



ELCA

# 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](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org) ✠ Website: [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: [eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: [zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)

**February 4, 2024**

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

#### **HAPPY 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1978's Lutheran Book of Worship**

Today's worship continues our liturgical journey through history. We've experienced worship from 1795, 1847, 1917, and 1958; today we make use of 1978's *Lutheran Book of Worship* (known to many lifelong Lutherans as "the green book.") We've replicated almost in its entirety a worship service that happened on February 4, 1990. We're using the same liturgy and hymns from that day, including the same special music (prelude, postlude, and choir anthem). You can find more information about the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, as well as a reproduction of the bulletin from February 4, 1990, in today's worship booklet. It's fun to note that two of the people who served in worship that day, Patti Covington and James Armentrout, are now ordained pastors!

The hymnals we are using for this series are on display in the Gathering Area — check them out to hold a piece of history in your hands!

*See the Connection Center for the complete 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar of Events.*

### HISTORIC WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue our yearlong celebration by immersing ourselves in liturgy and music from throughout the history of the Lutheran Church in the Shenandoah Valley. Each week, we'll worship with Lutheran resources from a different era.

**TODAY** 1978's *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Feb 11 2020s *All Creation Sings*

We look forward to experiencing these pieces of history as we learn more about our congregation's past.

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL NEWS

Our Congregation Council has been working long hours recently. Beginning with a half-day Council Retreat in which we got to know each other better as well as the roles and responsibilities of a Council. We adopted a Council Covenant, laying out our promises to God, the Congregation, and each other. We began the process of determining how God is calling us to focus our energies this coming year.

~continued on page 2~

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ (CONT'D)

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D)

At our January 22 Congregation Council meeting, we:

1. Voted to approve a new term as Assistant Financial Secretary for Pete Weaver
2. Voted to approve a standing resolution for our standing committees, ministries, and task forces and assigned council liaisons for 2024
3. Voted to approve a slate to serve as Nominating Committee
4. Voted to approve a slate of 4 of the 6 April 27 Synod Assembly Representatives
5. Determined together how to proceed with our Muhlenberg Constitution ratification and intend that Muhlenberg Bylaws will be updated this coming year
6. Planned for the Congregational meeting

Peace be with us all as we walk together in love as a congregation and Congregation Council.

Meg Wightman

Congregation Council President

[mlccouncilpres@gmail.com](mailto:mlccouncilpres@gmail.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

At last Sunday's Congregational Meeting we received Muhlenberg's 2023 Annual Report. It is a beautiful document reporting in both words and images the vibrant life of our church body over the past year. I commend it to your reading. A link to the report is here:

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

Recognized outgoing council members: Kevin Stees, Bruce Hamilton, & Joe Grandstaff.

We voted to approve:

- Our Nominating Committee for 2024: Joe Grandstaff, Bruce Hamilton, Elizabeth Fletchall, and Sandra Blade
- Representatives to the April 27 Virtual Synod Assembly: Oris Griffin, Kristee Trumbo, Rachel Peters, Karen Barnes, Jacob Dunlap and Karen Thomsen
- Ratified our revised Constitution by a vote of 62 to 18, which, at 77.5% exceeded the 2/3rds (66.7%) majority requirement. There was good discussion regarding the revisions as well as sections of our constitution that were not revised this time. New or ongoing constitutional questions can be directed to the members of the Constitution Task Force, Brad Moyers, Cathy Copeland, or Pastor Lauren Eanes. A link to our newly revised constitution can be found here:

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

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Congregational Meeting. If you are interested in being more involved in the life and work of this congregation, please reach out to myself or Vice President Kristee Trumbo, who is working with our ministries. Everyone, please join us in prayer for our Music Minister Search Committee, Synod Assembly Representatives, and Nominating Committee as they discern God's direction for these important roles in the coming year and years.

