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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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281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 ✚ Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org ✚ Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org

October 22, 2023

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At our October 16 meeting, the Congregation Council:

1. Approved a revised constitution to be brought to the congregation for the first of 2 votes at our 9:45 am Congregational Meeting on November 19 and again January 28.
2. Approved the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan to be brought to the congregation for vote at the November 19 meeting.
3. Amended the personnel manual to reflect Synod guidelines for parental leave from 8 weeks to 12 weeks.

We look forward to seeing all of our voting members at the Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 19 at 9:45 (a quorum of 50 voting members is required for a congregational vote).

Peace be with you all,

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President
mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

FAITHFUL FAMILIES BEGINS TODAY

Join Pastor Lauren in the Gathering Area TODAY at 10:00 am for this new 4-week class. 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, then meet up in the Gathering Area from 10:00 - 10:30 am for fellowship, support, and great ideas for sharing faith in your family! All parents, grandparents, and people who care about kids are invited.

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFO

PRELUDE

Blessed Assurance (arr. Gerald)

OFFERING

All Glory Be To Thee Most High
(arr. Rachel Aarons)

POSTLUDE

Hymn to Joy (arr. Wayne Wold) Dobrinski

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Lauren Eanes

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle
11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Larry Blade
11:00 ~ Tom Pettit

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Tassie Pippert
11:00 ~ Kathy Thompson

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Tom Pippert
11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

USHERS

8:30 ~ Karen Thomsen, Oris Griffin
11:00 ~ Melissa, Billy, and Henry Perritt

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle, Larry Blade, Gus Kagey,
Kathy Thompson
11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak, Malcolm Wilfong,
John Mulder, Greta Willis

MUSICIANS

Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister
Judith Ofcarcik, Organist
Celebration Singers (8:30)
Sanctuary Choir (11:00)
Rachel Peters, Flutist

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

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 ~ Kairos

Faithful Families ~ Gathering Area

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)

CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH NEW LOCATION

The Civic Life and Faith class has been having such fruitful discussions that they're going to continue the dialogue! It's not too late to jump in and join the conversation. The class will be moving TODAY to its new location, the Kairos Room, which is down the stairs from the Gathering Area. Contact Karen Thomsen (kethomsen25@gmail.com) for more details!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ON VACATION

Pastor Alex Zuber will be on vacation through October 27. If you have a pastoral care need, please contact Pastor Lauren.

Parish Administrator Linda Depoy will be on vacation through October 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 Wednesday, 6:00 pm

We will gather for dinner **THIS Wednesday, October 25, 6:00 pm** here in the Campus Room (downstairs). For more information, contact Hayley Tabor (haleyntabor@gmail.com).

LET'S LUNCH TOGETHER

THIS Friday, October 27, 11:30 am



The last Friday of the month is a time to gather for fellowship and lunch at Our Community Place (OCP) Friday Restaurant. The Restaurant is open from 11:30 - 1:30 and serves a delicious 3-course meal for just \$10. The Restaurant provides work for OCP's programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.

We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) **at 11:30 am Friday, October 27.** Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431).

WEAR **RED** FOR REFORMATION

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

The end of October marks Reformation Sunday in the life of the church. On this day in 1517 Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg church door. This action marked the beginning of the Reformation and the creation of what would become the Lutheran Church. On Sunday, October 29, we wear red as we join together to celebrate and give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit in always reforming Christ's Church.

TRUNK OR TREAT

NEXT SUNDAY (10/29), 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Is Halloween your favorite holiday? Then come on out to *Trunk or Treat*, Muhlenberg's annual Halloween Party, **NEXT Sunday, Oct. 29, 4:00 – 6:00 pm!** Adults, kids and groups are encouraged to dress up in their favorite Halloween costumes and/or decorate their trunks for a chance to win the Trunk Cup! No sign up necessary — just come ready to have fun. **Invite your friends!**



Don't let a lack of access to a car or candy keep you from participating - we may be able to help! Contact Children's Minister Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberg.lutheran.org).

