

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

Published Weekly by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church

281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

November 19, 2023

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At our November 13 Council meeting our Congregation Council discussed the following:

- Prepared for our upcoming Congregational Meeting (today)
- Discussed the request for, and the responsibilities and benefits of sponsoring a Cub Scout pack. (Look in upcoming issues of *The Chimes* for additional information and ways to possibly be involved.)

Peace be with you all,

Meg Wightman
Congregation Council President
mlccouncilpres@gmail.com



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

The church office will be closed **Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23** – **24** for the Thanksgiving holiday. Muhlenberg's staff wishes you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving!

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME, KRISTEE TRUMBO

This morning we welcome Kristee Trumbo as our guest preacher! Kristee was commissioned by the Virginia Synod as a Lay Preacher this summer following a yearlong course of study. Kristee is a familiar



face at Muhlenberg, having been a member for almost 30 years and serving in a variety of roles. Kristee is also a mother, Licensed Professional Counselor, photographer, and beach lover. Thank you, Kristee, for sharing the Word of God with us today!

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING

Join us in the Sanctuary at 9:45 for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. See pages 3-6.

PRAYERS FOR LOST & FOUND

We remember in our prayers today seven of our 7th and 8th grade youth and adult leaders who are representing Muhlenberg at the Virginia Synod's youth event *Lost & Found*, at Eagle Eyrie outside Lynchburg. Thanks to our adult leaders Jeremy Fuller and Pastor Alex for shepherding our youth this weekend!

Today's Worship Info

PRELUDE ~ Now Thank We All Our God (arr. Douglas Wagner)

OFFERING ~ Impressions (Louise Frier)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ~ Lamb of God,

Pure and Sinless (arr. Kathleen Wissinger)

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Kristee Trumbo

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Gus Kagey

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Mark Briehl

11:00 ~ Brad Moyers

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Wylie Walton

11:00 ~ Kathy Thompson

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Mark Byerly

USHERS

8:30 ~ David & Susan Lawrence

11:00 ~ Melissa, Billy and Henry Perritt

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Gus Kagey, Mark Briehl, Bill & Crystl Whitmire

11:00 ~ Brad Moyers, Cheryl Hoak, Greta Willis, John Mulder

MUSICIANS

Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister
Judith Ofcarcik, Organist
Gloria Dei Ringers; Director ~ Kath Wissinger

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

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

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

Grades 6 - 8 ~ *Augsburg Room*

High School ~ Campus Room

Faithful Families ~ *Gathering Area*

40-Day Journey Adult Class ~ *Nielsen Room*

Faith Lens Adult Class ~ Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link: HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICES

Practices for our Christmas Pageant have begun and will continue Sundays through December 10 at 9:45 am (Faith Formation hour). The pageant this year, A Very Mixed Up Christmas by Gwenne Watkins, has singing and speaking roles



and opportunities for participants of all ages!

We are excited to announce the Christmas pageant will be in person this year! So mark your calendar now for **Sunday**, **December 17** at 9:45 am in the MAC.

Please email Children's Minister Ashley Saunders at <u>saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org</u> with any questions you may have.

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be TODAY (11/19) at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary. I hope all voting members will make every effort to attend in person or by Zoom (non-members are very welcome to attend, but are unable to vote). Adult, Middle School, and High School Sunday School classes will be canceled this morning, while Pre-K through 5th grade classes WILL happen as scheduled and the nursery will be staffed to enable all voting members to participate.

At this meeting we will review and approve the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan, elect new council members and a trustee, and vote on proposed revisions to our congregation's Constitution. Please review the materials provided at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting (or pick up a hard copy at church) and don't hesitate to reach out to me, Treasurer Sarah Sunde, or the Constitution Task Force members (Cathy Copeland, Brad Moyers, and Pastor Lauren Eanes) with any questions you may have.

As you review the Constitution, you'll see that a quorum of at least 50 voting members is required for a congregational vote to occur. But we hope *everyone* will plan to attend this gathering to participate in the life of our community here at Muhlenberg!

Peace be with you,

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President

You are invited to a...

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION TODAY (11/19) 9:45 AM

You may attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom (online or by phone). See page 5 for Zoom instructions.

The Purpose of the Meeting:

- **†** Review and vote on the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan*
- **†** Elect four Congregation Council Members and one Trustee: Council nominees are Cathy Copland, Jacob Dunlap, Sarah Orem, and Kristee Trumbo. The Trustee Nominee is Diane Walton. (see pages 6 7 for bios)
- **†** Vote on proposed revisions to our Constitution*

*The proposed Spending Plan and Constitutional revisions are available today at the Connection Center, Connection Box, and online at

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting

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

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 <u>TODAY (11/19) at 9:45 am</u>. Please logon up to 10 minutes before the meeting using the "Sunday Mornings at Muhlenberg" Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878
- Follow the prompts to <u>run Zoom</u>, and then wait for the meeting host to let you in. If for some reason Zoom doesn't open, you can always <u>open Zoom manually</u>, 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 voting, please follow the instructions of the moderator so votes can be accurately tallied.

