



# 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 14, 2021**

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **WHAT'S THE BUZZ?**

### **ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS**



As we begin to close out one calendar year and begin planning for the next, it provides us the opportunity to prayerfully consider what we can pledge as

our financial gift to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church. This week we mailed a letter from Financial Secretary Gary Calleo and an Estimate of Giving card. Completed cards may be returned to the locked box at the Connection Center, the Connection BOX (outside the Gathering Area), or mailed to the church office to Gary's attention.

### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**November 21, 9:45 am**

Details about our Annual Meeting were mailed and emailed this week and are included on pages 3-4 . Please plan to join us!

## **TODAY AT MUHLENBERG**

### **TWEENS/TEENS CHOIR**

Our first in-person rehearsal was last Sunday, but it's not too late for anyone in grades 4 – 8 to join! We rehearse Sundays, 12:15 – 12:45. Currently we are practicing in the chancel area of the sanctuary (where the adult choir sits), and are masked during rehearsal. Our plan is to sing once in worship during the Advent season and also on Christmas Eve at the 4:30 pm service. If your child is interested in joining us this fall, please contact Elizabeth Williams at: [williams@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:williams@muhlenberglutheran.org).

## **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>

### **BACK TO PASTORS' BOOK CLUB**

Join us this Wednesday (11/17) at 6:30 pm for Pastors' Book Club to discuss *Baptized in Tear Gas*, by Elle Dowd using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82701657853?pwd=NWFhZVhVZGdEYlZ5dzRCSjNVQzIzOT09>

## 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](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)) **ASAP**.

### ADVENTURE SUNDAY

#### December 5, 12:30 in the MAC.

Save the date and plan to join us for a cookie exchange, and a walk through the scripture journey to Jesus' birth. You will receive materials to take home with activities to do weekly to prepare your hearts as a family for the arrival of Jesus. Watch *The Chimes* for details coming soon.

## 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](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net).*



Glass, especially food and beverage containers, can be recycled over and over again. In the United States in 2017, 11.4 million tons of glass were generated, 26.6 % of which were recovered for recycling. Making new glass from recycled glass is typically cheaper than using raw materials. Most community recycling programs accept different glass colors and types mixed together, and then the glass is sorted at the recovery facility. Check with your local program to see if you need to separate your glass or if it can be mixed together.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

### CLASS LOCATIONS

**Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (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

## HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Fall, with all of its splendor, is upon us! Living in the Valley we are certainly privileged to see God's handiwork up close as evidenced in the beautiful colors of the season. Fall is also the season of church planning and as you have seen in *The Chimes*, we will hold a hybrid Annual Meeting of the Congregation on **November 21 at 9:45 am**. Details on how to participate have been included in *The Chimes* and are on the reverse side of this letter, **including options to participate in person and via Zoom (online or by phone)**.

Sunday morning Christian Formation classes will be cancelled the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 2022.

Thank you,

*Karen Thomsen, Congregation Council President*

*You are invited to a...*

### HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 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 2022 Spending Plan**
- † **Elect four Congregation Council Members:** Nominees are Gus Kagey, Brad Moyers, Rachel Peters and Meg Wightman (*see bios on pages 5-6*)
- † **Elect one Trustee:** Nominee is Adam Copeland (*see bio on page 7*)
- † **Approve continued contract with Pastor Daniel Hess**

The Spending Plan and Council/Trustee bios are available at the Connection Center, Connection Box, and online at

[www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting).

To request materials be mailed to you, call Parish Administrator Linda Depoy at 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, as with any downloaded program. Visit the website highlighted above 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 21 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 will 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](mailto:perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) or **540-810-3996**.
- Visit our website at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting](http://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

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

### **GUS KAGEY**



My name is Gustavo Alvez Kagey. I am married to Roger Kagey who is also a member of Muhlenberg. I am originally from Uruguay and moved to America in September of 2000. I joined Muhlenberg in 2019.

My experience with leadership in the church started at an early age. When I was sixteen I helped with the Youth Ministry at my church. At the age of eighteen I was invited to help establish a church in a city of Brazil where 30% of the population was from Japan. When I went back to Uruguay I continued to help local Pastors. In 1984 the Mennonite Church opened a new church where I was invited to help build a youth group. I stayed for two years until May 1986 when the Brazilian church sent a new Missionary to reestablish the Assembly of God church in my city in Uruguay. Since I am fluent in the Portuguese language I helped this missionary and his family start the new church. In 1988 I was sent to Brazil to study at the Assembly of God Church Seminary for two years. There I received my Bachelor in Theology that helped me gain knowledge about church administration and how to grow a church. I want to share my experiences and advocate for the best future for Muhlenberg.

