



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 13, 2022

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER THIS WINTER

As we move into the winter months, health experts are concerned that cases of COVID-19, the flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) could surge, causing a 'triple-demic.' In light of this possibility and as we continue to work to protect the most vulnerable among us, we encourage everyone to be fully vaccinated. If you haven't yet received a flu vaccine and/or a COVID booster, you can find a location and check appointment availability at vaccines.gov.

We also request that you stay home from school, work, or church if you are showing any symptoms of illness. Join our Wellstream worship on Sunday mornings if you're not feeling well. If you're planning to be at a meeting or class at church and you have symptoms of illness, please request a Zoom option. Much of our programming is already set up to be a "hybrid" experience so people can join in wherever they are, and meetings scheduled to be in person can often easily be moved online.

Masks are encouraged and welcomed all the time at Muhlenberg, and are requested if you've been exposed to COVID within the

previous five days. While we continue to share the peace in worship and greet one another in the Gathering Area, please don't feel obligated to shake hands or have any physical contact-- and please respect others who prefer to greet you from a distance.

Finally, as illness spreads and more of us choose to engage online, please continue to reach out to one another through phone calls, text messages, emails, and notes. It may take a few more minutes of effort, but it's worth it for us to stay connected to one another! And if you or someone you know from the congregation has a special care need, don't hesitate to reach out to your Area Shepherd or one of the pastors. Thank you for continuing to care for one another this winter!

DISPLAYING THE NAMES OF SAINTS

On the cross in the Gathering Area are the names of your loved ones and those who have shaped your faith. These saints (persons living or deceased) have enriched your spiritual life or the life of the church. The cross is on display through the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 27) as an opportunity for us to remember how our saints point us to the hope found in Jesus.

NOVEMBER: #MUHLENBERGTHANKS

The month of November is marked by many opportunities for giving thanks. From All Saints Day, to Veterans Day, to each Sunday we gather around the Lord's Table, and certainly to Thanksgiving Day itself, we have so many occasions to name all for which we are grateful. We're reminded in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”



In that spirit, we would like to be intentional about offering #MuhlenbergThanks throughout this month. If there is a fellow member you'd like to lift up and thank, we invite you to share your stories with our Pastors or Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) and watch for these stories on social media, in *The Chimes*, and on the bulletin board by the back red doors. On social media, use #**MuhlenbergThanks** as you give thanks for all who have blessed you. Follow us on Instagram (@MuhlenbergLC) or [Facebook](#) to see and share these stories from our community. May your hearts be full of THANKS this November!

DIGITAL MINISTRY

THANK YOU, VETERANS!



As part of our month of #MuhlenbergThanks and in recognition of Veterans' Day, we wish to give thanks for those in our congregation who served in the armed forces. This list may not include the names of all who served, but please accept our gratitude and let us know about your service so we can recognize you in the future.

Richard Davis, Army Medic

Mark Dotson, Army

Jeremy Fuller, Navy

Johnny Garber, Army

Larry Haaland, Army, 10th Army 32nd Air
Defense Special Operations Group

Patrick O'Brien, Air Force Guard

Tom Pettit

Eddie Rader, Jr.

Bob Roadcap, Air Force

Lannie Simmons, Air Force

Don Smith, Army

Tommy Thompson, Marines

Steve Wilfong, Air Force Medic
Services Specialist

Jeffrey Williams, Marines

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

PATCHWORK PANTRY

Muhlenberg donations to Patchwork Pantry totaled 100 pounds. Included in this total were 30 boxes of corn muffin mix and 24 containers of chicken broth which was a bit short of the 50 of each that the Pantry was hoping to be able to offer to families. If you can help with **more corn muffin mix and chicken broth, please contribute this Sunday** so that the families will have special Thanksgiving items that are not available from regular sources.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Lunch and Escape Room

Our high school youth are going to an escape room together **TODAY** at Escapism in Downtown Harrisonburg! Lunch will be served in the Campus Ministry Room immediately after 11:00 am 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!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

COMFORT MAKERS

Comfort-makers will take a break for the holidays (and wait for overdue batting to be delivered). We will meet again starting **Thursday, January 5, 2023.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ADVENT-URE SUNDAY

