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# 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 15, 2023**

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

#### **BAPTIZED, NEW CHILDREN OF GOD**

We welcome children of **Sarah Sunde and Sarah Whitley** into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family during the 11:00 service:

**Henry Bennett Sunde's** sponsors are Chad, Katie, Ethan and Brody Harvell and Jack Snow.

**Emerson Ann Sunde's** sponsors are JR and Kelly Snow, Stacey Wilkerson, and Annie Snow.

**Caroline James Sunde's** sponsors are Rebecca Sunde and Ethan Edzards, Laura and Anthony White, and Olivia Snow.

We welcome **Rev. Sandra Bottoms**, a retired United Methodist minister from Richmond, VA and close family friend of the Sarahs. We're delighted to have her here with us to celebrate the gift of Holy Baptism!

Welcome to the Lord's family, Bennett, Emerson and Caroline!

#### **THANK YOU, WADE MEYERS!**

TODAY is Wade Meyers' last day serving as our Music Minister, due to personal and family reasons. We bid him farewell with gratitude for the many gifts he has brought to this role over the past few months. Thank you, Wade, for your time with us. We pray for God's blessing

for you and your family as you step into the next chapter of your lives! *Visit the Connection Center for a letter sent to the congregation.*

#### **FAREWELL AND GODSPEED**

TODAY at the 11:00 am service, we will bless **Gary and Lesa Calleo** as they prepare to move to Colorado to be closer to family. They have been active part of Muhlenberg since 2007.

Gary served on Council (2018-2020), including two years as Council President. He served as Financial Secretary for two years in addition to helping on the Stewardship and Property Committees. Gary is also a faithful Worship Assistant scheduler.

Lesa served on Council (2011-2016), including two years as Vice President and two years as Secretary. She sang with Celebration Singers and served on the Care and Endowment Committees. When the Gathering Area was built, Lesa volunteered her skills as a school librarian to help move the church library. She is a Shepherd for her visit area and also a faithful on-call volunteer Office Assistant.

We appreciate all the ways Gary and Lesa have served the congregation. We will miss their physical presence but for now they will continue to join us via our *Wellstream* worship.

Farewell and Godspeed, Gary and Lesa!

## TODAY'S WORSHIP INFO

### PRELUDE

*Down to the River to Pray* - Wissinger (ringTrue  
HB Music RE6534R) Gloria Dei Ringers

### OFFERING

*Precious Child* - Krug (Beckenhorst HB665)  
Gloria Dei Ringers

### MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*What Wondrous Love is This* -  
Dobrinski (Hope 1848) Gloria Dei Ringers

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**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

### CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Gus Kagey

11:00 ~ Brandon Stees

**BIBLICAL STORYTELLER** ~ Kathy Thompson

### LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Wylie Walton

11:00 ~

### SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Mark Byerly

11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

### USHERS

8:30 ~ Karen Thomsen, Susan Gallaher

11:00 ~ Brad Moyers, Ryan Moyers, Sue Totty

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Kathy Thompson, Gus Kagey,  
Bill and Crystl Whitmire

11:00 ~ Kathy Thompson, Philip Quoqui,  
Greta Willis, Robert Alley

### MUSICIANS

Wade Meyers, Music Minister  
Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister  
Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Kath Wissinger, Director  
Cantors ~ Wylie Walton (8:30), Greta Willis (11:00)

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCHEON

**TODAY (10/15), 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. If you didn't RSVP, please join us anyway!



### FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

**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

**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)

\*The Civic Life and Faith class has been having such fruitful discussions that they're going to continue the dialogue! It will continue to meet in Pastor Lauren's office. It's not too late to jump in and join the conversation.

**New Class:** Beginning next Sunday (10/22), all parents, grandparents, and people who care about kids are invited to a new 4-week class entitled *Faithful Families*. Let's face it: family life is CHAOTIC. No one has time to add another "thing" to their to-do list, and yet we desperately need ways to connect with God and each other. How do you make times of meaning and connection in the midst of all the craziness? This class will support parents of all ages of kids and teens with practical ways to integrate

prayer, tradition, Scripture, and ritual into the routines of a normal, busy family. Each week, Pastor Lauren will share simple, practical tools that you can implement immediately. Drop the kids off in Sunday school and meet in the Gathering Area from 10:00 - 10:30 am for fellowship, support, and great ideas for sharing faith in your family!

\*\*The Faith Lens Adult Class will resume next week.