### **BRAD MOYERS**

I was born and raised in Woodstock, Virginia. My family attended Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market before we joined Emanuel Lutheran in Woodstock. After high school, I attended Bridgewater College and often attended the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren when Pastor Robert Alley presided. After several years in the working world delivering pizzas, substitute teaching and doing factory work, I decided to pursue a legal career. I graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1998.



I began my legal career began as a prosecutor, first in Buchanan County and then in Harrisonburg/Rockingham County. Clark & Bradshaw invited me to join its law firm in 2002 and I have been practicing law at the firm since that time.

I married my wife Amy in 1999. We live in Bridgewater with our two children, Abby and Ryan, as well as our family dog and cat. Abby is a freshman at Virginia Wesleyan and Ryan is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Wilbur Pence Middle School. We officially joined Muhlenberg around 2004.

I have enjoyed serving Muhlenberg in various capacities in the past. I have led and attended several adult Faith Formation classes, served on the Mutual Ministry and Pastoral Call committees, had nearly 100% attendance at potluck dinners and was a mediocre player on the Muhlenberg softball team back in the glory days of Muhlenberg softball. I am also currently serving the Virginia Synod as its attorney. I would be honored to serve on the church council if selected.

## **RACHEL PETERS**



I have attended Muhlenberg since my husband Chris and I moved to Harrisonburg in 2016. I am a music teacher at Ruckersville Elementary, a school within Greene County Public Schools, and hold a master's degree in Education Leadership. I often share my musical gifts as a member of the choir and frequently play my flute in worship. I am also the proud mom of Henry, born May 2021. I have always had a love of church and service, having served past congregations in both professional and lay positions in youth and music ministries. Actively involved in the greater ELCA, I have also attended four different Youth Gatherings as a youth participant and volunteer. I am excited

for this opportunity to serve on council as a way to utilize my leadership skills and share my passion for church and community. Muhlenberg has given so much to me and my family that I am looking forward to giving back in this new capacity.

*Rachel has served as Muhlenberg's Cherub Choir Director and in 2022 will begin doing that in a volunteer capacity.*

## **MEG WIGHTMAN**

My husband Bill and I have been members of Muhlenberg since 2010 when I left the pastorate at Community Mennonite Church at the end of my 10-year call there. Our family (including children Liam and Alice) came to Muhlenberg because I knew Pastors Joe and Dave well through the Interfaith Association and Lectionary Study Group, and it was on my "short list" of good, healthy local congregations to recommend to local church shoppers. Also, Muhlenberg "took in" the Day Care my children were part of when we were desperately looking for a new home.

Following the pastorate I went on to nursing school at UVA and have worked at UVA Medical Center, the HR Free Clinic as Clinical Director, and recently returned to UVA's Cancer Center in Fishersville as an Infusion Nurse. At Muhlenberg I have led a women's Bible study, helped in worship in a variety of ways, and served on the hospitality committee, mutual ministry team, call and personnel committees. Our children chose to be baptized during Easter Vigil several years ago, and Liam was later confirmed.

I have been actively involved in the "Devotional Classics" Adult Sunday School class for several years. I have also been part of an ecumenical local monthly spiritual direction group for over 20 years. I look forward to discerning with fellow council members what God is doing in our midst and how God is calling our congregation forward.



## TRUSTEE NOMINEE

### ADAM COPELAND



Adam Copeland grew up in Brazil and Alabama. He moved to Harrisonburg in 2009 to teach English to international students with Study Group North America. He currently works with the same company to recruit international students into 8 different US university partnerships, including JMU. He and Cathy were married in 2010 and placed membership at MLC that same year. They have two children, Latham (9) and Gwendolyn (6). Some of his highlights of service at MLC include being interim College Minister with Cathy, serving on a couple of call committees, and serving on the Vision 2015 Task Group.

## LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

### PATCHWORK PANTRY

100 pounds of food and supplies were delivered to Patchwork Pantry for those in need in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Thanks to all who donated! Food insecurity ...

