



Equipping All People to Live Out Christ's Love

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Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org

June 30, 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR SERIES



From way back in Isaiah 9, the Messiah is proclaimed to be a “Wonderful Counselor,” but even Jesus knows that He’s not trying to replace

the valuable work of mental health professionals! Mental health can be such a tricky subject to discuss, and even more so in the life of the church. Where is God in the midst of a mental health crisis? Does my depression mean that I lack faith and self-control? Am I a bad Christian if I go to therapy?

We’ll explore these questions and more throughout our *Wonderful Counselor* series, and create space to reflect deeply as a community on how we understand mental health and build a culture that promotes healing and understanding within our community. Our four-week lectionary will approach the following themes:

- **Week 1 (6/23): Romans 8:5-11, 26-28; Set Your Minds on Things of the Spirit** This foundational conversation for the series explores how mental

health is about more than “self-control,” even as we discuss that as a facet of faith. God's grace and spirit intervene, sometimes in the form of mental health professionals.

- **Week 2 (TODAY, 6/30): Psalm 139:7-14; More than Diagnoses... Fearfully and Wonderfully Made** What if we framed conversations around mental health by seeing people as beloved children of God before seeing them as a condition?
- **Week 3 (7/7): Psalm 23; The Darkest Valley** We discuss depression, anxiety, despair, and disorder in light of a God who comforts and does not abandon.
- **Week 4 (7/14): Luke 8:26-39; Return to Your Home** Our concluding conversation explores the role of community in caring for one another through the ups and downs of mental health, and how we as a church might embody that care.

Jesus is a Wonderful Counselor, but He's not a licensed therapist... Join us for a series exploring the intersections of faith in Christ, the blessing of a compassionate community, and the reality of mental health.

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

PRELUDE

The Peace May be Exchanged from Rubrics
Dan Locklair (b. 1949)

OFFERING ~ *Red Wing* Kerry Mills / Trent Wagler

COMMUNION ~ *Be Thou My Vision*
Slane / Irish Traditional

POSTLUDE ~ *Toccatà all'Offertorio*
Domenico Zipoli (1688 – 1726)

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Alex Zuber

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Mark Briehl

11:00 ~ Nathan Leopard

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Gus Kagey

11:00 ~ Sue Koch

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Gus & Roger Kagey,
Mark & Pam Briehl

11:00 ~ Sue Koch, Nathan Leopard,
Greta Willis, John Mulder

USHERS

8:30 ~ Tony & Sandy Randolph

11:00 ~ The Perritt Family

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Mark Byerly

MUSICIANS

Matthew O. Thomas, Organist
Billy, Henry and Christian Perritt

Pastor Lauren is serving as supply pastor at Grace Lutheran, Waynesboro this morning, as their pastor is on vacation and their scheduled supply pastor had an unexpected emergency. You'll see her before the 8:30 service and after the 11:00 service here, but in between she'll be with the good folks of Grace.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR RESOURCE FOR WEEK 2: ELCA SOCIAL MESSAGE

Each week of our series, we'll offer resources and opportunities for deeper engagement with our themes. As we consider what it means to be *More than Diagnoses... Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, we are encouraged to see people as beloved children of God

rather than seeing them only as a condition. For deeper reflection on this topic from a faithful perspective, we encourage you to check out "*The Body of Christ and Mental Illness*", an ELCA Social Message from 2012 that seeks to raise awareness of the challenges of mental illness, offer reflection and direction, and inspire action. This social message notes how mental illness makes the most basic aspects of everyday life daunting and sketches some of the challenges. These include the challenges to human dignity and difficulties in gaining access to treatment, problems that worsen existing social inequalities and lapses in the U.S. healthcare system.

