



# The CHIMES



**MUHLENBERG  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Equipping All People to Live Out Christ's Love*

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**March 31, 2024**

**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD / EASTER DAY**

*Welcome!*

Welcome, one and all! Whether this is your first time visiting this place, or it's the tried and true tradition of your family to gather here in this sacred season, we are so glad to be together at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church.

We hope you'll jump right in to all this morning has to offer--rich liturgy, joyful song, an open welcome to the communion table, and the good news that because of Christ's resurrection, we have new life! And please join in the fun of the Easter brunch, Easter egg hunt, and Easter photos for all in the Muhlenberg Activities Center from 9:30 - 10:45 am.

And of course, our celebration doesn't end today. We will continue to gather each Sunday, equipping all people to live out the love of the risen Savior. We hope as you find welcome and joy within these walls, you'll continue to join us in sharing Christ's love.

If you are a visitor and would like to learn more about Muhlenberg, we encourage you to fill out a Visitor Card (using a blue card in the pew or the QR code in the front of the worship booklet) so that we can follow up with you and continue to extend the spirit of welcome.

To the members of Muhlenberg, we encourage you to reach out to one another, introduce yourself to someone you don't recognize, and welcome all who are here this Easter.

We invite ALL to wear a nametag this day, so that we may more easily greet one another. Supplies are in the Gathering Area.

As we worship together this Easter, we pray you realize that you belong here—to a community centered around the story of new life, to the experience of hope and promise, to the deep power of God at work to save. On behalf of all the Muhlenberg family: Welcome and Happy Easter!

In Christ, *Pastor Lauren*

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### EASTER & THE EASTER SEASON



Easter is the crown of the church year, the queen of feasts, and as such it lasts for a week of weeks (7 weeks). The Day of Resurrection is celebrated with gold paraments to give it unique prominence. The paschal candle burns near the altar throughout the season as a sign of the presence of the risen Christ. Lilies, symbols of the resurrection, help adorn our worship space. Our liturgy is enhanced with processions, the return of the “Alleluia” and joyful music. We invite you to join us each week in Easter as we worship, pray, learn, support and serve together in ministry and mission.

### EASTER BRUNCH

**Today (3/31), 9:30 – 10:45 am**

Join in the Easter potluck brunch in the Muhlenberg Activities Center (MAC)! Bring your favorite dish to share and join in fellowship. All are welcome, even if you didn’t bring a dish—come and enjoy! If you are attending the 8:30 service and would like to drop food off before worship, folks will be in the MAC to receive and hold goodies.



### WELCOME GUESTS



*We are blessed to welcome our guests today. We have a gift waiting for you at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area (main church entrance) and ask that you complete a blue guest card and/or sign our guest register. If you prefer, you may scan this QR code or to securely register online visit us at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)*

### EASTER PHOTOS

Stop by the MAC to have an individual or family photo taken this morning (9:45-10:45)! A printed copy will be available today.

### EASTER ACTIVITIES

Join us **TODAY (3/31)** in the MAC during the Faith Formation hour (9:45-10:45 am) for an Easter egg hunt and activities for kids of all ages.



### NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Due to the special Easter activities, there are **NO** classes **TODAY**.

*See page 9 for details about our normal class schedule.*

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### CHOIR REHEARSALS

Celebration Singers and Sanctuary Choir **will rehearse jointly April 2, 6:00 – 6:30 pm.** *See page 11 for details about their normal schedule.*

### LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY (LCM)

**Tuesdays, 6:00 pm**

We gather for dinner in the Campus Room. It’s a free meal and time of fellowship and prayer for any college student. For details, contact Peer Minister Haley Tabor ([haleyvtabor@gmail.com](mailto:haleyvtabor@gmail.com)). If you’re interested in supporting LCM or helping to provide a meal, contact Sarah Orem ([oremse@gmail.com](mailto:oremse@gmail.com)).

### WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

**No Study April 3 ~ Resumes April 10**

We gather each week at 10:30 to look ahead to Sunday’s lessons. Led by Pastor Lauren, we meet via **ZOOM**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

## THURSDAY MEN'S GROUP

**Beginning Thursday, April 4, 9:00 am**

The Thursday morning *Why Group* has morphed into a monthly men's group! All are welcome to meet 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](mailto:mjwcarpediem@gmail.com)) or Dave Barnes ([Barnesda09@gmail.com](mailto:Barnesda09@gmail.com)).

## FRIDAY CHEW ON THIS

**Beginning Friday, April 5, 12 noon**

**Each Friday in April**, you're invited to *Chew on This* with Pastor Lauren. We'll gather at a local restaurant at noon for food, fellowship, and conversation related to the previous Sunday's Bible text. To ensure we reserve enough seats at the table, please RSVP to [eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) by 8:00 am each Friday!

**April 5 Cuban Burger**

April 12 Magnolia's Tacos

April 19 Beyond

April 26 Urgie's Cheesesteaks

## PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING CIRCLE

**Saturday, April 6, 10:00 – 11:30 am**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you basic stitches! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. For more information, or if you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone, contact Jackie Wells ([jswells62@verizon.net](mailto:jswells62@verizon.net) or 540-434-6283).

## FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER

**NEXT Sunday, April 7**

On the first Sunday each month, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. Please check the [Giving Page](#) on our website for a full list of acceptable items. Monetary donations are also appreciated.



## CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES

**NEXT Sunday, April 7, at 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 **next Sunday in the Nielsen Room for our last Confirmation Class of the season. Dinner is potluck**, 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 has been 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. The last class will focus on "The General Letters and Revelation: How Spider-Man and Star Wars Can Help Us Read the Bible." Join us for a lively conversation on some very interesting books of the Bible! If you have questions or plan to attend, contact Pastor Lauren ([Eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:Eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

## STAFF HOLIDAY

Easter Monday is a staff holiday, so we will not check voicemails/emails **TOMORROW (4/1)**. We wish you a blessed Easter!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SAVE THE DATE!



We have an exciting and busy spring and summer planned at Muhlenberg as we continue to celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Keep an eye on *The Chimes* for more details. For now, be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us!

#### **April 21 ~ Ecumenical Earth Day worship at Turner Pavilion**

*See next column.*

#### **April 28 ~ Welcome to Muhlenberg!**

*See next column.*

#### **May 4 ~ May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be With You**

*See "Ministry Revitalization" on page 8 for details.*

#### **May 19 ~ Pentecost Sunday**

##### ***Happy Birthday Muhlenberg!***

*Celebrate the birthday of the church with a party. We'll also welcome Virginia Synod Bishop Phyllis Milton to celebrate this milestone with us in worship.*

#### **May 26 ~ Confirmation Sunday and High School Senior Recognition**

*Join our youth as they affirm their baptism at 11:00 am. We'll also pray for our high schoolers as they prepare for graduation.*

#### **August 5 - 9 ~ VBS: Operation Restoration**

*See page 10 for details.*

## EARTH DAY

### COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

**Sunday, April 21, 9:45 am**

Join the Harrisonburg community at Turner Pavilion in downtown Harrisonburg **Sunday, April 21 at 9:45 am** for a celebration of faith, fellowship, and God's



creation! Muhlenberg is one of seven congregations coming together for this special event, which will include music, Scripture and reflection, and a celebration of Holy Communion. There will also be supervised activities for children during the service, led by our own Children's Minister Ashley Saunders.

