

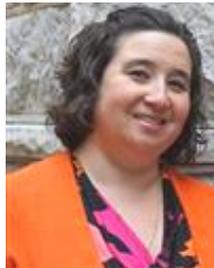
KAREN THOMSEN



My name is Karen Thomsen and I live in Bridgewater with my husband Tom. We have three grown daughters and 5 grandchildren. I retired in 2018 after 39 years in education as both a teacher and administrator. I have been a member of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church for over 20 years. I was very involved with Alpha Teens and JCrew when my daughters were in Middle and High School. For the past 3 years I have helped to teach the Confirmation students. Before teaching the confirmation students I participated in an Adult Christian Formation class. I am a member of the Local and Global Mission Ministry and most recently I chaired the Call Committee that resulted in the hiring of Pastor Alex. I am constantly amazed at how the Holy Spirit is at work in my life and in the life of the church. I would like to serve the people of Muhlenberg as a member of the Church Council as together we seek ways to share God's Good News with each other and with our neighbors near and far.

GRETA WILLIS

My two children and I moved to Harrisonburg in 2009 from Louisville, KY. We joined Muhlenberg on September 11, 2011. I am currently the Congregation Council Secretary, running for my second term of three years. I also serve as the Kitchen Coordinator, 11 am Worship Assistant Scheduler, and Property Committee liaison. I am a proud member of the Sanctuary Choir and enjoy playing my flute for the congregation when called to do so.



My daughter, Remington, is attending Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH and my son, Zeus, attends West Virginia University. Muhlenberg has been a haven of family for my children and me, since ours are not close. It's a wonderful place to call home, and we enjoy every bit of time we spend here.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINEES

Below are some brief bios to help you learn more about the current slate of Council nominees:

SANDRA BLADE



Finishing up my three year term on Council just now feels like I'd be leaving in the middle of something. With new church leaders in place I would like to stay with the group a bit longer to help develop future plans for the congregation. We have seen a lot of change in the last year yet there is still much to accomplish.

My history with Muhlenberg dates back to 1990 when Larry and I moved to Harrisonburg. I served on council for two terms in the late 90's. Always an early riser, the 8:00 service is my usual worship time.

BILL COMPTON

Three years goes by quickly. That was when I last wrote a bio about myself for the Congregation when I was asked to serve on Church Council. I am asking you to approve my serving another term.

I joined Muhlenberg in the fall of 2013 after moving to Sunnyside from Northern Virginia. I like to help serve communion at the 11 o'clock services. I also am a bookkeeper for the counting of collection on my group's rotation. About two years ago I was asked to be Vice President of Council and also serve on the Executive Committee.

A lot has happened the past three years. For me it has been important, with the help of the Columbarium Committee and Council, to have the Columbarium (dedicated on All Saints Sunday) installed in the Caring Corner.

Muhlenberg is very important to me, and I would like to continue to serve.



ELIZABETH FLETCHALL



For those that don't know me, you probably recognize me as the mom of three boys: Will-11, Benjamin-8, and Matthew-6. They are often dressed alike and though this might make it harder for you to tell them apart, it helps my husband, Zack, and I pick them out of a crowd.

I'm Elizabeth Fletchall, a life-long Lutheran and Muhlenberger for the past seven years. I grew up in Fairfax Country, attended Roanoke College for a bachelors of business administration, and then The George Washington University for a masters in education and human development. Utilizing both my degrees, I have worked in construction and defense marketing as well as higher ed. With all the boys in elementary school now, I work part-time as treasurer and administrative assistant for Shalom Mennonite Congregation and am an ex-officio member of their Servants' Council.

When we relocated from Salem to Dayton, not knowing anyone, I made it my mission to grow roots for our family here. My success in this endeavor is no doubt in part because the first thing we did was join Muhlenberg.

As a member, I have enjoyed the intergenerational relationships formed through Mary-Martha, Bridge of Hope, pastor-led studies, and Pastors' Book Club. I have volunteered as a Sunday School teacher, was tapped as a photographer for the online directory, and called to the Mutual Ministry Committee. In addition, the fellowship of children's choir parents waiting outside weekly practice has deepened connections.

If elected, I look forward to helping Muhlenberg continue to live into our call to be: Open, Authentic, Relational, Serving.

JENNY GIBSON

Jenny Gibson has been a member of Muhlenberg for about 15 years. She is a faculty member in the math department at James Madison University, where she teaches math to future elementary and middle school teachers. She and her husband Jon, a professor in the School of Music at JMU, have two daughters, Emma (13) and Abby (11). Jenny has enjoyed serving in various ways at Muhlenberg; she has been a choir member for many years, and most recently, she served on the call committee for Pastor Alex. She was raised in the Baptist



church, but she fell in love with the Lutheran liturgy and music soon after she and Jon were married, 21 years ago, and they have been Lutherans ever since. They were moved by the caring, welcoming congregation and the outreach of Muhlenberg and have been active in several ministries. Jenny looks forward to service and fellowship at Muhlenberg for many years to come.

RUSSELL PRESNELL



My name is Russell Presnell and I was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. I graduated from James Madison University and except for two years spent abroad have called Harrisonburg my home since 2003. I became a member of Muhlenberg in 2006, where I faithfully sit in the back of the sanctuary.

I served as a congregational representative for Faith in Action and on its executive board for the past three years. I have also served on the Transportation Safety Board for the city of Harrisonburg and was the regional coordinator for the Virginia Industrial Hemp Coalition for three years. I am a small business owner and work in transportation and real estate.

Most proudly, I am the father of a wonderful two year old boy, Ansel. I enjoy college football and basketball (Go Gators), working in my garden, a sense of humor, my cat Stella, reading, bbq and getting out into nature. I look forward to serving Muhlenberg on Council.

SARAH SUNDE

Sarah Sunde serves as the Director of Orientation at James Madison University. A resident of Harrisonburg since 2005, she joined Muhlenberg in 2010 and has been on Council since 2016. Sarah has been an active participant in Lutheran congregations and with Christian outreach throughout her life. She grew up in South Dakota and attended college in Minnesota where she served on the Lutheran Campus Ministry board. While in Bowling Green, OH to complete her master's degree in College Student Personnel she worked with the youth group at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Sarah enjoys musical theatre and arts events, college sports (especially UVa and JMU), reading, traveling, baking, and is avid exerciser.