STEP 3: ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- To assist moderators, <u>edit your name</u> on Zoom to include the names of all voting members in your home.
- Mute your audio (click on the "Mute" option) until you are asked to unmute.
- 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 <u>perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org</u> 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 AND TRUSTEE NOMINEES

The bios below will help you learn more about the current slate of nominees for Congregation Council and Trustee.

CATHY COPELAND, COUNCIL NOMINEE



I have appreciated serving on Council for the past three years. As part of my work on Council, I served as one of Muhlenberg's Faith in Action (now Valley Interfaith Alliance)

representatives from 2020-2022. This year, I led the Constitutional Task Force as we worked to align Muhlenberg's Constitution with the ELCA's required and recommended modifications.

I moved to Harrisonburg in 2010, after growing up in Indiana and living in Maryland and Alabama. My husband, Adam, and I became members of Muhlenberg in August 2011, and both of our children — Latham (11) and Gwendolyn (8) — have been baptized here and are actively connected to Muhlenberg's youth programs.

I work as the director of the American Democracy Project at the American of State Colleges Association and Universities, a nonpartisan and non-profit encourages organization that college students, faculty, and staff to be civically engaged with their community. My family and I love Harrisonburg, and we appreciate our Muhlenberg family. I'm honored to be nominated to serve for a final three years on Council.

JACOB DUNLAP, COUNCIL NOMINEE

I've been attending Muhlenberg since summer 2022. Prior to my membership here, I previously attended Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Bergton, VA and Our Savior Lutheran Church in



Johnson City, TN. With my experience including small churches, big churches, the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission, and the Lutheran Student Movement, I am looking to apply those experiences to benefit Muhlenberg and become further involved in the local church community.

SARAH OREM, COUNCIL NOMINEE



Professionally, I serve currently as the Outreach and Advocacy Manager for Any Given Child Shenandoah Valley, focusing on equitable arts access for K-8 students in Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County

Public Schools. I am a dedicated leader and passionate professional with a range of experience in higher education, fundraising, and non-profit leadership.

SARAH OREM, COUNCIL NOMINEE (CONT'D)

I graduated from JMU with a B.A. in Communication Studies and earned my M.A. from Bowling Green State University in College Student Personnel. In my free time, I enjoy baking, reading, running, home design, yoga, and traveling.

As new members, my husband Chris, sons Landon and Isaac, and I are grateful for the genuine warmth and welcome we've received from the Muhlenberg community. In choosing a church home, it was important for our family to find a place with strong music and children's investment programs, community outreach and service, and an authentic congregation and staff who lead with grace; we have found all this and more in our short time at Muhlenberg! I'm honored to answer a call to leadership at Muhlenberg, plugging in a bit more to help serve our congregation and community and grow in faith together.

KRISTEE TRUMBO, COUNCIL NOMINEE



Kristee is a long-time Muhlenberg member, and despite her many moves and relocations she has never transferred her church membership. This community of believers has been the foundation

for supporting her faith and spiritual growth. In June of this year, Kristee was commissioned as a Lay Preacher within the Virginia Synod.

Returning to the Valley and worshipping in person, Kristee is excited to be involved in the many facets of community belonging, outreach, and supporting the health and growth of the church. We are a family receiving the Grace of Jesus. Together we have adventures and experiences to take us anywhere we want to go.

DIANE WALTON, TRUSTEE NOMINEE

Diane has been a member since 2007. In addition to serving as a Trustee, she volunteers as an Office Assistant, helps prepare the Pastoral Acts annual report and assists



with updating the Parish Register. Diane is also a member of the Gloria Dei Ringers. She and her husband Wylie live in the Broadway-Timberville area. They enjoy music, reading and traveling.

Visit our website for complete details about the Annual Meeting of the Congregation:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/ congregationalmeeting

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY No Meeting This Week

Bible study is cancelled this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday, but join Pastor Lauren **Wednesday, November 29** for Bible study via **ZOOM**: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556 Or by phone ...DIAL IN — **301-715-8592** and enter Meeting ID / Passcode: **200491556**#

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY No Meeting This Week

We will not meet this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday, but join us for dinner **Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00 pm** here in the Campus Room (downstairs). For more information, contact Pastor Alex (540-309-2414 or zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org).

COMFORT MAKERS ON HIATUS

Comfort makers are on hiatus until next year. Mark your calendars to join them in Wayland Hall **January 4, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon**. For more information, contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085).