Peace be with you,

*Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President*

[mlccouncilpres@gmail.com](mailto:mlccouncilpres@gmail.com)

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### FOOD COLLECTION



**TODAY** we will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. No glass jars please. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

### LAY COMMUNION

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning. They bring communion to homebound members once a month. If you are interested in receiving home communion, or if you are interested in serving as a Lay Communion Minister, please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Morrison (540-383-5085 or [lindamm778@gmail.com](mailto:lindamm778@gmail.com)).



### QUILT: COLLECTING SIGNATURES



Please remember to stop by the Gathering Area today to sign a small square of fabric which will be sewn into a much larger quilt for our

175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Young children are asked to sign a square as they are able or they may sign a piece of paper and we will trace their name onto the fabric. Parents can sign a square for the little ones too young to sign. Homebound members can also sign on paper if they are unable to sign directly on the fabric.

We hope to get everyone to sign a square by the end of February so we can start constructing the quilt, so please find Kelly Zuber at the quilt signing table in the Gathering Area after the 8:30 am service and before or after the 11:00 am service. Kelly will sew the squares together

and add embellishments such as our church logo, the Luther Rose, and ELCA emblems to the quilt next spring and summer. We hope you will sign your name just as our founders did to charter Muhlenberg 175 years ago.

### CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES

**TONIGHT (2/4), 6:00 PM**

All of God's people are called to gather around the Word and grow together into our vocation as Christ's disciples. To that end, everyone is invited to join us **TONIGHT, 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Nielsen Room** for Confirmation Class. **Dinner is provided**, and you'll have the opportunity to learn and grow while supporting our youth in this valuable season of growth. A thorough study of the Bible will be the focus of our conversation each month, reviewing broad themes of scripture, coming to understand the narrative arc of God's Word, and seeking to find how God's Word meets us in our day-to-day life. Tonight's class will focus on **The Gospels and Acts: Good News for Everyone!** Join us for a lively conversation about Jesus and the early church. Contact Pastor Alex ([zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)) if you have questions, if you'd like to help provide meals, and/or if you're planning to attend.

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### THE WELLSPRING PODCAST

**Monday, February 5**



In the sixth and final episode of the **Wellspring Podcast**, Pastor Alex will be joined by **Mark Warner** as they break down the last chapters of the book [Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others](#) by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky and offer an accompanying Bible study.

All episodes will be available by Monday at [muhlenberglutheran.org/wellspringpodcast](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/wellspringpodcast) or wherever you access Podcasts! The series will remain available online so you can access these great conversations whenever you'd like. Many thanks to our amazing guest hosts for this series: Ashley Saunders, Kristee Trumbo, Pastor Micah Krey, Karen Barnes, and Mark Warner.

### LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

**Dinner Tuesday, 5:30 pm**

We will gather for dinner here in the Campus Room (downstairs). For more info, contact Pastor Alex ([zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)/540-309-2414).

### WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays, 10:30 am**

Led by Pastor Lauren, this study gathers each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons. Meets via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556> Or by phone ...DIAL IN – **301-715-8592** and enter Meeting ID / Passcode: **200491556#**

## COMFORT MAKERS

**Thursdays, 8:00 am – 12 noon**

Join us **Thursdays in Wayland Hall**. For more information, contact Linda Morrison ([lindamm778@gmail.com](mailto:lindamm778@gmail.com) or 540-383-5085).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### HERE I AM

**February 17, Temple House of Israel  
Biblical Storytelling Lunch & Program**

Temple House of Israel in Staunton and the Shenandoah Valley Biblical Storytellers Guild will provide a quick lunch and Biblical Storytelling program, *Here I am ... Hineni*. There will be four tellings with discussion afterward. To RSVP or for additional information, pick up a flyer from the Connection Center.

### LENTEN NEWS

See our Lenten News section on pages 5 - 10 for details about the all the opportunities Muhlenberg is offering this Lenten season.

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CREATION CARE TIP

On your next few trips to the grocery store buy one or more durable bags; they're usually sold right at the checkout counter. You'll ultimately need around six bags when doing your grocery shopping. As you make your shopping list, write "Take Bags" at the top.