***This worship service will take place of all Faith Formation classes that day for children, youth, and adults. We will have regular 8:30 am and 11:00 am worship at Muhlenberg — you're welcome to attend worship here AND/OR at the Turner Pavilion!***

### ***WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!***

**Sunday, April 28, 9:45 am**

Interested in learning more about Muhlenberg or joining our church family? We offer a *Welcome to Muhlenberg* session that provides an opportunity to learn about the mission and ministry of the church. All are welcome to this overview of life at Muhlenberg, which includes a tour of the building and information on the many ways to get involved in our community. We'll also give details about how to become a member of Muhlenberg, though attending this session doesn't commit you to anything! Come and explore what Muhlenberg is all about Sunday, April 28 at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary. New members will be received in worship



Sunday, May 5. If you would like to join Muhlenberg, please fill out the information form at

<https://forms.gle/m5vmdEXbRgH7FAtv6>

For more details, reach out to Pastor Lauren ([eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### SECOND EVENING SEXTON NEEDED

Muhlenberg is now hiring! We are searching for a second Evening Sexton to join Jim Doyle in cleaning the facility for Second Home and Harrisonburg-Rockingham Day Care. The person will clean areas used by the Day Care (on the third floor of our main building and the second floor of the MAC). We anticipate this taking about two hours each evening, Monday through Friday. A full job description can be found at [muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs). If you or someone you know is interested in a part time job that serves the mission of Muhlenberg, please contact Daytime Sexton Jeff Williams ([sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 804-931-2274). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

### CREATION CARE



Buy Local: As you shop, look for products made as close to your community as possible. Since it reduces the amount of energy needed to transport goods to market, buying local helps reduce global warming and air pollution. Buying local keeps money local. A dollar spent on locally made goods generates twice as much income for the local economy as money spent on imported goods.



### ACCESS SERMONS ONLINE

Following the Narrative Lectionary allows us to tell a continuous story of faith week after week. If you missed or would like to revisit a particular sermon, you can find a [playlist on YouTube](#) that is updated weekly! Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) to see the sermons posted, and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)!

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*Devotional booklets for  
April - June are  
available at the Connection Center  
and in the Connection Box outside.*

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# EASTER FLOWERS

Lilies, Hydrangeas & Hyacinths



## EASTER FLOWERS

*Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory or in honor of those we wish to remember on this special day. If you are a donor, you may pick up your flower after the 11:00 a.m. service. (If you signed up and your name is not on the list, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy.)*

### DONOR

Brenda, Lisa and Amanda Branner  
Jacob Dunlap & Victoria Herring

The Good Family  
Dave & Peggy Hill  
Chuck & Jill May  
Chuck & Jill May  
Tom & Daille Pettit  
Phyllis Sonner  
Leo Snider  
The Tjaden Family  
Kristee and Hawke Trumbo  
Meg Wightman  
Malcolm & Judy Wilfong  
Stephen Wilfong

### DONOR

BJ Daniel  
Dave, Kelly, Kylie and Parker Good  
Bob Neumann  
Tom & Daille Pettit  
Kathy Thompson

### IN MEMORY OF ...

Lee Branner  
Beulah Dunlap, Orlie Woods Jr.,  
Jack & Nancy Walling, Monroe Herring  
Donnie Good, Joey Good  
Loved Ones  
Louise Perry  
Libby Clatterbuck  
Family Members  
Loved Ones  
Eleanor Jean Snider  
Jack and Bunny Tjaden  
Bill & Janice Rosenow  
Jim & Juanita Wightman  
Ronald & Helen Wilfong, Edith Baber  
Gleda B. Wilfong

### IN HONOR OF ...

Zachary Daniel Family  
Our Grandparents and Parents  
Our Grandchildren  
Great-granddaughter Rya  
Linlin Uta and Our Choirs

## 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Some of our anniversary events are completed, but the celebration continues. Mark your calendar for the next event on May 19 when we celebrate Muhlenberg's birthday with Bishop Milton!*

**December 17, 2023: Anniversary Kick Off!** We begin our anniversary year with the launch of the Signature Quilt project. Sign a square for the quilt in remembrance of our ancestors in the faith who signed the document forming Muhlenberg Lutheran Church.