The message puts to rest the notion that mental illness is an indicator of special sin in the family or the person suffering from it. It emphasizes the church's role in encouraging companionship and healing via restoration of relationships, heeding Galatians 6:2. What people with mental illness most need is time to pursue and engage in treatment and to maintain or create relationships where they can exercise their abilities. Throughout the many forms of



Social Message, 2012



ministry the church provides, the church is called to confront practices that do not uphold human dignity and to offer hope and companionship, and attend to its own practices around health, its public voice, and the sensitive and thoughtful preparation of church leaders. You can read or download the full social message on "[The Body of Christ and Mental Illness](#)" on the ELCA website using the QR code.



GIFTED TO SERVE/ GIFTED TO SHARE

As we wrap up our *Gifted* series, you're encouraged to continue to explore spiritual and financial gifts! The G.I.F.T. Inventory helps us consider how we've been gifted with abilities, talents, experiences, and passion, and how God may be calling us to make use of those gifts. The Annual Fund Intent Card is a tangible way to commit to generosity that sustains ministry excellence at Muhlenberg.

Visit muhlenberglutheran.org/gifts for much more information, as well as the opportunity to submit both forms online. Paper copies of the G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Inventory and the Annual Fund Intent Card can also be found at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area. **Please submit both by TODAY (6/30)!**

MISSION ENDOWMENT GRANTS

Congregation Council is seeking proposals for 2024 Mission Endowment Grants focused on *ministry revitalization*. Do you have a big idea to try something new at Muhlenberg? Or maybe a small idea that will make it easier for more people to serve in a ministry? Perhaps you have an idea for how our congregation could do outreach to the community, and just need some seed money to make that idea a reality. If so, the Mission Endowment Grant is for you!

Applications are available at the Connection Center or muhlenberglutheran.org/gifts and are **due TODAY (6/30)**. Submit a paper copy, or fill out the online form linked on the application. We have \$25,000 that can be provided in grants, so dream big and apply today!

Questions? Contact a member of the Mission Endowment Grant team: Sarah Orem (oremse@gmail.com or 540-578-1717), Kristee Trumbo (kristeejo13@gmail.com or 540-246-1461), or Cathy Copeland (catherineblouse@gmail.com or 317-670-1086).

PATCHWORK PANTRY

Donations collected through June 23 totaled ...

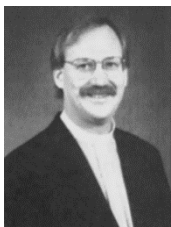
22 jars of **mayonnaise**
36 bottles of **mustard**
35 bottles of **ketchup**
11 bottles of **relish**.



Our goal is to offer these seasonal condiments to each family during Patchwork Pantry's July 10 distribution. The condiment collection bin will be in the Gathering Area **through NEXT Sunday, July 7**.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR CHELL



Today we remember the ministry of Pastor Robert W. Chell, who was Campus Pastor for Muhlenberg 1987 - 1993. Some of you may have had the pleasure to greet Bob and his family when they worshipped

with us in May 2022 while on vacation. Although he couldn't be with us this summer, Pastor Chell, who lives in South Dakota, sent a delightful letter in response to our invitation. Here is an excerpt from his response:

“As I read your letter so many warm memories came flooding back, both of congregation members and the colleagues and staff I was privileged to work with. We were so glad to visit in May 2022 and remember the warm hospitality with which you greeted us then.

I served South Dakota State University for 20 years after leaving Muhlenberg and concluded my ministry at St. Dysmas, a Lutheran congregation behind the walls of SD State Penitentiary. In retirement I've served as a mentor to rural pastors and do home visits for a large congregation here in Sioux Falls.

... Let the Apostle Paul's greeting in his letter to the Philippians be my heartfelt conclusion to this brief letter. 'I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.'

Carole and I cherish our warm memories of our years with you. May God continue to bless your vibrant congregation.”

Pastor Chell's complete letter is available for you to read today in the Gathering Area.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

At our June 17 Congregation Council meeting, our Council ...

1. Affirmed the work of the Endowment Committee and deliberated the Committee's suggested changes to the Endowment Fund Guidelines;
2. Assigned a subcommittee to explore options for policy, procedure, and meeting note storage to provide continuity for those serving in leadership in the future;
3. Considered updated building usage and fee agreements for Day Care and Second Home;
4. Heard updates and identified upcoming tasks regarding the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan, the development of a Cub Scout Troop at Muhlenberg, the exploratory work being done around future capital improvements, and the search for a new Administrative Assistant.