## JOIN MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH DURING LENT FOR A R(EVOL)UTION!

**LENT** is a time of reflection and self-examination during the 40 days before Easter. We are invited to engage in faith practices like prayer, fasting, giving, and acts of love, as we walk through the mystery of Jesus' journey from death to life. This year, we'll be guided on that journey by the gospel of Mark. We'll see how God is on the loose, breaking into our world. Through Jesus, God is overthrowing the established order and bringing a fundamental change to the way we live and interact with one another, with the love of Christ at the center. It's a R(EVOL)UTION!

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

**Tuesday, February 13, 6:00 pm**



Shrove Tuesday is the name given to the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is traditionally the day when Christians would prepare for Lent by confessing their sins, and being “shriven” (absolved.) In A.D. 600, Pope St. Gregory prohibited Christians from eating all forms of meat and animal products during Lent, so they began to make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday to use up their supply of eggs, milk and butter, which also earned it the name “Fat Tuesday.” The tradition continues today all around the world—including here at Muhlenberg on Tuesday, February 13!

So mark your calendars now for the upcoming Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the MAC. Pancakes, sausage, egg casseroles and fruit provided. Bring your appetite and celebrate Fat Tuesday with us at Muhlenberg. Doors open at 6:00 pm, but if you arrive early, you're welcome to wait in the Gathering Area and visit with others there.

Want to volunteer? Contact Barbara Roadcap (540-830-1896 or [bbroadcap@gmail.com](mailto:bbroadcap@gmail.com)).

## ASH WEDNESDAY ~ WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14, 12 noon & 7:00 pm

The R(EVOL)UTION begins February 14, **ASH WEDNESDAY**. Two worship services will be offered. The noon service will be simple, with a focus on the imposition of ashes, the reading and preaching of the Word, and Holy Communion. The 7:00 pm service will include all of these elements as well as a fuller liturgy with choir. The 7:00 pm service will be livestreamed.



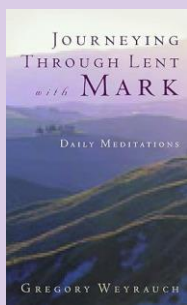
If you are unable to come to the church on Ash Wednesday to receive ashes, we will bring the ashes to you! Please contact the church office by Monday, February 12 to request a brief visit from a pastor on Ash Wednesday.

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

**SUNDAY MORNINGS**, we'll examine a different way each week that God is bringing about change in our world. These texts will guide us:

|             |                    |   |
|-------------|--------------------|---|
| February 18 | Mark 10:17-31      | <i>From Getting to Giving</i>           |
| February 25 | Mark 10:32-52      | <i>From Strength to Service</i>         |
| March 3     | Mark 12:1-12       | <i>From Power to Justice</i>            |
| March 10    | Mark 12:28-44      | <i>From Cheap Honor to Costly Love</i>  |
| March 17    | Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 | <i>From Stability to Transformation</i> |

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS



*Journeying Through Lent with Mark* is a Christ-centered guide to the Gospel of Mark for daily devotion during Lent. Each day provides a meditation based on a passage from Mark's Gospel with reflection questions and a prayer, giving us time each day to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and on our lives as followers of Christ. Books are available in the Gathering Area, with a suggested donation of \$8 each. To contribute to devotionals, place your check (made payable to MLC, designating *Lenten Devotional*) in the offering plate or the wooden box located next to the devotionals.



## “WHY GROUPS”

**THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**, we’ll gather in small groups to further explore how God is bringing about that change in us. Last year, we called our small groups *Why Groups*, and we’ll continue to use that name this year. But instead of the primary question being “Why?” it will be “How?” *How* is God at work in the world, and *how* is God calling each of us to be a part of it?

The planned groups are listed below. If you can’t find one that works for your schedule, get in touch with Pastor Lauren and she’ll help you organize a group at a time that works for you!

