



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 30, 2022

REFORMATION SUNDAY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings, Muhlenberg!! Your Council met on October 24 to discuss the business of our church. Here are a few things we talked about:

- We celebrated with new Mom and our Treasurer, Sarah Sunde (via Zoom) at UVA with her twin baby girls born last week. All are well. We marveled at Sarah's dedication to Muhlenberg by joining the meeting under the circumstances!!
- It was a busy month for our pastors!! Lots of Pastoral Care and plenty of planning for a great rest of the program year. Watch for an informative Advent/Christmas newsletter going out soon!
- Muhlenberg will host a Community Christmas Dinner the afternoon of Christmas Day. For those that remember we did this prior to Covid, and it was a wonderful community celebration we want to offer again. Watch for more info in the coming weeks. If you receive a call for help with this event...please say YES!!
- We discussed the Proposed 2023 Budget for the majority of our meeting. We have done our best to be good stewards of the gifts Muhlenberg has been given. Our proposed

budget will be available in plenty of time for review prior to our Congregational Meeting on November 20.

As always, your Council encourages your input!! Feel free to reach out to me at mlccouncilpres@yahoo.com.

See you in the pews!!

Greta K. Willis, Congregation Council President

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!



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Confirmation, often called Affirmation of Baptism, is a course of 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 Paul Campbell**, **William Jay Eppard** and **Abigail Rebecca Gibson**.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION

Martin Luther reminds us that this Christian life is nothing less than a return to our baptism, when we were saved and delivered from sin through Christ's death and resurrection. **Today at the 11:00 service**, the following young people step forward to affirm their baptism with their parents, friends, mentors, and the Muhlenberg family.

Our confirmands have received instruction and support through their middle school years and now have come to publicly affirm their faith. This marks a milestone in their lives of faith and in our congregation as they become confirmed adult voting members of the congregation. The Bible verses have special meaning and were chosen by the confirmands. *(Bible verses are from the NRSV.)*



Isaiah Paul Campbell ~ Philippians 4:13
I can do all things through [Christ] who strengthens me.

William Jay Eppard ~ Psalm 51:10
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Abigail Rebecca Gibson ~ Amos 5:24
But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

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 slips of paper are in the Gathering Area for you to write the names of loved ones and those who have shaped your faith. The names will be displayed in the Gathering Area on a cross (like we used at Easter).

The cross will be displayed in the Sanctuary All Saints Sunday, November 6 through the First Sunday of Advent, November 27 as an opportunity for us to remember how our saints point us to the hope found in Jesus.

DIAPER COLLECTION

As a service project, the All Lutheran Women's Retreat is collecting diapers for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). 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 — the deadline is **TODAY (10/30)**. Contact Sandy Brzozowski with any questions (altsaw3664@verizon.net or 540-578-2106).



ACCESS SERMONS ONLINE

Following the Narrative Lectionary allows us to tell a continuous story of faith week after week. If you missed or would like to revisit a particular sermon, you can find a [playlist on YouTube](#) that is updated weekly! Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) to see the sermons posted, and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

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).

REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time ends.
Turn your clocks back one hour this Saturday, November 5.



FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER

Special Thanksgiving Collection



We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry **NEXT Sunday, November 6** in the Gathering Area. No glass jars please.

Patchwork Pantry has asked Muhlenberg to help them diversify offerings with a couple of seasonal items. Our goal is to collect **50** of the following:

chicken broth/stock
corn muffin mix

Donations may be dropped off in the Gathering Area! Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

ELDERCARE GROUP “RETIRES”

Muhlenberg's Eldercare Group has been a source of support, strength, and hope for a number of years. As the needs of participants change, the group has decided to disband officially, though the love, care, and relationships built through this group will remain! We give thanks for the dedicated leadership of Jennie Warner, who faithfully shepherded the group through many highs and lows of life together. We are grateful for the ways small groups like this can make a big impact.

CREATION CARE TIP



The end of daylight savings time next weekend means the lights are on longer; replace your incandescent bulbs now and you'll benefit from the energy savings all winter long. CFLs use 75% less energy, last up to 10 times longer, and can save approximately \$30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb.

MUSIC MINISTRY

LET THE CHILDREN SING!