Peace be with us all,

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President
mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

4TH /5TH OF JULY – OFFICE CLOSED

The staff wishes you a happy and safe Independence Day celebration! The church office is closed Thursday and Friday in recognition of the holiday weekend.



If you have an immediate need, Pastor Lauren will be available by cell.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

THURSDAY MEN'S GROUP

Thursday, July 4, 9:00 am

All are welcome to our monthly men's group which meets the **first Thursday of each month** at Mr. J's Bagels (1731 S. High St.), 9:00 am for fellowship and Bible study. For more information, contact Mark Warner (mjwcarpediem@gmail.com) or Dave Barnes (barnesda09@gmail.com). (Yes, this dedicated group is meeting on July 4th!)

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP

Saturday, July 6, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you basic stitches! If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone, contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MULE 'N BERGERS WITH CHEESE KICKBALL TEAM

Mule 'N Bergers with Cheese coed adult kickball is coming back this fall with pre-season practice this summer! Games will be played August 6 – October 8 on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings starting at 6:00, 7:00 or 8:00 pm at Ramblewood Park.

Coach RW Carneal will meet all those interested at our **practice Saturday, July 13, 6:00 pm** at Ramblewood Park's lower field.

Manager Meg Wightman is filling out our roster and ordering more team t-shirts. Please let her know asap if you plan to play and if you need a t-shirt (megwightman14@gmail.com). (Donations to reimburse Meg for \$200 registration fee and t-shirt printing are much appreciated.)

CHRISTMAS IN JULY COOKOUT

Thursday, July 25, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Mark your calendar for an evening of fun and celebration this summer with your Muhlenberg family! The gift of the Incarnation is not just

something for one cold, dark week in December. We'll celebrate Christmas in July with a community cookout Thursday, July 25, 5:30 - 8:00 pm! Look for more details in *The Chimes* soon.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

WELCOME MATT THOMAS!



Last Sunday we welcomed our new Music Minister, Matt Thomas! Matt's first day was Monday, June 17. He moved here from the Berkshires in western Massachusetts and is settling into his new place here in Harrisonburg. He's a southerner at heart though, after spending his childhood in Tennessee. Matt brings education and experience in piano and organ performance, musical theater, music composition, choral directing, and church music ministry. He's also full of energy and creativity, and we are thrilled to have him join our community. If you'd like to send your greetings, feel free to email him at thomas@muhlenberglutheran.org.

UPDATING *THE CHIMES*

This summer, our staff is engaging in conversations about updating and renewing our approach to *The Chimes* you receive each week. (You'll notice a new banner on page 1 that reflects this work already!) This means of communication has served our community well for nearly 60 years, but we know we can always do more to ensure information and celebrations are shared more efficiently among our Muhlenberg community.

If you have thoughts about *The Chimes* and what is important to you, what you look for each week, or what could be done better, we welcome your feedback! Please send your thoughts to info@muhlenberglutheran.org by **July 8**.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

We are seeking an Administrative Assistant to provide effective and efficient support for designated areas of Muhlenberg's ministry of administration, including database management, record-keeping, assisting with parish communications, and serving as our Building Use Coordinator. This position will normally be 4 - 5 hours a day, Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the position description and application instructions by visiting:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs.

Please lift up our search in your prayers. For details, questions, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org).

SUPPORT GROUP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AT MUHLENBERG!

Here's a message from one of our support groups ...

The Harrisonburg Fellowship Group of Alcoholics Anonymous is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this month and would like to thank Muhlenberg Lutheran Church for five decades of support. The group formed June 3, 1974, breaking off from another Harrisonburg AA group. They met at Muhlenberg which continues to graciously provide meeting space.

At one time, it was the largest attended AA meeting in Harrisonburg and still meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 in the Augsburg Room. Meetings are open to visitors.

