



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 23, 2022

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCHEON

TODAY AT 12:15 pm



Diamond members (those who are 75+), are invited to stay after worship for our Diamond Jubilee luncheon

and social gathering in the MAC. An Italian-style lunch will be served by the Confirmands as we celebrate YOU! If you didn't receive an invitation, please contact Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496) to ensure we have your birthdate in our records.

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 and next Sunday, October 30, white slips of paper will be in the Gathering Area for members of our congregation to write the names of loved ones and those who have shaped their faith. The names will be displayed in the Gathering Area on a cross (like at Easter).

The cross will be displayed in the Sanctuary All Saints Sunday, November 6: through the First Sunday of Advent, as an opportunity for us to remember how our saints point us to the hope found in Jesus.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

FAITH ON THE ROAD

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

Don't miss our last evening for the *Faith on the Road* series **THIS Wednesday, October 26!** Pastor Alex Zuber



will be offering reflections on "Holy Stories in Holy Lands," sharing experiences of Egypt where the Coptic Christian and Muslim faiths grew side by side. **The meal will be served at 6:00 pm** in Wayland Hall, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. **The conversation 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>

FIRST ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Saturday, October 29, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Join in the fun and celebration with the Muhlenberg community and our neighbors! **From 4:00-5:00 pm**, children of all ages may “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!** Bring your friends and neighbors. If you’d like to volunteer, click [HERE](#) or contact Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).



WEAR RED FOR REFORMATION

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 30, 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.



CONFIRMATION NEXT SUNDAY

Confirmation, often called Affirmation of Baptism, is a course of learning, discernment, and service for youth where they learn what it means to live into their baptisms. Join us as we celebrate the faithfulness of our Muhlenberg youth who are choosing to publicly affirm their Baptism this year.

Confirmands will share Personal Faith Statements in the sanctuary during the Christian Formation hour (10:15 - 10:45 am) and we’ll celebrate our students in the Gathering Area.

At their Affirmation of Baptism during the 11:00 am service, Confirmands are asked to make this promise, made by their parents at their baptism, for themselves: “...to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”

Join us as we celebrate this milestone step and new beginning for **Isaiah Campbell, Will Eppard and Abby Gibson.**

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

A MONTH OF JOY

Throughout the month of October, we have experienced joyful events: the Blessing of the Animals and the Giving of the Word Sunday, with more to come: Diamond Jubilee (TODAY), Trunk-or-Treat, Reformation Sunday, and more! Here at Muhlenberg, we want to be intentional about naming “joy.” While joy is often marked by smiles, laughter, fun, and delight, joy is inherently something 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) 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) to see and share these stories from our community. May your October be filled with **JOY!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING CIRCLE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 10:00 AM

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we’ll teach you basic stitches! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy.

If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone who is ill, recovering from an illness, healing from broken bones, grieving a loss, parent with dementia, awaiting a birth, in need of comfort, new birth, a grandmother, birthday, wedding, on a journey, graduation etc., please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283).

MUHLENBERG MINISTRIES NIGHT TEMPORARY DATE CHANGES

Please remember that for **November and December only**, Ministries Night committees will meet on the 1st Monday of the month...

November 7
December 5

See you there!
Kevin Stees, Congregation Council Vice President

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

 If you have children, consider organizing a costume swap with neighbors. Your kids will get an almost-new costume that may have otherwise gone to the landfill. You can also brainstorm ideas for an eco-friendly Halloween costume. Rent a costume, buy one secondhand, or raid your closet to come up with creative ideas.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, acolytes, greeters, communion assistants/ stewards, sound techs, etc.

Sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center for **December and Christmas Eve services**. Signing up helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson* (578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu). If you prefer to sign up online click [HERE](#) or <https://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/serve-in-worship.html>

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

USE OF PHOTOS

As we enhance our communication (website, monitors, brochures, etc.), we will include photos and videos of congregational life. **If you prefer not to have your image (or your child's image) included, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy** (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org).

