



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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November 7, 2021

ALL SAINTS 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.

~see page 2 for a note from Pastor Lauren ~

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Today we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints of God who are living, and for saints still to come. We are especially thankful for the witness and works of those who have died in the faith as they modeled what it means to be both saint and sinner. Today we remember by name those who died in the past year. We look forward to sharing with them the life that is eternal.

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let
light perpetual shine upon them.*

SAAM SERVICE

Join us at 1:30 pm for SAAM (Sunday Afternoons at Muhlenberg), an outdoor worship service that takes place twice a month. As cooler weather sets in, we're planning to gather for this service in the yard behind the Ott Street house with a campfire. Join us today as we remember the saints, and welcome a new brother in Christ through Holy Baptism (*see details on page 2*).

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

EDEN LEWIS CREASY

Baptized, A New Child of God

Welcome Eden Lewis Creasy, son of Justin & Catherine Creasy, into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at this afternoon's SAAM service. Eden's sponsors are Deanna and Shawn Tiller. Welcome to the Lord's family, Eden!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (11/8), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PLAY

December 19

Save the date and plan to join us for our virtual Christmas play, *Do Not Be Afraid* by Illustrated Ministries! This will be an affair like last year with pre-recorded roles and the opportunity to view online.

Additionally, we will have an in-person, red-carpet event and a movie premiere for the play December 19. We look forward to a fun afternoon celebrating the hard work of our amazingly talented youth and adults.

All ages are welcome! If you would like to learn how your family can participate, please contact Ashley Saunders (434-3496 or saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org) by **NEXT Sunday, November 14.**

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

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

We will hold a **hybrid** Annual Meeting of the Congregation **Sunday, November 21, 9:45 am** during the Christian Formation hour (classes canceled that day). The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

The Purpose of the Meeting:

- + **Review and vote on the 2022 Spending Plan for Ministries**
- + **Elect Congregation Council Members**
- + **Elect one Trustee**
- + **Approve continued contract with Pastor Daniel**

Details about these agenda items will be available starting next Sunday in *The Chimes* and at the Connection Center, Connection Box and online.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

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.

More than 35 million tons of plastics were generated in the United States in 2017, which was more than 13% of the waste stream. Only 8.4% of plastics were recycled in 2017. Some types of plastics are recycled much more than others. Most community recycling programs accept some, but not all, types of plastics. Whenever possible, avoid single-use plastics and seek out alternatives. Our local recycling center located on Beery Road accepts only Poly(ethyleneterephthalate) 1 Pete, and high density (polyethylene) 2 Hope. These symbols are usually printed on the bottom of plastic bottles and containers.

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!](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

CLASS LOCATIONS

Pre-K – 5th Grade meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (building behind the church)

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

Grades 6 -12 ~ Campus Room

Devotional Classics Adult Class ~ Nielsen Room

Faith Lens Adult Class ~ Kairos Room

ABUNDANCE TASK FORCE

WHY I GIVE ~ *Conversations about giving and abundance*

As part of our Abundance Task Force's efforts to share the story of why members give to the ministries of Muhlenberg, Congregation Council President Karen Thomsen sat down with an emotional and insightful conversation with Muhlenberg member and volunteer, Kathy Thompson, to talk about the church and why she gives her time, talents, and treasure to Muhlenberg. See a recap of that conversation below!

Karen: Thanks for talking with me today, Kathy! So, let me ask, what first brought you to Muhlenberg?

Kathy: What drew me to Muhlenberg in 2005 was the outreach - what Muhlenberg was doing in the community, as well as in the church. That was so important to me, because I believe God wants us to be a church together and a community together. It's like if you have an individual coal from a fire - if it's away from the fire and the other coals, it will fizzle out and die. But, if it's within the fire and with the other coals, it burns - creating warmth and light and hopefulness. That's what we're doing as a church - living out our baptismal promises together. So, feeding that fire is giving to the church. If you're going to belong to a community, which I think is important, you have to support it. And that means giving our time, talent, and finances. We have to support our staff, maintain the church building, and so on - but the ministries (like Second Home, etc.) are the most important thing. I know I have benefitted from this church community - when I'm sick or hurt, you really feel that support, and so does the community.



Karen: I have to tell this story about community. I hope you realize how important *you* were at that point in my life when I was grieving the death of someone close to me. I came to your Sunday School class, and I was down and out that day. You gave me that Bible, and you and that class were the community I needed then. I felt like God's spirit was there and knew what I needed - and you were there for me.

Kathy: Thank you for sharing that, that's awesome! That spirit being there - that's how it feels when we all worship here together, I think.

Karen: As far as giving is concerned - I like being able to give and not have to pick what I'm giving to - whether it's the electric bill, Faith Formation, etc. God will figure out how to work with what I give.

Kathy: Yes! I give online and, as my income has decreased, my giving hasn't decreased. I still have enough, and I love the feeling of contributing. I mean, look at what we've been able to do over the past year! Like our online services, for example - they're so professional. And that's a result of gifts to the church, and the church deciding how to best use those finances.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

| | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|------|
| 10/24 | 8:30 Holy Communion..... | 55 |
| | 11:00 Holy Communion | 58 |
| | 11:00 Wellstream Worshipers..... | 49 |
| | Total Views this Week..... | 247 |
| | Hours Viewed this Week..... | 87.5 |
| | | |
| 10/31 | 8:30 Holy Communion..... | 74 |
| | 11:00 Holy Communion | 83 |
| | 11:00 Wellstream Worshipers..... | 54 |

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 | \$ 5,902.00 |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds | \$ 460.00 |
| Total Giving for the Week | \$ 6,362.00 |

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 8 - November 14

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm** Executive Committee Mtg.
- 7:00 pm** Ministries Night via [ZOOM](#)
- 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 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
- 8:30 am** Holy Communion in person
- 9:45 am** Christian Formation Classes
- 11:00 am** Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

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:*

depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM HOPE DISTRIBUTED...

Thank you so very much for both the baby blankets and the quilts. Please convey our gratitude to all those that put so much effort into the projects. They will be loved much by the recipients. Gratefully, Ellen.

Join our Comfort Makers
Thursday, 8:00 am – noon in Wayland Hall.