



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 31, 2021

REFORMATION SUNDAY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

PASTORAL MINISTRY UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome Pastor Lauren back to ministry! As she continues to recover from her recent illness, she will be serving 20 hours a week through November and December.

Pastor Lauren's main focus in the coming weeks will be worship, leadership development, and stewardship. She will also be preaching about once a month and providing pastoral care as her schedule allows.

Pastor Alex will focus his attention on faith formation, worship/preaching, and other programmatic aspects of our community life, in addition to pastoral care and digital ministry.

We are grateful that Pastor Daniel has agreed to continue serving in a part-time capacity in the coming weeks as well. Pastor Daniel will continue to lead the Wednesday morning Bible study, as well as provide pastoral care and other pastoral support as needed.

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!

PATCHWORK PANTRY GIVING

Today we welcome Jennifer Ulrich, director of Patchwork Pantry, for our first 2021 Mission Moment. For years, Muhlenberg has collected donations for the pantry. We are excited to announce that collections will resume November 7. Bring your donations to the gathering area next Sunday (11/7) and again the first Sunday of each month!

Monetary donations are also appreciated and help the pantry purchase food and perishable items as needed at a reduced price. Make your check payable to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church with Patchwork Pantry in the memo line.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT.)

GATHERING THE NAMES OF SAINTS

Today (10/31) is the last day to share the names of saints (living or deceased) who have enriched your spiritual life or the life of the church. At the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area are red & white links and pens. We invite you to take a link and write the name of an individual who has helped you in your spiritual growth. You may take as many links as you like.

Links will be displayed in the Sanctuary next week All Saints Sunday through the First Sunday of Advent. If you are worshipping digitally, you can complete a form online (<https://forms.gle/nz7ocef6EmFip5scA>) and we will prepare the links for you.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us **each Wednesday at 10:30 am** for Bible study. Led by Pastor Daniel Hess via **ZOOM**: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

COMFORT MAKERS

Join us **Thursdays, 8:00 – 12 noon** in Wayland Hall. All are welcome! Contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com / 540-383-5085) for details.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Worship **NEXT SUNDAY (11/7)** will feature a Service of Commemoration as we remember those members of our community who have died in the last year, and who are united with us still through our baptismal promises.

We will also gather for a SAAM worship behind the MAC at 1:30 pm for service of Holy Communion with a baptism.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN

I am incredibly grateful for the kind words, prayers, care, and support that the people of Muhlenberg have provided me over the past five months. Your cards and letters brought me much joy, and the care team's gift of meals helped us more than I can put into words. Thank you for being Christ's presence to me and my family in a difficult time.

Over the course of several months, I was diagnosed with pneumonia, Epstein-Barr virus reactivation, post-viral inflammatory syndrome, and possible autonomic dysfunction. Altogether, what that has meant for me is extreme fatigue, brain fog, muscle pain, dizziness and passing out.

While many of my symptoms have eased, my fatigue is still significant. My doctor and I think I'm ready for part-time work, but she has strictly instructed me not to work more than 20 hours a week! I'm going to do my best to hold to that, because I want to be sure my body can fully recover and I can come back to full-time work as soon as possible.

So, please be patient with me, as I likely won't be able to keep up with as many things as I'd like. But I am confident that our temporary team of three pastors will be able to serve the congregation well together, and I am thrilled to be among you in worship and service again.

As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, so I write to you: I give thanks to God for all of you...constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess 1:2-3.) I am so grateful for this community and looking forward to our partnership as together we continue to equip all people to live out Christ's love.

Pastor Lauren

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, November 21 at 9:45 pm in the Sanctuary. The Purpose of the Meeting will be to review & vote on the 2022 Spending Plan and elect a Trustee.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights from Muhlenberg's Congregation Council meeting held Monday, October 18:

- Preparations and logistics for the November Congregational Meeting were discussed and will soon be shared with the Congregation.
- An update on the work of the Nominating Committee for seeking candidates for the position of Trustee and Council was shared.
- Council members heard and approved a pastoral plan that includes Pastor Lauren's return to work.
- The Muhlenberg Spending Plan for 2022 was shared by treasurer Ted Sudol and discussed in depth.
- An additional session to complete the Spending Plan for 2022 was scheduled for Monday, October 25.

Peace and Blessings,
Karen Thomsen, Congregation Council
President

CREATION CARE TIP



Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or rsanders97@verizon.net.

Paper makes up over 25% of solid waste (trash) generated each year, more than any other material. Americans recycled almost 66% of the paper they used in 2017. This recovered paper is used to make new paper products, saving trees and other natural resources. Most community or office recycling programs accept paper and paper products. Check with your recycling center what is accepted and when you shop, look for products that are made from recycled paper.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

- With great sadness and great hope in the promise of the resurrection, we mourn the loss of Johanna Runion this past week. A memorial service was held Friday at Muhlenberg. We continue to lift Bob and family in thoughts and prayers.



REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time ends. Turn your clocks back one hour this Saturday night, November 6.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

10/17	8:30 Holy Communion.....	43
	11:00 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	45
	Total Views this Week.....	206
	Hours Viewed this Week.....	62.5
10/24	8:30 Holy Communion.....	55
	11:00 Holy Communion	58
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	49

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$324,075	\$470,326	\$333,574
Total Receipts	\$387,348	\$525,881	\$432,960
Expenses	\$457,127	\$565,080	\$451,756
Excess Income/	(\$69,779)	(\$39,199)	(\$18,796)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 5,018.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,682.48
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 6,700.48

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg has not suspended its ministry through this unprecedented time. In fact, in some ways our outreach and ministry have been strengthened and enhanced. Regardless of the worship opportunities you choose, we ask you to continue your financial contributions. We also want to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. You can make a one-time or recurring donation through our [website](#), place your offering in the basket on Sunday morning, or mail your check to the church: 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg 22801.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

November 1 - November 7

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

- Mon 2:00 pm 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**
- Sun All Saints Sunday**
8:30 am Holy Communion in person
9:45 am Christian Formation Classes
Children's Ministry
Youth (Confirmation)
Devotional Classics
Faith Lens
11:00 am Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
1:30 pm SAAM outside service and baptism

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Thursday at 8 am**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. *Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy:*

depov@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.

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](#)!