LINDA DEPOY ON VACATION

Parish Administrator Linda Depoy will be taking vacation, part II through December 1. Administrative Assistant Liz Engleking will cover priorities in her absence, so please be patient as she is part time and may not be able to respond as quickly. Reminder: the church office is staffed 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON

Staff is busy preparing for a full Advent and Christmas season of worship, devotions, reflection and fellowship. Please watch for a newsletter with details coming to you soon.



ADVENT-URE SUNDAY Sunday, December 3, 9:30 – 11:30 am



Join us for a cozy brunch and Advent-themed art for all ages. There will also be Advent wreath making and an opportunity to learn about and make Chrismons.

If you have greenery we can use for wreath making, please plan to drop it off at the church Friday, December 1 or Sunday, December 3 before 9:30. For planning purposes, email Ashley Saunders if you can donate greenery (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).

CONFIRMATION CORNER

Confirmation isn't just for middle schoolers! All the baptized who have been confirmed are called to grow in faith and affirm God's promises in their life. You can support the hard work of our middle school students by reflecting on these Confirmation Corner thoughts each week. Here's a confirmation prompt for this week:

The books of Proverbs, Psalms, Job, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes are considered to be part of "The Wisdom Literature" of the Bible? What wisdom have these texts offered to you in your faith journey?

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CHURCH ENTRY SYSTEM PIN Number Request Forms Available



Have a key to the church and need continued access to the building? Wondering about that keypad that has been installed on one of the Gathering Area doors? Here's the full story ...

The keypad entry system on one of the east side Gathering Area doors has multiple purposes and phases of installation:

- Phase 1 ~ Install the keypad on an outside door of the Gathering Area and desk stations in two offices to safely and efficiently allow visitors to enter the building during the workday. This phase has been completed and works very well to protect the children, staff and others in the building, and brings Muhlenberg in line with safety measures that have been adopted by local churches for several years.
- Phase 2 ~ Issue PIN numbers to our staff and members who routinely need access to the church building to live out their ministry. This also eliminates the cost of issuing keys.
- Phase 3 ~ Rekey all outside doors of the church building to maximize security.

Currently we are in Phase 2 of our installation. We will accept applications so those who need routine access to the church building can request their preferred 4-digit number. Our security company suggests you ask for numbers easy to remember: the last four digits of your SSN, your mother's/father's birth month/day, the last four digits of your phone number when

you were growing up, etc. The application also asks for a second choice in case your first choice is already taken.

Applications are available at the Connection Center through Sunday, December 3. Place your completed application in the wooden lock box (also at the Connection Center), which will be emptied weekly. In the following weeks, applications will be reviewed/approved and PIN numbers will be assigned.

Two Sundays will be designated for you to pick up your approved PIN number and turn in your key (if you have one). Watch *The Chimes* for more information.

Have a key to the church you no longer need? You may return it to the locked box at the Connection Center through December 3 or the mail slot in the Church Office door at any time.

If you have questions, please contact me (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or Sexton Jeff Williams (sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org) or call us at the church office (540-434-3496).

Linda Depoy, Parish Administrator

MUSIC MINISTER SEARCH UPDATE

Our music minister search team is up and running! The job has been posted and applications are being received. If you know someone who'd be a great fit for this position, please have them check out muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs.

If you have questions about the search process, feel free to reach out to any member of the Search Committee: Greta Willis (chair), Dave Barnes, Judith Ofcarcik, Kevin Stees, Alice Wightman, and Pastor Lauren.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY UPDATE!



First, we thank you again for your role in updating our Community Directory. We've had literally hundreds of individuals and families update their information and photos!

Second, we want to give an update on where we are with this important project. We are in the process of making sure all updated info and images are uploaded correctly to our directory service. We are targeting this month to release our first draft of the new directory online, and then we will ask you to double-check your information. After that proofing step is taken, we will proceed with finalizing the online version of the directory, as well as mobile app and printed versions. The end result will be a more data-safe directory available in three formats: online, app, and in print. Thank you again for your help and understanding throughout this process! If you have any questions, contact Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

DISPLAYING THE NAMES OF SAINTS

The names of loved ones and those who have shaped our faith will continue to be on display in the Gathering Area throughout November. May this display serve as an opportunity for us to



remember how our saints point us to the hope found in Jesus.

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.

Music Ministry

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choirs are open to all, even if you haven't participated in the past. If interested, contact Interim Music Minister Linlin Uta for more (uta@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

Adult Choirs

Celebration Singers ~ Tuesdays, 6:00 pm **Sanctuary Choir** ~ Wednesdays, 6:00 pm

Handbell Choir

Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Tuesdays, 7:00 pm Led by Handbell Director Kath Wissinger. Rehearsals take place in the Sanctuary.

Youth Ensemble Rehearsals

Sundays, 12:15 pm. The ensemble is led by Linlin Uta and meets in the Sanctuary. They will present musical offerings in worship on December 10 & Christmas Eve.