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### ON VACATION

**Pastor Alex Zuber** will be on vacation Oct. 18 - 27. If you have a pastoral care need, please contact Pastor Lauren.

**Parish Administrator Linda Depoy** will be on vacation Oct. 16 - 27. Administrative Assistant Liz Engleking will cover priorities in her absence, but please be patient as she is part time and may not be able to respond as quickly.

### WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays, 10:30 am**

Join Pastor Lauren **each Wednesday** 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 Wednesdays, 6:00 pm**

We will not meet for dinner this week (10/18). Have a safe, restful, and renewing Fall Break! Morning Bible Studies are being organized on campus for November and December at JMU and Bridgewater. Contact Pastor Alex with a date and time that works best for you if you're interested in attending.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### TRUNK OR TREAT

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 4:00 - 6:00 PM**

Is Halloween your favorite holiday? Then come on out to *Trunk or Treat*, Muhlenberg's annual Halloween Party, Sunday, **Oct. 29, 4:00 – 6:00 pm!** Adults, kids



and groups are encouraged to dress up in their favorite Halloween costumes and use their creativity to decorate their trunks for a chance to win the Trunk Cup! No sign up necessary — just show up ready to hand out treats and have fun. Remember to **invite your friends!**

Have questions? Contact Children's Minister Ashley Saunders ([saunders@muhlenberg.lutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberg.lutheran.org)).

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

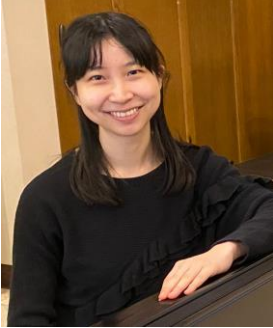
### CREATION CARE

Resist the urge to toss your plastic milk jugs and shampoo bottles in the recycling bin without looking at the numbers on the bottles. There are several different grades of plastic, coded with numbers ranging from 1 - 7. Harrisonburg only recycles plastics coded with 1 or 2. If you put a single bottle in the bin that your recycling facility can't accept, you risk contaminating the entire recycle bin. Too much contamination might mean a batch of recyclables is sent to the landfill instead.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE



We are delighted to announce **Linlin Uta will be serving as our Interim Music Minister!** Linlin has served as our Music Ministry Accompanist for four years, and has shared her incredible musical skills and

sunny demeanor with us throughout that time. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance, Pedagogy and Literature at James Madison University. She serves as adjunct faculty at James Madison University as well as the chair of music theory for Harrisonburg Music Teachers Association.

Linlin will serve part-time in this role, averaging 20 hours a week. Her main responsibilities will be leading our two adult choirs and the Youth Ensemble, as well as overseeing special music and recitals. We are grateful that Linlin has accepted our invitation to serve in this role and share her God-given gifts with us. She can be reached by calling the church office or by emailing her at [uta@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:uta@muhlenberglutheran.org).

During our interim time, we'll also have weekly organists stepping in to lead our congregation in song. A big thanks to **Judith Ofcarcik**, who will lead several times a month. We'll have a few more familiar faces on the organ bench over the coming months ... stay tuned!

We are also incredibly grateful for the ongoing service of **Gloria Dei Ringers Director Kath Wissinger** and **Children's Choir Director**

**Rachel Peters.** Both are stepping up to "fill the gaps" and ensure a consistent, quality music program during our interim time.

If you're interested in singing in the choir or playing hand bells (even for just a season), now is the time to jump in! Talk to Linlin or Kath for more information. If you have a young person who's interested in singing or playing an instrument, get them connected with the Children's Choir or the Youth Ensemble, both of which will begin practice in early November. (See next week's issue of *The Chimes* for details.) And if you have musical talent you'd like to offer in worship, especially during Advent or Christmas, please reach out to Linlin today!

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Choirs are open to all, even if you haven't participated in the past. If interested, contact Interim Music Minister Linlin Uta for more information ([uta@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:uta@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-434-3496).

### Adult Choirs

**Celebration Singers ~**

**Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 pm**

**Sanctuary Choir ~**

**Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 pm**

### Handbell Choir

**Gloria Dei Ringers ~**

**Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Led by Handbell Director Kath Wissinger. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary.

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION (VIA) October 26, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Muhlenberg is a member of Valley Interfaith Action, a non-partisan community organization dedicated to finding solutions to real issues that need to be addressed in our community. This year VIA is working to promote affordable childcare and pre-school in the county and city as well as access to on-demand transportation in the county. You can show your support for Valley Interfaith Action by attending the candidate forum at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren **October 26, 6:30 - 8:00 pm**. Register at the link below or contact Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431).