AA is a fellowship of people who work together to stay sober and carry their message to other alcoholics. They are self-supporting and do not accept outside contributions.

Harrisonburg Fellowship Group

We are grateful for this group's 50 years. It is one of seven recovery/support groups offered throughout the week at Muhlenberg. We embrace being able to share and utilize our space for ministry in seen and unseen ways. We also appreciate these partnerships with groups that serve our wider community.

CREATION CARE

Make a few eco-friendly changes to keep mosquitoes at bay. You don't need a bug zapper or harsh chemicals to control mosquitoes. Standing water in your yard is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Drill holes in the bottom of your plant pots, recycling bins, and trashcans. Be sure to replace the water in birdbaths, water fountains, and pet bowls regularly to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.



LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH

LEMONADE STAND SUNDAY Sunday, July 14



Lemonade, Lemonade, get your ice-cold lemonade! That's right, a lemonade stand will be set up in the Gathering Area between services July 14.

Lemonade Stand Sunday is part of an information and awareness campaign for what we hope will be a new neighboring agency that meets the needs of children entering Foster Care. Isaiah 117 House wants to change the way foster care begins by reducing the trauma for children as they await placement. Stop by our lemonade stand Sunday, July 14 and learn more about the mission of Isaiah 117 House.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

OPERATION RESTORATION August 5 – 9, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Operation Restoration is fast approaching. We are still in need of adult volunteers to make every part of this week successful. If you have a gift you would like to share, there is a place for you.



Parents, don't forget to sign up your kids for Operation Restoration!



Volunteer
Code

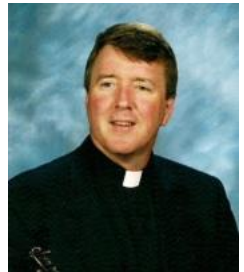


Registration
Code

A THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Siblings in Christ, at Muhlenberg,

Debra and I are still reminiscing and giving thanks for our visit to Muhlenberg at 175!



To worship with all of you, to share Holy Communion and see all of your faces after so many years, was to be in the Spirit and presence of God. We were so touched by your kind welcome and were blessed to have many holy conversations, laughter and good memories about our growth together in life and faith. It was fun to tell stories, most of which were true, some hilarious, heartfelt and blessed about our life together during those years from 1997 - 2008. Our family will never forget the way the Muhlenberg family grew up into Christ during those years, fulfilled God's mission and blessed our family as well. Many Thanks to Pastors Lauren and Alex, Mark Byerly, Linda Depoy and the Anniversary Committee for the invitation!

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:3-5)

May the Peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor Joe and Debra Vought

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

6/16	8:30 Holy Communion	53
	11:00 Holy Communion	68
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	31
	Total Views this Week	n/a*
	Hours Viewed this Week	n/a*
6/23	8:30 Holy Communion	76
	11:00 Holy Communion	79
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	n/a*

*Wellstream statistics were not available this week due to technical issues. See next week's issue of *The Chimes* for updated viewership statistics.

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Compared to May 2023, gifts and offerings are up slightly and expenses are down slightly. This is a great sign! Thank you for your generosity and willingness to support the ministry programs.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through May 2024

	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$210,192	\$314,583	\$205,296
Total Income	\$263,290	\$368,657	\$317,099
Total Expenses	\$314,893	\$371,875	\$319,315
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(51,603)	\$(3,218)	\$(2,216)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 10,087.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 645.00
Total Giving	\$ 10,732.50

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 1 - 7, 2024

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

Mon	Second Home Summer School begins 1:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
Thu	9:00 am Thursday Men's Group
Thu & Fri	Independence Day Weekend Church Office Closed
Sat	10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group
Sun	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Food Pantry, Lay Communion and Name Badge Sunday 8:30 am Holy Communion in person 11:00 am Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube



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

Tom & Sally Pettit

Matt & Erin Phillippi

Don Pippert

Tom & Tassie Pippert

Agnes Powell

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

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Wednesday at 12 noon**. 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)