You can sign up for a Why Group at [muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2024](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2024), or by calling the church office. This five-week small group experience might just revolutionize the way you think about your faith—join in the conversation!

| Time                              | Place   | Convener                   | Notes  | Dates                          |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Sunday<br>12:30 pm                | Muhlenberg<br>Gathering Area                          | Kelly Zuber?               | Bring a bag lunch<br>with you  | Feb 18, 25,<br>March 3, 10, 17 |
| Sunday<br>4:00 pm                 | TBD   | TBD                        | This one’s in the<br>works! Contact Pr.<br>Lauren if you’d like<br>to co-lead this<br>group. | Feb 18, 25<br>March 3, 10, 17  |
| Wednesday<br>6:00 pm*             | Muhlenberg<br>Nielsen Room                            | Kathy<br>Thompson          | Light soup supper<br>provided  | Feb 21, 28<br>March 6, 13, 20  |
| Thursdays 9:00<br>am              | Coffee shop<br>TBD                                    | Mark Warner<br>Dave Barnes |  | Feb 22, 29<br>March 7, 14, 21  |
| Friday<br>12 Noon                 | Local<br>restaurants -<br>watch <i>The<br/>Chimes</i> | Pastor Lauren<br>Eanes     | We’ll visit a new<br>restaurant each<br>week (Everyone<br>will buy their own<br>lunch)       | Feb 23,<br>March 1, 8, 15, 22  |
| Saturday<br>mornings, time<br>TBD | TBD   | Lauren Fuller              | For parents and<br>their kids  | Feb 24,<br>March 2, 9, 16, 23  |

*\*If you’d prefer to meet in a slightly larger group, or you’re unable to make a 5-week commitment, consider attending the Wednesday evening group! This group will be for any and all who are available to come, whether you come one week or all five. The nursery will be available Wednesday nights until 8 pm for Why Groups that may want to meet after dinner and those that may want to fellowship further after the meal.*

## MUSIC DURING LENT

A “joyful noise” will be heard throughout the Lenten season with these wonderful musical programs for children and adults alike. For more information about these events during Lent, contact Interim Music Minister Linlin Uta ([uta@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:uta@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-434-3496).

### LENTEN MIDDAY RECITALS – Thursdays in Lent, 12:00 noon

Our Music Ministry is pleased to offer a series of five half-hour recitals each Thursday at 12:00 noon during the Lenten season. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, these 30-minute musical moments have been a spiritual blessing to all, both to the listener and performer. We are excited to offer an array of varied talents this season:

- **February 22, Dr. W Bryce Hayes** ~ Dr. Hayes maintains an active career as a conductor, teacher, church musician, pianist, accompanist, and singer. He will perform a wide variety of Broadway and contemporary vocal and piano music.
- **February 29, Michael Richardson, Baritone** ~ A DMA candidate at JMU will perform classical and sacred vocal music.
- **March 7, Dr. Steven Brancalesone, pianist** ~ Recent graduate from JMU, Dr. Brancalesone will perform classical piano works.
- **March 14, Elizabeth Williams, organist** ~ Our beloved former Music Minister will perform organ music.
- **March 21, Linlin Uta, pianist** ~ Our interim Music Minister, DMA candidate at JMU will perform piano works from the Romantic period.

These amazing mid-day recitals have always been performed free of charge and open to all. We will continue to do so, however, there will be an opportunity to offer a monetary donation at each recital to help support the Music Ministry here at Muhlenberg. Recitals will also be live-streamed via Facebook and YouTube.

### CHERUB CHOIR AND YOUTH ENSEMBLE

Cherub Choir and Youth Ensemble will begin rehearsing Sunday, February 18, immediately following the 11:00 am service, and continuing each Sunday through March 24. Both groups will sing and play in worship on Sunday, March 17 (11:00 am service only) and on Easter Sunday, March 31 (11:00 am service only). Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

- Rachel Peters will lead the **Cherub Choir** rehearsals (ages 4 - grade 2) held in the choir chancel in the Sanctuary. They will rehearse from 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm.
- Linlin Uta will lead the **Youth Ensemble** (grade 3 and above) and will meet in the Music Room. They will rehearse from 12:15 pm – 1:10 pm. There is no rehearsal on February 25





## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION 2024 LENTEN PROJECT

During Lent, Local & Global Mission is coordinating a hands-on project for our congregation on behalf of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). They are holding a drive to supply Personal Care Kits, one of their most requested items, to those in need. You are invited to share your LOVE (EVOL) with our neighbors around the world.