ENTERING THE CHURCH

Jesus was able to walk through locked doors (see John 20) but entering Muhlenberg's building is sometimes a little harder for those who come to the church on a weekday! For the safety of all who use our space during the week, all doors remain locked at all times, particularly the daycare door. When you arrive at the church, we ask you to call the church's main phone number, located on a sign on the Gathering Area doors, and a staff person will come to open the Gathering Area door for you.

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/434-3496)

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



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

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.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SUNDAY CLASS LOCATIONS

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
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

LOST AND FOUND

NOVEMBER 18-20

The Virginia Synod will hold Lost and Found (an annual faith-sharing retreat for 7th and 8th graders and their adult advisors) **Friday, November 18 - Sunday, November 20 at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg.** **LOST AND FOUND** 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.

TOMORROW Monday, Oct 24 is the last day to register with the early registration discount!

VA SYNOD NEWS

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.



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION



Faith in Action is a coalition of diverse faith and community organizations in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County working together to make change and justice in the Shenandoah Valley. Muhlenberg has been a member of Faith in Action (FIA) since its formation in 2015. This year, FIA is focusing its efforts on making change in the areas of public transportation and childcare in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

This Thursday, October 27 from 6-8pm, you are invited to join hundreds of FIA members at Wilbur S. Pence Middle School in Dayton to learn more and give input on future action. Childcare will be available. Pastor Lauren will be there, so you'll have someone to sit with! Please email Pastor Lauren if you're planning to attend.

OPEN DOORS

Open Doors is a low-barrier shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness in Harrisonburg/Rockingham County. They are dedicated to providing a hot meal and a warm, safe place for guests to stay. As Open Doors prepares for its winter season, you are invited to consider ways you might support their mission, through volunteering, donating supplies, or even shopping at Amazon Smile.

Learn more at

<https://www.valleyopendoors.org/getinvolved>.

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
- **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 Disaster Response for details.
- **Visit the Connection Center** for more information.

DIAPER COLLECTION



As a service project, the All Lutheran Women's Retreat is collecting diapers for the International Rescue Committee. In their work with refugees, the IRC will

distribute the diapers. All sizes are needed. If you would like to help, please purchase new diapers of any size and bring them to church **TODAY or NEXT Sunday, October 30**. Contact Sandy Brzozowski with any questions (altsaw3664@verizon.net or 540-578-2106).

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 Muhlenberg members. As we enter an exciting new year of programming at church, our prayers focus on "hope."

"God of renewal, with every birth and every baptism into your holy Kingdom, there is hope in your promises and abundant joy in your creation of new life. Guide us to live each day as a new day, a new life, full of hope and joy and the peace that surpasses all understanding. As we live with gratitude for all of God's gracious gifts, let our joy shine brightly and illumine all around us!"

- Kathy Thompson



#MuhlenbergJoy



"I like working with people I enjoy being around. I don't think I've ever been to a friendlier church. It's fun for me to come here, and it's the people that make it that way."
- John Mulder

#MuhlenbergJoy



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

10/9	8:30 Holy Communion	47
	11:00 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	33
	Total Views this Week	156
	Hours Viewed this Week	49.4
10/16	8:30 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Holy Communion	81
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	33

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 Actual	2022 YTD Budget	2021 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$350,108	\$410,000	\$391,258
Total Income	\$432,664	\$469,167	\$456,370
Total Expenses	\$368,112	\$552,695	\$542,140
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$64,552	\$(83,528)	\$(85,770)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 2,648.75
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 369.23
Total Giving	\$ 3,017.98

Aug. Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$26

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 24 - 30, 2022

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Meeting
Tues	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:00 pm	Faith on the Road Series
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thur	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sat	4:00 pm	Trunk-or-Treat
Sun		Reformation Sunday with Confirmation
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation in person & via ZOOM
	10:15 am	Confirmation Faith Statements
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube



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

*David and Annie Dean and Family
Linda Depoy
John Derrick and Jeanette Williams
Mark and Karen Dotson
Tom Dove and Karen Thomsen*

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 depy@muhlenberglutheran.org).