<https://secure.everyaction.com/aAYJyL0hy0C9E4xPmKERPw2>

### BRIDGE OF HOPE FUNDRAISER Locavore Love Your Neighbor Event November 4, 4:30 – 8:30 pm

Our global mission outreach in November will be Bridge of Hope. This non-profit group helps homeless moms and their children sustain a healthy home and lifestyle by providing a case worker and a church neighboring group for one to two years.

Our major fundraiser this year will be a wonderful evening at Bluestone Vineyard **November 4, 4:30 - 8:30 pm** with silent and live auctions, a short program, music, and a wonderful meal by Dayton Caterers. Use this link to purchase a ticket or to reserve a table for eight: <https://tinyurl.com/cjdtcver>



## YOUTH NEWS

### *LOST AND FOUND* (11/17-19)

#### EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT

The Virginia Synod hosts an annual faith-sharing retreat for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their adult advisors. *Lost & Found* will take place Friday, November 17 - Sunday, November 19 at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. **The early registration discount ends October 23** so click [HERE](#) to register or visit [vasynod.org/event/lost-and-found](https://vasynod.org/event/lost-and-found) for more information!

*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 made up of a handful of youth and a couple adult leaders. In small groups, participants get to know other Lutheran youth from Virginia and discuss life and faith and other topics that arise throughout the weekend.

### 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 Lutheran Reformation had a profound effect on Christian Music. How can the hymns we sing enrich your worship experience and deepen your theological understanding?



## VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

### INSTALLATION OF BISHOP MILTON First Presbyterian Church Waynesboro Saturday, October 21, 1:00 pm

The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton began her duties as Bishop September 1, 2023. You are invited to attend her installation service Saturday, October 21 at 1:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church (249 S. Wayne Ave, Waynesboro, Virginia). **A reception will follow the service at Grace Lutheran Church** (500 S. Wayne Avenue, Waynesboro, Virginia).

Are you interested in carpooling? Contact Pastor Lauren by **Wednesday, October 18** ([eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

## REMINDER

### FAITHFUL QUESTIONS



We offer the opportunity for you to ask faithful questions! In the pews and at the Connection Center, you'll find light purple cards, where you are invited to ask questions whenever one arises. Any question is welcome! Place your purple card in the Offering Plate or in the purple lock box at the Connection Center. Only the Pastors have access to this box. Questions can also be asked digitally using [THIS GOOGLE FORM](#). If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to the Pastors.

## CELEBRATION CORNER

### PROPERTY WORKDAY

*A rousing "job well done!!" to our Property Committee and a team of amazing volunteers for a truly productive property workday Saturday, October 7!*



## CELEBRATION CORNER (CONT'D)

To help share information from our social media with those who don't have access or may have missed it, we are including recent posts in The Chimes. Posts may come from Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages.

### ***BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS***

We had a wonderful gathering for our *Blessing of the Animals* service, with attendees - those with fur and without - thoroughly enjoying themselves. There were abundant blessings along with prayer, stories of St. Francis, and tons of treats. Thanks to all for coming out and for bringing your humans, too!





## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

10/1	8:30 Holy Communion .....	67
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	73
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	29
	Total Views this Week .....	247
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	42.18
10/8	8:30 Holy Communion .....	48
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	111
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	39

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

*Great news, gifts and offerings are more than last year at this time! However, we are still tracking less than projected and with expenses tracking as we anticipated, we continue to see a deficit. As we move into the final few months of the year, please consider how you might invest in the ministries of Muhlenberg.*

*Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 2023

	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budgeted	2022 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$398,101	\$475,500	\$384,172
Total Income	\$552,953	\$617,832	\$490,717
Total Expenses	\$608,768	\$617,793	\$463,965
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(55,815)	\$39	\$26,752

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 28,037.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,090.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 29,127.00</b>

**Sept. Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$13**

To give online, scan here ➔



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**October 16 - 22, 2023**

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Congregation Council Meeting
Tues	6:00 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via <a href="#">ZOOM</a>
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sat	1:00 pm	Installation of Bishop Milton
Sun		Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Faith Formation in person & via <a href="#">ZOOM</a>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person & Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>



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

*Mona Ageon*

*Ray Alderfer and Cynthia Page*

*Mac Alfriend*

*Robert and Linda Alley*

*Martha, Jay, Caleb, Isaac, and Evan Andrews*

*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 [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@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: ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) /540-434-3496) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).