Cherub Choir and Tween/Teen Choir is back, and will begin rehearsing **NEXT Sunday, November 6**, immediately following the 11:00 service, and continuing each Sunday through December 18. **Both groups will sing in worship Sunday, December 11 (11:00 service only) and Christmas Eve, 4:30 pm service.**

Cherubs

Rachel Peters will conduct the Cherubs (ages 4-2nd grade) and will meet down in the Music Room. They will rehearse **12:15 – 12:45 pm.**

Tween/Teens

Elizabeth Williams will conduct the Tween/Teens (3rd – 8th grades) and will meet in the choir chancel in the sanctuary. They will rehearse **12:15 – 1:00 pm.**

So come, children! Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord! ☺ *-Elizabeth*

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)

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

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>.

YOUTH NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Lunch and an Escape Room, Nov. 13

Our high school youth are going to do an escape room together **Sunday, November 13** at Escapism in Downtown Harrisonburg! Lunch will be served in the Campus Ministry Room immediately after 11:00 worship, and we'll walk downtown together. Escape Rooms have participants solve a series of puzzles and games to beat a larger objective as a team. It will be a fun time of fellowship together, so contact Pastor Alex if you'd like to go!

COMMUNION IN THE PEWS

For those who wish to receive Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, communion is served in the pews. **Please raise your hand as the Lay Assisting Minister comes into the sanctuary with the elements.** In addition to bread and wine, **grape juice and gluten-free bread** are also available. Please indicate your preference to the Lay Assisting Minister.

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). 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 Helen Drifmeyer's death (October 22). We keep in our prayers her husband Gene and their family. Helen and Gene moved to Woodstock in the spring to be closer to family. Helen's funeral takes place TODAY, October 30 at 1:15 pm at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Woodstock.

If you wish to send cards to Gene, his address is 9355 Ox Rd. Apt 113, Woodstock, VA 22664.

✚ With great joy, we share the news of the birth of Caroline James and Emerson Ann, daughters of Sarah Sunde and Sarah Whitley. Caroline and Emerson were born October 19.

✚ We share our gratitude for fellowship with our Diamond members, their friends and caregivers. We are also thankful for the Care Committee's work on the Diamond Jubilee Luncheon for these special members of our congregation. *See photos on page 7.*

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)

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 all peoples, the creator of all light and joy, please guide us through your Holy Spirit to share your gifts of grace, love, and mercy, to turn the sadness of our fractured world into joy and peace. To you we give all honor and glory. Amen."

- Karen Matthias

Kat Kolodinsky:
"Volleyball ... brings joy and happiness to my life. Being in the moment and playing is really fun, but the real joy comes from the love and support of my teammates and the opportunity to meet new people...!"



Faith on the Road with
Maren Corliss, Jacob Dunlap
& Remington Willis



In Service last Sunday, "Amazing Grace" was performed by the Gloria Dei Ringers (Kath Wissinger, Handbell Director); Cynthia Page, Vocal Soloist; and signed by Barbara

DIAMOND JUBILEE



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

10/16	8:30 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Holy Communion	81
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	33
	Total Views this Week	192
	Hours Viewed this Week	55.7
10/23	8:30 Holy Communion	47
	11:00 Holy Communion	107
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	30

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

As we begin a new program year, gifts and offerings lagged a bit behind where I anticipated. I am hopeful that we see even a modest increase in the closing months of 2022. We know it has been a tough year to ask for more from each of you and yet we continue to see you faithfully give! Our expenses were much higher this month, but this is when we pay property and liability insurance and prepare for programs. The surplus decreased, but I am still hopeful income and expenses will balance by the end of this fiscal year.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through September 2022

	2022 YTD <u>Actual</u>	2022 YTD <u>Budget</u>	2021 YTD <u>Actual</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$386,252	\$461,250	\$437,359
Total Income	\$477,717	\$527,812	\$506,640
Total Expenses	\$452,332	\$619,905	\$598,576
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$25,385	\$(92,093)	\$(91,936)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 8,659.27
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 429.43
Total Giving	\$ 9,088.70

Aug. Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$26

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 31 – November 6, 2022

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tues	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thur	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sat	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle
		Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sun		All Saints Sunday
		Food Pantry/Lay Communion Sunday
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation in person & via ZOOM
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube
	12:15 pm	Cherub Choir Rehearsal
	12:15 pm	Tween Choir Rehearsal



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

*Jim and Lisa Doyle
Shane and Abigayle Doyle and Lilly
Brandon and Beth Driver and Family
Chris and Stephanie Driver and Family
Mike and Debbie Driver*

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)