Starting Sunday, February 18, we will ask for their suggested items during these Lenten five weeks in order to make as many complete kits as we can at wrap-up. There will be a donation box in the Gathering Area where you may donate each week or all at once if that's easier for you. The following items, weeks 1 -5, make one complete kit.

- **Week 1 – Sunday, Feb. 18:** One new light-weight (not fluffy as thin dry quicker in the sun), dark-colored towel (between 20"x40" and 27"x52").
- **Week 2 – Sunday, Feb. 25:** Two or three bath-sized bars of soap (in original wrapping).
- **Week 3 – Sunday, Mar. 3:** One adult toothbrush (in original packaging).
- **Week 4 – Sunday, Mar. 10:** One sturdy comb (remove packaging).
- **Week 5 – Sunday, Mar. 17:** One metal nail clippers (remove packaging).

LWR is asking for these new, undecorated items specifically as they want to ensure that all the kits are identical for all.

We participated in a similar project for LWR in 2020 with great success, let's see if we can gather even more this year! If you have any questions, you can email Vicki Heitsch ([vaah@earthlink.net](mailto:vaah@earthlink.net)).

## EASTER FLOWERS ~ LILIES, HYDRANGEAS & HYACINTHS

The tradition of Easter Lilies in the church are a beautiful way to remember and honor loved ones. We have added some additional, seasonal color to the mix by offering **Easter Lilies, Hydrangeas, and Hyacinths**. The cost per plant is \$25, with a limited number of plants available. To reserve your Easter flowers, do the following:

- Sign up online (see our *Lenten webpage for the link*), at the Connection Center, or call Louise Layman (540-442-1524).
- Pay for Easter Flowers (*write your flower preference on the memo line*). Place your check in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office (281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg 22801). Payments reserve flowers.



Flowers may be picked up Easter Sunday after the 11:00 am service. **Sign up deadline is Sunday, March 17** (no additional flowers will be ordered after that date).

## HOLY WEEK

The Triduum (The Three Days) is the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with him to resurrection life. The Three Days is one liturgy, extending from Thursday evening through the Easter Vigil. You are invited to conform your life to the worship rhythms of the church on these three days:

**Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 am and 11:00 am** Palm Sunday is focused on Jesus' willingness to upset the status quo of the empire's kingdom, and subvert the powers and principalities with a new revolution. This r(evol)ution of love transforms the world!

**Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00 pm** We heed Christ's commandment to love one another as we wash each other's feet and share the meal he instituted.

**Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 pm** We hear the passion of Christ, the narrative of Jesus crucified and reigning from the cross.

**Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30, 8:00 pm** This is the high point of the church's year, the night, the very night, the Passover of Christ from death to life. This year's Vigil will be a simplified version of the traditional liturgy. We'll begin with the lighting of the new fire, and process into the sanctuary for the reading of the Word. 16 readers will share with us the entirety of the gospel of Mark, for a truly epic experience of the gospel story. We'll then gather around the communion table to celebrate the first resurrection meal. Following the service, we'll extend the celebration of Easter with food and fellowship.

**Easter Sunday, 8:30 am and 11:00 am** The ultimate r(evol)ution of love came about through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! On Easter Sunday, in word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love.

**Easter Egg Hunt** Easter Sunday inside the MAC at 9:45 Join for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. In addition to the hunt there will be an opportunity to have a family picture taken and printed, games, and activities for kids of all ages.

**Visit our Lenten Webpage for links and our Holy Week schedule:**

[www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2024](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2024)

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 5 - 9



Our kids can be menders of the universe! But, you think, they're just kids! How can they be menders of the whole universe? At Operation Restoration, they will practice being universe menders, because that's exactly how God made all of us. Your kids have been given the power to feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest—essential tools to help repair all that has gone wrong in the world. They'll learn more about their mending powers at Operation Restoration Vacation Bible School! Mark your calendar to join us August 5 – 9 for this great adventure!

