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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 29, 2023

REFORMATION SUNDAY

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

REFORMATION DAY



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 today is the festival of Reformation Sunday. But this

day isn't just about history. On this day, we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news that makes us free from sin through Christ's death and resurrection!

TRUNK OR TREAT

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

Come on out to *Trunk or Treat*, Muhlenberg's annual Halloween Party, **TODAY (10/29) 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!**



WELCOME GUEST ORGANISTS!

Today for Reformation Sunday and next week for All Saints' Sunday, we are blessed to welcome two familiar faces to our worship service. Don Smith served as Muhlenberg's Minister of Music from 1966 until his



retirement in 2007, and we are delighted to have him here today playing "A Mighty Fortress" for us one more time. We look forward to seeing Elizabeth Williams next week as she leads our congregational song on All Saints' Sunday. Elizabeth served as



Muhlenberg's Associate Director of Liturgical Arts from 2008 to 2011, and then as our Minister of Music from 2011 until her retirement in May 2023. Welcome home, Don and Elizabeth!

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFO

PRELUDE

You are My Refuge (by Michael John Trotta, Inspired
by Psalm 46)

OFFERING

I Sing Because I am Happy
(Music by Charles H. Gabriel, Arranged by Kenneth Paden,
Adapted by Rollo Dilworth)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

It is Well with my Soul (Trio Arranged by Gary Lanier)

POSTLUDE

Holy God, We Praise Your Name (arr. Jeffrey
Blersch)

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS ~ Oris Griffin (8:30), Sue Koch (11:00)

TORCH BEARERS ~ Bill Whitmire & Gus Kagey
(8:30); Sue Koch (11:00)

LECTORS ~ Susan Gallaher (8:30); Nathan
Leopard (11:00)

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS ~ Mary Elizabeth
Skinner (8:30); Robert Alley (11:00)

SOUND TECHS ~ Bill Wightman (8:30)
11:00 ~

USHERS ~ Larry & Sheila Haaland (8:30),
~ Sue Totty, Pam Bergey (11:00)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS ~ Oris Griffin, Gus
Kagey, Bill Whitmire, Susan Gallaher (8:30),
Sue Koch, Nathan Leopard, Malcolm Wilfong,
Kathy Thompson (11:00)

MUSICIANS

Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister
Don Smith, Organist
Combined Celebration Singers and Sanctuary
Choir; Rachel Peters, Flute; Johnny Park,
Violin

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 Room

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)

FAITHFUL FAMILIES CONTINUES

Join Pastor Lauren in the Gathering Area at 10:00 am for this new 4-week class, meeting October 29, November 5 & 12. 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 AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

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

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, November 1, 6:00 pm** here in the Campus Room (downstairs). For more information, contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-309-2414).

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP

Saturday, November 4, 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! If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone or have yarn you would like to donate to the group, please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net).

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 6

December 4

See you there!

Kevin Stees, Congregation Council Vice President

REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time ends. **Turn your clocks back one hour this Saturday, November 4.**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DON'T MISS MUHLENBERG'S JAZZ VESPERS

Mark your calendars and invite your friends for a special evening prayer service on Wednesday, November 15 at 7:00 pm. Our Jazz Vespers will bring together scripture, poetry, prayer and music, building on our liturgical tradition of evening prayer while deriving energy from the sounds of jazz. Join our special musical guests *Just Jazzin'*, a local jazz band with Muhlenberger and retired EMU music professor Bob Curry, and Dr. Masa Ishikawa, a gifted jazz pianist and professor at JMU, for a vibrant service of praise and thanksgiving!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We are excited to announce the Christmas pageant will be in person this year! It will take place Sunday, December 17 at 9:45 am in the MAC.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (CONT'D)

Practices will be Sundays, November 5 - December 10 at 9:45 am (Faith Formation hour). A paper of our scheduled rehearsals will be sent out at the first practice.

The pageant this year is *A Very Mixed Up Christmas* by Gwenne Watkins, with singing and speaking roles. There are opportunities for participants of all ages!

If your child is interested or you would like to help please email Children's Minister Ashley Saunders at saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org by Wednesday, November 1.

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, November 19 at 9:45 am

You are invited to attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom (online or by phone) the Hybrid Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

The Purpose of the Meeting:

- † **Review and vote on the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan**
- † **Elect four Congregation Council Members and one Trustee:**
Nominees and their bios will appear in the November issues of *The Chimes*
- † **Vote on proposed revisions to our Constitution**

The proposed Spending Plan and Constitutional revisions are available online at muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting or the Connection Center in the Gathering Area, and the Connection Box outside the Gathering Area. To request materials be mailed to you, call Parish Administrator Linda Depoy at 540-434-3496.

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 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!

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)

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).

Peace be with you all,

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President
mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

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 **Wednesday, 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

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 an evening at Bluestone Vineyard **November 4, 4:30 - 8:30 pm** with silent and live auctions, a short program, music, and a meal by Dayton Caterers. Use this link to purchase a ticket: <https://tinyurl.com/cjdtever>

YOUTH NEWS

LOST AND FOUND (11/17-19)

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. **It's not too late to sign up** so click [HERE](#) to register or for more info visit vasynod.org/event/lost-and-found!

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:

Martin Luther's '95 Theses' sparked the Reformation. How does your faith reflect the idea of continuous reformation and growth? In what ways can your faith journey be a process of ongoing transformation and renewal?

SECOND HOME

THANKSGIVING MEAL DONATIONS

Second Home Learning Center's annual family Thanksgiving meal will be Thursday, November 16. In the past, this dinner served around 150 people, including students and their families.

We are looking for donations of turkey and ham. Do you have any points for a free turkey that you will not be using? We would love to take them. Or maybe you would be willing to donate cash towards the cost? We can do the shopping!

If you are able to donate towards this event, please call our office at 540-432-7989 by Monday, November 13. Thank you for helping us make the holidays brighter for our families.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. To share joy, thanks, or concern, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org).

✚ With great joy, we thank the Comfort Makers for new lights in Wayland Hall. Seeing that the lights weren't emitting good enough light for their work, they volunteered to arrange for the work to be quoted and installed. Now Wayland Hall shines brighter than ever!



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.

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP MILTON

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



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

10/15	8:30 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Holy Communion	133
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40
	Total Views this Week	162
	Hours Viewed this Week	68.0
10/22	8:30 Holy Communion	54
	11:00 Holy Communion	80
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	35

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	\$ 17,874.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 220.00
Total Giving	\$ 18,094.50

Sept. Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$13

To give online, scan here ➔



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 30 – November 5, 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	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group
	4:30 pm	Bridge of Hope Fundraiser
		Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sun		All Saints Sunday
		Food Pantry/Lay Communion/Name Badge 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
	12:15 pm	Cherub Choir Rehearsal
	12:15 pm	Youth Ensemble Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Confirmation Class/Dinner for All



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

David and Karen Barnes

Roger and Pam Bergey

Ashley Bergey-Washington, Marcus, Nate and Brendan Washington

Thomas Bertsch

Larry and Sandra Blade

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).