Sunday, December 4

Join us for a cozy lunch and Advent-themed art for all ages. There will also be Advent wreath making and an opportunity to learn about and make Chrismsons. You won't want to miss it! *See page 7 for more information.*



MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

Conventional silver polish contains harsh chemicals such as ammonia. There are natural alternatives to give a sparkle to your best silver for Thanksgiving dinner. To clean a few small pieces of silver, use a dab of white toothpaste. Rub it onto the silver for instant polish. If you have a lot of silver to polish, boil a few strips of aluminum foil and two tablespoons of baking soda in water. Add your silverware and let it sit for a few minutes to remove the tarnish.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, crucifers, sound techs, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center **for December and Christmas Eve.** Signing up really helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson (540-578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu)*. If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Sermons > Serve in Worship

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

It's that time of year again!!! Time to admire the leaves, then rake them into submission ... so many leaves!!! But also a time of thanksgiving and to join together as Muhlenberg's body of Christ to hear about what is planned for 2023. Your Pastors, staff, and Congregation Council have been hard at work planning and preparing for the new year. As you see in *The Chimes*, we will hold a hybrid Annual Meeting of the Congregation **November 20 at 9:45 am**. For details on how to participate, **including options to participate in person and via Zoom (online or by phone), see page 5.**

Sunday morning Christian Formation classes will be cancelled the morning of the 20th so that all may attend the meeting. We are hoping that those worshipping at the 8:30 service will stay and those worshipping at the 11:00 service will come a little bit earlier in order to participate. I look forward to our being together as we provide for new lay leadership and prepare for our ministry spending in 2023.

Thank you,

Greta, Congregation Council President

You are invited to a...

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 9:45 AM

You may attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom (online or by phone).

The Purpose of the Meeting:

- † **Review and vote on the 2023 Spending Plan***
- † **Elect two Congregation Council Members:** Nominees are Karen Thomsen and Russell Presnell (*see page 6 for bios*)

The Spending Plan is available today at the Connection Center, Connection Box, and online at

www.muhenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting

To request materials be mailed to you, call Parish Administrator Linda Depoy at 540-434-3496.

ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

Join us in the Sanctuary to attend the meeting in person.

ZOOM ONLINE ATTENDANCE

STEP 1: ZOOM DOWNLOAD / PHONE OPTION

First, download the Zoom app. Go to <https://zoom.us/download> and follow the prompts for installation. Visit the website highlighted on page 4 for a video tutorial about Zoom.

STEP 2: ATTENDING THE MEETING

Once Zoom is downloaded, you're ready to attend the meeting:

- The meeting is on Sunday, November 20 at 9:45 am. Please logon approx. 5 minutes before the meeting using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>
- Follow the prompts to run Zoom, and then wait for the meeting host to let you in. If, for some reason, Zoom doesn't open, you can always open Zoom manually, select "Join a meeting" and enter this 11-digit Meeting Code: **847 3141 6878**.
- Once you are admitted by the host, select "Join with computer audio"
- For this meeting, you may be separated into different "breakout rooms" (small groups) for member voting. This will happen automatically – there's nothing you need to do. Each breakout room will have a moderator. For voting, please follow the instructions of the moderator so votes can be accurately tallied. You will then be automatically sent back to the main meeting room.

STEP 3: ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- To assist moderators, edit your name on Zoom to include the names of all voting members in your home. Visit the website highlighted above for a video tutorial that includes instructions on name editing.
- Mute your audio (click on the "Mute" option) until you are asked to unmute for voting, etc.
- Make sure video is turned on so the host can see you and know you're still logged in.

ZOOM PHONE ATTENDANCE

If you can't download the app, you can always join by phone. Call the number below 5 minutes before the meeting and provide additional information as prompted:

1-929-205-6099 (Meeting ID: **847 3141 6878**)

QUESTIONS/MORE INFORMATION

- If you have questions about Zoom, please **contact Communication Minister Christian Perritt** at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org or **540-810-3996**.
- Visit our website at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting for meeting materials and additional information. To receive materials in print form, visit the Connection Center or Connection Box or contact Linda Depoy at 434-3496..

CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINEES

The bios below will help you learn more about the current slate of nominees who are running for their second term on Congregation Council:

KAREN THOMSEN



My name is Karen Thomsen and I live in Bridgewater with my husband Tom. We have three grown daughters and 7 grandchildren. I retired in 2018 after 39 years in education as both a teacher and administrator but continue to work part time when needed. I have been a member of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church for over 20 years. I am a member of the Local and Global Mission Ministry and enjoy the Faith Lens Sunday morning class as well as Wednesday morning Bible Study.

Outside of church I enjoy volunteering with several organizations, gardening, reading, and keeping up with the activities of my grandkids. I am constantly amazed at how the Holy Spirit is at work in my life and in the life of the church. I believe Muhlenberg is called to share God's Good News with each other and with our neighbors near and far. It would be a privilege to serve again on the Church Council.

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) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran)

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 currently serve as the Property Committee Council Liaison and part of Muhlenberg's mowing team. I am also Vice Chair of Second Home Learning Center and have served as the Council Liaison to Second Home for two years.

Previously I served as a congregational representative for Faith in Action and on its executive board. I have 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 five-year-old boy, Ansel. I enjoy college football and basketball (Go Gators), working in my garden, a sense of humor, reading, bbq and getting out into nature. I look forward to serving Muhlenberg on Council.

MUSIC MINISTRY

LET THE CHILDREN SING!

Cherub Choir and Tween/Teen Choir are back, rehearsing Sunday afternoons through December 18. **Both groups will sing in worship December 11 (11:00 service only) and Christmas Eve, 4:30 pm service.** Contact Elizabeth Williams for details.

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 Adult Class ~

Nielsen Room

Faith Lens High School & Adult Class ~

Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

TEACHERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are excited to report that we have had around 14 kids in our PreK-5th grade Christian Formation class. We've also had almost as many in the Nursery between the 2 services. Having that many kids on a regular basis is terrific, but it means that the Kids of Muhlenberg need YOU more than ever to spend time with them and show them the love of Jesus. Please contact Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org) to find out more.

CHRISMON MAKING

Chrismon is a combination of two words ... Christ & monogram... so a good definition is a holiday ornament symbolic of the Lord. On Advent-ure Sunday your family will have the opportunity to begin a family tradition of making a Chrismon to decorate your tree at home. They will be made from precut Styrofoam and then decorated by you with gold and white beads along with gold mesh, sequins, gold braid and glitter. We will have paper Chrismons for the children to make as well. Each year the symbol and its meaning will be presented. This year we will start with the cornerstone. In Ephesians 2:20, Christ refers to himself as the cornerstone.



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

OPEN DOORS

Muhlenberg will provide dinner for homeless guests at the Open Doors shelter **December 5-11**. In December, the shelter will be located at Massanetta Springs Conference Center (712 Massanetta Springs Road). Volunteers are needed to prepare food, delivered hot and ready to serve. Food will be dropped off at the conference center 6:15 - 6:30 pm. Four people are needed to serve the meal each night and should arrive 6:15 - 6:45. Volunteers in the shelter must be at least 18 years old. Families with younger children can get involved with food prep and may want to provide a grab and go snack or dessert to share! Click [HERE](#) to sign up. For more information or to arrange for help with food delivery, contact Susan Lawrence (lawrensj@comcast.net or 540-908-0073).

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

10/30	8:30 Holy Communion	61
	11:00 Holy Communion	90
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	29
	Total Views this Week	166
	Hours Viewed this Week	52.6
11/06	8:30 Holy Communion	53
	11:00 Holy Communion	90
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	38

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	\$ 10,486.06
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$,334.64
Total Giving	\$ 10,820.70

Nov. Thrivent Choice Dollars — \$8.00

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

November 14 – November 20, 2022

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Congregation Council 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
Sun		Christ the King Sunday
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Congregational Meeting
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube



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

*Wayne Engel
Jesse, Sarah, Emily, Will and Caroline Eppard
Joan Eye
Michael Eye
Tim and Stefanie Eye*

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)