- Affects almost 16% of the U.S. population
- Impacts over 9,000 people in the city of Harrisonburg
- Affects one in five children in Rockingham County
- Has been called America's "hidden crisis"

We will collect food and supplies again Sunday, December 5. As you shop for the holidays, you might pick up a can of fruit or vegetables so you will be ready!

## BRIDGE OF HOPE



Several Muhlenberg members attended Bridge of Hope's "Love Your Neighbor" event Saturday, November 6. Wanda Hamilton is the Chair of the Bridge of Hope's Board of Directors. Check out Bridge of Hope and all they do at <https://hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/>.

## SECOND HOME NEWS



As the holiday shopping season is approaching, I wanted to call your attention to an easy way to support Second Home Learning Center. We are now registered with AmazonSmile, where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) purchases to the charities selected by customers. All you need to do is to sign up on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and make the same purchases you would in [amazon.com](https://amazon.com). Choose Second Home Learning Center as the nonprofit agency you want to support and we will receive the donation automatically. You can also click on the following link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-2041550> to go directly to Second Home's donation page. Thank you for your continuing support.

*Krisztina Szekely, Executive Director*

## 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 [depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.*

✚ The Runion family would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards, visits, food, prayers and love during this difficult time of grief and sorrow. Thanks for everything.

## 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*

## ABUNDANCE TASK FORCE

### WHY I GIVE ~ *Conversations about giving and abundance*

*For our most recent "Why I Give" interview, Congregation Council President Karen Thomsen sat down with long-time Muhlenberg member and volunteer, Joe Grandstaff, to talk about why he gives his time, talents, and treasure to Muhlenberg. Here's a recap of their talk!*

**Karen:** Joe, thanks for chatting with me this morning! For starters, what is it you like about Muhlenberg, and what keeps you coming back?

**Joe:** Years ago, my wife and I were looking for a different place of worship. And it really didn't take too many visits to Muhlenberg. It was "open arms" - the pastors and the members of the church welcomed us. We were here for our first service, and people just came up and said "welcome, how are you doing?", etc. And I've been in the community for a long time and knew a lot of these people. So, it was a perfect fit for me and my wife - we found a home. There are a lot of great things going on with this church; it's very much a part of this community. It reaches out in so many ways with so many ministries - it helps out everybody and anybody.



**Karen:** Please talk a little but about why it's important to you to give to those ministries of Muhlenberg.

**Joe:** Like a lot things these days, you have to have *some* money to get things done. But there are ways you can give non-monetarily, too. Money is important to help support people who are down and out. But a big part of our economic base here are the universities - we've got four colleges or universities here, and we have outreach for that, too. So, we do everything from the local basis to worldwide. We're very much a community leader, and we're there to support the community in so many ways.

**Karen:** So, it sounds like giving to the outreach ministries it very important to you. But what about the other ways you give?

**Joe:** When I came here, I had already been on a number of boards - on local, state, and national levels. And I woke up one day and I had been voted on Council here somehow [*Joe and Karen laugh*]. I'm joking of course, but I had a skill set that could be used by the church. And I've learned a lot - me giving to the Council has benefitted *me* in so many ways. I've learned so much and gotten to know so many people here - and that makes me happy.

**Karen:** That's wonderful! Thank you so much for sharing, Joe!

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

10/31	8:30 Holy Communion .....	74
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	83
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	54
	Total Views this Week .....	280
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	90.7
11/7	8:30 Holy Communion .....	72
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	79
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	46
	1:30 SAAM Service.....	35

### 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
<b>Excess Income/</b>	<b>(\$69,779)</b>	<b>(\$39,199)</b>	<b>(\$18,796)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 8,483.76
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 6,708.00
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 15,191.76</b>

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 15 - November 21**

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Staff Meeting
- 6:30 pm** Congregation Council Mtg.
- 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
- 6:30 pm** Pastors Book Club  
via [ZOOM](#)
- Sun** Reign of Christ (Christ the King)
- 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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)  
 Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).

### SPECIAL DEADLINE FOR *THE CHIMES*

**Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline for the November 28 issue of *The Chimes* will be Monday, November 22 at 12 noon.** If you know of something you want included in that issue, you can send it to Linda Depoy anytime between now and November 22.