



# 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 9, 2022**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **TODAY AT MUHLENBERG**

### **GIVING OF THE WORD DAY**

**TODAY**, 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. Bookmarks covered by Muhlenberg members with prayers and favorite verses have been added to these bibles as a sign of the community that surrounds them each time they engage with God's Word!

### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**



Join us **TODAY at 2:00 pm** 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!

### **SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP**

Join us for our Youth Group event **TODAY at 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.

## **THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG**

### **FAITH ON THE ROAD**

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

Don't miss our next *Faith on the Road* evening **THIS Wednesday, October 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. **The**



meal will be served at 6:00 pm in Wayland Hall, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. Russ'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...

10/19 ~ 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.

## **MUHLENBERG MINISTRIES NIGHT TEMPORARY DATE CHANGES**

As we look ahead to our monthly Ministries Night meetings, please mark a couple of changes in your calendar for November and December. For those 2 months only, Ministries Night committees will meet on the 1st Monday of the month (Nov. 7 & Dec. 5). For October, we will still have Ministries meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month (Oct. 10).

**October 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)**

**November 7 (1<sup>st</sup> Monday)**

**December 5 (1<sup>st</sup> Monday)**

See you there!

*Kevin Stees, Congregation Council Vice President*

## **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](mailto: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](https://facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran)) to see and share these stories from our community. May your October be filled with JOY!



## 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 in the mailed invitation sent this week and plan to join us as we celebrate YOU! If you didn't receive an invitation, please RSVP to Sandy Randolph ([cerprek@gmail.com](mailto:cerprek@gmail.com) or 540-820-9654) and then contact Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-434-3496) to ensure we have your birthdate in our records.

## 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](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)).



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CREATION CARE TIP

You probably have dozens of plastic shopping bags lying around the house. Use them to line your garbage cans instead of buying a box of trash bags at the supermarket. For every ton of plastic bags that are reused, the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil is saved. If you live in the City of Harrisonburg, you could take them to the Recycling Convenience Center, 2055 Beery Road (434-5928), where there is a bin for plastic bags!



## MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

### 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*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### Adult Choirs

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

### Children's Choirs

**Cherub Choir ~ Sundays,**  
**Nov 6 – Dec 18, 12:15 – 12:45 pm**  
For ages 4 – grade 2; led by Rachel Peters.  
Cherubs practice in preparation for singing during Advent and on Christmas Eve.  
Rehearsals 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 practice in preparation for singing during Advent and on Christmas Eve.  
Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary.

### Handbell Choir

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

## CHORAL EVENSONG

### AT EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL

Congratulations to Muhlenberg's combined adult choirs for a successful performance last week, serving as the guest performing choir for Emmanuel Episcopal Church's Choral Evensong service.





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

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### SUNDAY CLASS LOCATIONS

**Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> 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)

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

### WHAT ARE WE LEARNING IN CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation has resumed for the '22-'23 year, and after a few weeks of group building where students learned about what they have in common, what makes them unique, and how to use their individual gifts at Muhlenberg, our students are ready to dive into learning new things! This month we'll be focusing on Lutheran history and theology questions, like...

- *Did Martin Luther really call the Pope the Anti-Christ?*
- *Do I have to memorize the Small Catechism to be Lutheran?*

**Members of the congregation**, please keep our Confirmands in your prayers and be sure to ask them about what they are learning! 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. If anyone would like to attend a class and offer your support, please contact Pastor Alex ([zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

### LOST AND FOUND

NOVEMBER 18-20

The Virginia Synod will hold **LOST AND FOUND** (an annual faith-sharing retreat for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their adult advisors) **Friday, November 18 - Sunday, November 20** 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.

Parish Administrator Linda Depoy is out of the office October 10 – 21. Administrative Assistant Liz Engleking will extend her office hours to be in 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Monday - Friday.

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Hurricane Ian has been devastating. 100% of gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) go directly to aid in disaster relief. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time.
- **Mail:** send checks made payable to LDR to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering plate:** make check payable to Muhlenberg and designate *ELCA Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** members can direct Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a donation that will be matched. Visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) Disaster Response for details.
- **Visit the Connection Center** for more information.

### NEW DIRECTORIES

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

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

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

## 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."

"Heavenly Father - as Fall arrives, we give thanks for the beauty and bounty in our lives - for your gift of the natural world and all it contains. Be with us and help us to recognize you in the colors of the leaves, in the pleasant Fall breeze, in the handshake of our neighbor, in the hug of a friend. Though there has been much divisiveness of late, help us to focus on unity - to build connections and foster relationships. Remind us to give of ourselves. Help us to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to be gracious as we have been given grace. As the days grow shorter, remind us to pause, take rest, and appreciate our blessings. Grant us the peace that only you can provide and hope for tomorrow. In your name we humbly pray, Amen." - Jenny Gibson

### 1st Annual Trunk or Treat! Sat. Oct. 29, 4:00-6:00pm

Join us for a time of fun, food, and frights! Kids will "trick or treat" around cars parked in the Ott Street & MAC lots, and we'll see who wins the "Trunk Cup" for best trunk decorations! We'll have snacks, hot cider, games, and a dance party. Invite friends and mark your calendars!

Contact Ashley Saunders for questions & to volunteer! ([saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)) and see *The Chimes* for full details and times!



## VA SYNOD NEWS

### SOUTHERN VALLEY FALL GATHERING

**TODAY (10/9), 2:00 pm**

Join women of the Southern Valley Conference, **TODAY (10/9)** 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. Information is available at the Connection Center or at [sites.google.com/view/alwretreat](https://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.



## REMINDERS

### CONTACT INFORMATION

With our ever-changing lifestyles, it's sometimes difficult to be sure everyone has your correct contact information. Have you recently ...



- **moved?**
- **cancelled your home phone?**
- **changed your cell phone number?**
- **changed your home/work email address?**

If so, please be sure we have your updated information by contacting Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496).

## 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 [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.*

✝ With great sadness, we share the news of Nellie Ann Depoy's death (10/4). We keep in our prayers her sister Lucy Page Depoy Sloop and their family. Nellie's funeral service was held yesterday (10/8) at McMullen Funeral Home with Pastors Alex Zuber and Michael Church officiating.

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

9/25	8:30 Holy Communion .....	50
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	72
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	30
	Total Views this Week .....	168
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	43.2
10/2	8:30 Holy Communion .....	48
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	91
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	31

### 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
<b>Excess Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$64,552</b>	<b>\$(83,528)</b>	<b>\$(85,770)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 4,193.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 320.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 4,513.50</b>

Aug. Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$26



To give online, scan here →

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 10 - 17, 2022

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

Mon	1:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm Ministries Night
Tues	6:30 pm Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am Wed. Morning Bible Study via <a href="#">ZOOM</a>
	6:00 pm Faith on the Road Series
	6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir
Thur	8:00 am Comfort Makers
Sun	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	8:30 am Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am Christian Formation in person & via <a href="#">ZOOM</a>
	11:00 am Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>



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

*Audrey Cook  
Adam, Cathy, Latham and Gwendolyn Copeland  
Pat Costie  
Justin, Catherine, Eli, Esme and Eden Creasy*

*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](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)).*