**January 7 - February 11, 2024: Historic Worship Services** We'll start our year 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:

- Jan. 7 1790s *Hymn and Prayer Book: for the use of such Lutheran churches as use the English language*
- Jan. 14 1850s Liturgy of the General Synod
- Jan. 21 1920s Common Service Book
- Jan. 28 1960s Service Book and Hymnal
- Feb. 4 1980s Lutheran Book of Worship
- Feb. 11 2020s *All Creation Sings*

**January 7, 2024: Introduction to Peter Muhlenberg** We welcome Pastor Jonathan Boynton to Muhlenberg for an engaging presentation about our namesake, Peter Muhlenberg. Nielsen Room, 9:45 am.

**March 2024: Historic Artifacts Displayed in Gathering Area** See a display of items and photographs from our past, and read stories of Muhlenberg throughout the years.

**May 19, 2024: Happy Birthday Muhlenberg!** On this Pentecost Sunday, we'll celebrate the birthday of the church with a party. We'll also welcome Virginia Synod Bishop Phyllis Milton to celebrate this milestone with us in worship.

**June-July 2024: Muhlenberg's Pastors and Sons/Daughters of the Congregation** Former pastors of the congregation, as well as those who have entered the ministry from Muhlenberg will be visiting this summer.

**Fall 2024: Tours of the Church** Learn more about our history, buildings, and art with tours scheduled throughout the fall.

**September 15, 2024: Homecoming** Save the date for our Anniversary Homecoming Event! Gather with friends old and new for a celebratory banquet, remembrances from the past, and a look to the future. Every family will receive a special keepsake from this event.

Additional presentations and speakers are still being scheduled. More details about all events will be shared through *The Chimes*.

### MUHLENBERG'S ANNIVERSARY HYMN

Pastor Paul Weber, who served as Interim Pastor in 2017 - 2018, wrote a hymn entitled *The Wellspring of God's Saving Grace* for Muhlenberg's 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is modeled on our vision to be a "Wellspring of God's Grace in Jesus Christ" and depicts our four values: open, authentic, relational, and serving. We are grateful for Pastor Paul's gift to our congregation, and give thanks for God's saving grace proclaimed at Muhlenberg throughout the years!

### THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Throughout our anniversary year, we return to the tradition of ringing the church bell at the start of our worship services. The sound of a church bell is a summons into a holy place, to gather in reverence to worship our Lord.



## PLAN FOR PASTOR ALEX’S PARENTAL LEAVE



We are pleased that during Pastor Alex’s leave, **Kathy Thompson is serving as our Interim Worship and Care Assistant.** This is a 10-hour a week position, focused on pastoral care and worship support. Kathy and Pastor Lauren are working closely together to ensure these areas of ministry remain strong.

Faithful, gifted volunteer leaders have stepped up to oversee other areas of Pastor Alex’s responsibilities. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to these coordinators if you have questions or would like to get more involved in these ministry areas, either on a temporary or long-term basis. The church office can help connect you with these leaders; simply call 540-434-3496 or email [info@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org).

### Area of Ministry

Middle School Youth  
Senior High Youth  
Lutheran Campus Ministry  
Young Adults

### Congregation Coordinators

Rachel Peters  
Gibsons, Moyers, Kolodinskys  
Haley Tabor and Sarah Orem  
Jenna Guenther

### Staff Liaison

Pastor Lauren  
Pastor Lauren  
Ashley Saunders  
Pastor Lauren

We pray for many blessings on Pastor Alex’s and Renna’s growing family, and we look forward to welcoming Pastor Alex back in late May/early June!

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## MINISTRY REVITALIZATION

In the past, ministry teams have gathered in person or on Zoom the second Monday of the month for Ministries Night. Due to varying schedules, some committees have chosen to meet at different days/times, and sometimes it’s hard to keep up with when and where ministries are meeting.