Cherub Choir Rehearsals

Sundays, 12:15 pm. Children ages 4 - 2nd grade are invited to join Rachel Peters in the Choir Room! Cherubs will sing in worship December 10 and Christmas Eve. Email Rachel (rgpeters9@gmail.com) with any questions!

LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

COMMUNITY THANKFULNESS EVENT Tomorrow (11/20), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

The Interfaith Association of Harrisonburg-Rockingham is hosting a cultural celebration of unity in our community at Asbury United Methodist Church (205 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg) TOMORROW (11/20), 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Coming together with thankfulness for the Interfaith relationships in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham participating community. groups individuals will offer a five-minute artistic presentation consisting of music, dance, or some other cultural representation. The event is free to the public with an opportunity to donate/contribute to the Interfaith Association of H-R on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary.

Asbury UMC is wheelchair accessible. Additional information available at IFAofHR@gmail.com.

4TH ANNUAL GREEN FRIDAY Friday, November 24, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Earth Day Every Day would like to invite you to our 4th Annual Green Friday!

Tired of the chaotic consumerism brought on by Black Friday deals? Instead of shopping on Black Friday why not give back to the community by joining Green Friday! Earth Day Every Day's 4th Annual Green Friday will be **Friday, November 24, 1:00 – 3:00 pm** in Downtown Harrisonburg. It's a **downtown/Blacks Run trash clean-up event**, community-based and family-friendly.

We will be set up in the Ice House roundabout outside Pale Fire Brewery, 217 N. Liberty St. We will provide trash bags, grabbers, and

guidance on where to go. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather, wear proper footwear and protective gloves, and don't forget to bring water! If you don't have gloves, we can provide them at the information booth.

Help Harrisonburg and the Earth by pitching in and tossing the trash! For more details, check out the Facebook event page: https://fb.me/e/3f6pnX1PZ.

Every day is Earth Day when you live for the planet!



COAT DRIVE

Our friends at Church World Service (CWS) are holding a coat drive for the next several weeks. For many refugees, this will be the first winter they experience, and they are unprepared for the cold weather. Our support will greatly lessen the impact and stress for our newly arrived neighbors. CWS is hoping to end the drive and distribute the coats the first week of December. Please bring new or gently used coats to the church and place in the donation bin by Sunday, December 3. Any financial would contributions also be greatly appreciated. Here are the ways you can donate:

- Online at https://cwsharrisonburg.org/donate
- In person at 250 E Elizabeth St Suite 102

CONNECTION CORNER

To help share information from our social media with those who don't have access or may have missed it, we are including recent posts in The Chimes. Posts may come from Muhlenberg's <u>Facebook</u> or <u>Instagram</u> pages.

YOUTH LOCK-IN WAS A BLAST!

Our high school youth had a great weekend of fun and fellowship last Saturday, enjoying food, board games, movies, and classic lock-in games throughout the evening at Muhlenberg. We're already excited for our next chance to do this. In the meantime, we are counting down the days to *Winter Celebration* (Feb. 2 - 4, 2024) with youth from all across Virginia! Enjoy these fun moments from our time together.





TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent inperson and online viewership:

5 8:30 Holy Communion	77
11:00 Holy Communion	92
Total Views this Week	
Hours Viewed this Week	63.4
2 8:30 Holy Communion	78
11:00 Holy Communion	93
11:00 Wellstream Worshippers	
	11:00 Holy Communion

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

We see an increase in gifts and offerings compared to this time last year. I am hopeful this continues through the end of the year. Expenses are slightly down compared to where we expected them to be. I am hopeful gifts and offerings will continue the upward trend so that we can end the year balanced.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 2023			
	2023 YTD	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$454,353	\$528,333	\$423,392
Total Income	\$620,115	\$686,480	\$542,676
Total Expenses	\$668,716	\$688,392	\$529,576
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(48,601)	\$(1,912)	\$13,100

Giving in support of our Spending Plan
Giving to Other Designated Funds

Total Giving

\$ 12,043.38
\$ 670.00
\$ 12,713.38

To give online, scan here



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

November 20 - 26, 2023

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

Tues 6:00 pm Celebration Singers Rehearsal

7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers

Wed 6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thurs and Fri Thanksgiving Holidays Church Office closed

Sun Christ the King Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion in person

9:45 am Faith Formation

9:45 am Christmas Pageant Practice 11:00 am Holy Communion in person &

Livestreamed via Facebook

and **YouTube**

12:15 pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal 12:15 pm Youth Ensemble Rehearsal



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

Sandy Brzozowski

Jeremy, Sarah and Mila Bundy Wes, Ashley, Adrienne, Andrew, and Daniel Burgoyne

> Amy Burke Erin Burke

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 depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org