CREATION CARE



You may be surprised to learn that discarded food is the largest constituent of municipal solid waste landfills. (Plastics rank second). Fruits and vegetables are the main type of food waste. They seldom seem to last as long as you wish, however, they are compostable!

MUHLENBERG NEWS

GATHERING THE NAMES OF SAINTS



Would you like to share with us the names of saints (persons living or deceased) who have enriched your spiritual life or the life of the church?

Today white cards are in the Gathering Area for you to share the names of loved ones and those who have shaped your faith. Write the name; then using a clothespin, hang the card(s) on the ribbon in the Gathering Area.

This display will be in the Gathering Area for All Saints Sunday, November 5, through the first Sunday of Advent, November 26 as an opportunity for us to remember how our saints point us to the hope found in Jesus.

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.

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. 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 MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

The search has begun! Our Music Minister Search Committee has reconvened, with a few new faces joining the team. Thanks to Dave Barnes, Judith Ofcarcik, Kevin Stees, Alice Wightman, Greta Willis, and Pastor Lauren for answering the call to serve. The job posting will be listed this week, and the committee will review resumes as they come in. Interviews will likely occur in January. We'll keep you updated as the search progresses!

MUSIC MINISTRY

TWEEN CHOIR IS NOW YOUTH ENSEMBLE

Are you in upper elementary (grades 3-5), middle school, or high school? Do you like to sing or play an instrument? Then our new *Youth Ensemble* is for you!

Linlin Uta is inviting all youth who sing or play an instrument to share their musical gifts through this ensemble. Rehearsals will be once a week on Sundays at 12:15 pm, beginning November 5. The ensemble will present musical offerings in worship on December 10 and on Christmas Eve.

Music will be chosen/arranged based on the participants and their skill level, so please **contact Linlin** at uta@muhlenberglutheran.org **by November 1** if you plan to participate!

CHOIR REHEARSALS

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 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) Thursday, October 26, 6:30 - 8:00 pm



VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION

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>

PATCHWORK PANTRY REQUESTS November 5 Collection

Patchwork Pantry has a special request for our upcoming November 5 collection! **Corn muffin mixes and cartons of chicken broth** are not available from regular pantry suppliers. These items would be appreciated by families in need of food assistance.



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>



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:

We say the Apostles Creed every week, but may not reflect on what it means. Spend some time reflecting on this excerpt from Luther's explanation of the First article of the Creed: "God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true."

YOUTH NEWS

LOST AND FOUND (11/17-19) EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT ENDS TOMORROW (10/23)

The Virginia Synod hosts an annual faith-sharing retreat for 7th and 8th 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 TOMORROW (10/23)** so click [HERE](#) to register or visit 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.

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP MILTON

Congratulations to The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, who was installed as Bishop yesterday (10/21) at First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro. We hold her in our prayers as she embarks on this new ministry.

CELEBRATION CORNER

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.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Care Committee would like to thank those who attended the annual Diamond Jubilee Luncheon for coming. We are so blessed to have you and were very grateful to share a meal with you all! We also wish to thank those who helped make this event happen: Jeff Williams for set-up and overseeing the space; Jim Doyle, who worked throughout, but especially with clean-up; Cheryl Talley, Pam & Mark Briehl, and Renee Roper for their hard work with everything!



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

10/8	8:30 Holy Communion	48
	11:00 Holy Communion	111
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	39
	Total Views this Week	162
	Hours Viewed this Week	57.7
10/15	8:30 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Holy Communion	133
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40

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 September 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	\$	5,929.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$,740.00
Total Giving	\$	6,669.00

Sept. Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$13

To give online, scan here ➔



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 23 - 29, 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
Fri	11:30 am	OCP Lunch
Sun		Reformation Sunday
	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
	4:00 pm	Trunk or Treat



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

Wendy Arbogast

Norma Armentrout

*David and Jackie Baker and
Mackenzie and Camden Schmidt*

Janessa Baker

Keith and Joanne Baker

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).

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 /540-434-3496)