to "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness, and come into his presence with singing," for indeed, "The Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 100)

In Christ,

Pastor Lauren Eanes

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This morning at the 11:00 service we are blessed to receive new members into the Muhlenberg family. We invite you to read the enclosed brochure to learn about our new members, along with photos to put faces with names. Please join us in the Gathering Area after the 11:00 service for a reception welcoming our newest members!

GIVING OF THE WORD DAY

TODAY as the congregation hears the story of God giving the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel. We 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 receive new Bibles designed for their age group. Students will also receive bookmarks on which fellow members have shared their favorite Bible verses and stories.

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 ~ *on hiatus*

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:

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

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

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH

TODAY (10/8), 12:15 pm

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!)* 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.

TODAY 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 have questions, contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org).

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>

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

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Dinner Wednesday, 6:00 pm

We will gather for dinner **THIS Wednesday, October 11, 6:00 pm** here in the Campus Room (downstairs). For more information, contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-309-2414).

THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

MYCAH MCNETT ORDINATION

Saturday, October 14

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.

DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCHEON

NEXT Sunday, October 15, 12:00 noon

Diamond Members (those who are age 75 plus), please be our guests as we celebrate YOU at the Diamond Jubilee luncheon and social gathering in the MAC. If you didn't receive a mailed invitation, call the church office to ensure we have your birthdate. Please RSVP to Sandy Randolph (540-828-2033 or cerprek@gmail.com).



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!)*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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. Invite your friends and neighbors, too! To sign up or volunteer, contact Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

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.

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

Just say 'no' to plastic produce bags. About one million of them are used every minute, and a single plastic bag can take 1,000 years to degrade. Purchase reusable produce bags to help keep even more plastic out of the landfill.



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!



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 (434-3496 or depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

✚ Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards and food following our accident in July. Your kindness and concern were greatly appreciated.

Bob and Margie Miller

✚ We collected 68 pounds of food, paper products and other goods for Patchwork Pantry last Sunday. Thank you for your generosity, Muhlenberg!

NEW DOOR ENTRY SYSTEM

Knock, knock! Who’s there? You are, and you’re trying to get into the church! You may have noticed there’s a new doorbell system on one of the Gathering Area doors. It’s the first step in a new entry system to make our building more secure and easier for people coming to church during the week!



During the week: When you arrive at the church, come to the Gathering Area doors and press the doorbell (instructions are posted on the door). When the call is answered, please identify yourself, and the door will be unlocked remotely so you can enter. Please note that ***the office is staffed Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.*** If you arrive outside of those hours, there’s still a good chance someone will be here, but please call before you come to be sure. Please do not use the red doors at the back of the building — for security reasons, these doors are now reserved for Day Care use only.

On Sundays: Our practice is to unlock only the Gathering Area doors for entry on Sunday mornings, allowing for greater security. **All doors can be used to exit the building.**

If you regularly enter the church (for example, if you are part of the Altar Guild and need to access the building during off hours to set up) and/or if you currently have a key, we will be assigning PIN numbers to unlock the door via the keypad on the entry system. We plan to rekey all exterior doors at a later phase in the entry system project, so keep an eye on *The Chimes* for more information about how to get a PIN number and turn in your key. Thank you for your *undoorstanding* as we learn this new system!

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:

Continue your exploration of Luther's Small Catechism (ELW pg. 1163), and focus on the Ten Commandments this week. How do these timeless principles guide your daily decisions and interactions? Share your thoughts with a friend!

SECOND HOME LEARNING CENTER

NEW PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Second Home 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 the school they attend. 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).

There are many **meaningful ways you can partner with us** to serve the community. We need volunteers to tutor and help with literacy activities. We also need specific in-kind donations and donors to sponsor tuition. We charge parents \$35/child/week, while the real cost of caring a child is \$88/week. The fees cover breakfast, afternoon snacks, background-checked staff, space use and program supplies. If you can help, please contact Krisztina Szekely, Executive Director (executivedirector@secondhomeinc.org or 540-432-7989).

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

9/24	8:30 Holy Communion	54
	11:00 Holy Communion	88
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	41
	Total Views this Week	186
	Hours Viewed this Week	60.8
10/1	8:30 Holy Communion	67
	11:00 Holy Communion	73
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	29

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	\$	7,923.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	300.00
Total Giving	\$	8,223.00

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 9 - 15, 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
	6:00 pm	LCM Dinner
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sat	10:00 am	Mycah McNett's Ordination
Sun	Twentieth 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
	12:00 pm	Diamond Jubilee Lunch



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

*Victoria Herring and Jacob Dunlap
Nathan, Jen, Caroline and Jack Leopard
Chris, Sarah, Landon and Isaac Orem
Doug and Lydia Price
Chris, Addie and Ella Walton*

***We will restart through the directory next week.**

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).

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: (depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496) Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.

SENDING HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Spiritual



1 I'm gon-na live so God can use me an - y
2 I'm gon-na work so
3 I'm gon-na pray so

where, Lord, an - y time! I'm gon-na live so God can use me
I'm gon-na work so
I'm gon-na pray so

an - y where, Lord, an - y time!

BORN, A NEW CHILD OF GOD!



Join us in lifting prayers of thanksgiving and joy for Pastor Sarah Hess and Pastor Daniel Hess as their son, Samuel Miles Hess, was born on October 1! Samuel made his earthly debut at 9 lbs. 12 oz., and he and his mom are both doing well. Everyone is overjoyed to bring Samuel home. We pray for joy, health, and peace for their first days as a family of three.



(You may remember Pastor Daniel from his time serving Muhlenberg in the summer and fall of 2021 when he offered pastoral support to our community.)