## VA SYNOD NEWS

### MID-WINTER *POWER IN THE SPIRIT*

February 5 - 7, 5:45 – 7:15 pm

Join members of our Synod online in an annual faith-sharing adult retreat. The event is free. More info is available [HERE](#).

## SECOND HOME NEWS

### FUNDRAISER

February 4-10, Second Home is excited to be the recipient of the Friendly City Food Co-Ops *Round Up for Change* program. Customers have the option to round up their total to the nearest dollar (or donate more!). Organizations receive 100% of the *Round Up* funds, and the Co-op will match the total *Round Up* amount by 25%.



## YOUTH NEWS

### 7<sup>th</sup> DAY

March 2 - 3

The Synod's annual faith-sharing event for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take place at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. 7<sup>th</sup> Day includes a brisk 24+ hours of songs, crafts, games, stories, and friend-making, all built around a biblical story that has been selected by the youth on our Planning Group. Find more information [HERE](#). Register online for the event [HERE](#). **Early registration ends Wednesday, February 7.**

## 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:*

*From What Should We Expect When We Read the Bible? by Dr. Darrell Jodock:*

**We should expect to be challenged.** The Bible provides a picture of what it means to live as a child of God and as a follower of Jesus. For example, one in ten verses in the Gospels are about wealth and our uses of it. We hear, "Blessed are you who are poor" (Luke 6:20). To the rich young man Jesus says, "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor" (Mark 10:21). It is important that we not too quickly say -- oh, all of this just affects one's attitude toward riches. That insulates us from the challenge of these texts, from the challenge of doing justice. We need to let the challenge confront us.

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent in-person and online viewership:

|      |                                    |      |
|------|------------------------------------|------|
| 1/21 | 8:30 Holy Communion.....           | 61   |
|      | 11:00 Holy Communion.....          | 75   |
|      | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers ..... | 39   |
|      | Total Views this Week .....        | 216  |
|      | Hours Viewed this Week .....       | 64.9 |
| 1/28 | 8:30 Holy Communion.....           | 60   |
|      | 11:00 Holy Communion.....          | 71   |
|      | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers ..... | 41   |

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

All income and expenses have been tallied and accounted for in 2023. In closing the books, there was a significant increase in gifts and offerings compared to 2022. Thank you for believing in God's mission at Muhlenberg and generously sharing your financial resources. Expenses also increased and outpaced income. Despite all of our efforts in the final days of December, we are ending the year with a large deficit and will need to look to our reserve funds. Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 2023

|                         | 2023 YTD<br>Actual | 2023 YTD<br>Budgeted | 2022 YTD<br>Actual |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Gifts & Offerings       | \$585,477          | \$634,000            | \$516,235          |
| Total Income            | \$774,951          | \$824,976            | \$658,115          |
| Total Expenses          | \$811,286          | \$825,590            | \$655,300          |
| Excess Income/(Deficit) | <b>\$(36,335)</b>  | <b>\$(614)</b>       | <b>\$2,815</b>     |

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Giving in support of our Spending Plan | \$ 5,708.00        |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds       | \$ 122.75          |
| <b>Total Giving</b>                    | <b>\$ 5,830.75</b> |

To give online, scan here ➔



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**February 5 - 11, 2024**

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

**Tues** 6:00 pm Celebration Singers  
7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers

**Wed** 10:30 am Bible Study via [Zoom](#)  
6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

**Thu** 8:00 am Comfort Makers

**Sun** Transfiguration of Our Lord  
8:30 am Holy Communion in person  
9:45 am Christian Formation in person  
& via [Zoom](#)  
11:00 am Holy Communion in person and  
Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and  
[YouTube](#)



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

*Tom & Susan Gallaher*

*Edward & Lori Gant*

*Johnny, Phyllis, and Meghan Garber*

*Patsy Garber*

*Jon, Jenny, Bazil & Abby Gibson*

*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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org))*

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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) /540-434-3496)