Vice President Kristee Trumbo is heading up a Ministry Revitalization Task Force to envision a new way for ministry teams to connect together, with Congregation Council, and with the entire congregation. A gathering of all ministry teams is being planned for **Saturday, May 4, 8:30 - 10:30, in the MAC – *May The 4<sup>th</sup> Be With You!*** There will be food, visioning, team-building, and relationship-building among our ministry teams. **Everyone from the congregation is invited to attend and consider being a part of the ministries at Muhlenberg.**

So, instead of our past Ministries Night on the second Monday of each month, we’ll be creating a new way to communicate and work together in doing God’s work in our ministries at Muhlenberg! Put May 4 on your calendar!

Ministry Revitalization Task Force members include Council Liaison Kristee Trumbo, Interim Staff Representative Kathy Thompson, Chelsea Aldrich, Pam Briehl, Lauren Fuller, Rose Horner, and Malcolm Wilfong.



## **SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION**

Join us next week and each Sunday morning, for Faith Formation for all ages, 9:45 - 10:45 am. Adult classes are offered with hybrid options for participants to join in-person or via Zoom. **ZOOM** participants can log in with the *Sunday Mornings at Muhlenberg* link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>

### **Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ~ Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (behind the church)**

Led by Children's Minister Ashley Saunders, kids will have an opportunity to grow together through the *Living the Word* curriculum, which follows the Narrative Lectionary. They will learn biblical stories, do activities to put the stories into action, and build strong relationships. Older students will help share the stories with younger students to cultivate a collaborative community. Senior High youth are invited to serve as classroom assistants.

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

### **Grades 6 - 8 (Confirmation) ~ Augsburg Room**

6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to join each week for an in-depth Bible study together on the focus text of the Narrative Lectionary. This class is open to all middle schoolers, and will serve as the foundation of our Confirmation curriculum. Classes will afford our students the opportunity to learn more about important biblical figures, central stories in scripture, and learn with peers about applying the lessons to our daily life.

### **Civic Life and Faith ~ Kairos Room**

The old adage says to never discuss "religion, politics, or sex," but this class will invite you into conversation about two of the three! Disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the ages have had to figure out how to serve God within a political society, and we are no exception. This class follows the ELCA's study curriculum for a closer look at the intersections of our civic and faith lives.

### **40-Day Journey Adult Class ~ Nielsen Room**

Join a journey that deepens your spiritual life using excerpts from the work of author Madeleine L'Engle. Participants read a brief excerpt, respond to engaging questions, and join together in prayer.

## FAITH FORMATION (CONT'D)

### 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! Each evening, we'll begin with a meal, and then jump into this great adventure together. Mark your calendar and join us!

## SENIOR HIGH NEWS

### KAIROS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Rising 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, mark your calendars for **June 23 - 28** when the Virginia Synod will host Kairos at Roanoke College. "*Kairos*" is the New Testament Greek word for "special time." It is used whenever God's people want to talk about a time of change, of renewal, of God's special work in the believer and the community. This event is an opportunity for youth who are already committed to a life of faith to be part of a unique Christian community, to gain a fresh experience of the grace and presence of God, and to develop habits for discipleship that can be taken home as they live out their baptismal call to be followers of Jesus. To learn more, click [HERE](#). The registration deadline is **April 30**; to register, click [HERE](#). Contact Pastor Lauren with questions while Pastor Alex is on leave.

## YOUTH NEWS

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERINGS

Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, April 27. All 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to gather at the home of the Gibsons for a dinner bonfire. Come roast hot dogs, make s'mores, and have fun with the high school youth! More details will be emailed out, so please let Pastor Lauren know if you're interested in attending or have any questions.

### CONFIRMATION CORNER

*From "Five Key Lutheran Principles" by Mark Allan Powell. Here are key principles that Lutherans follow when they study or interpret the Bible.*

**2. What Shows Forth Christ.** When we Lutherans say the Bible is the Word of God we mean, above all, that the bible is the book that reveals Jesus Christ to us. And by that we mean the whole Bible - not just the Gospels or the New Testament. Martin Luther used to say the Bible is like the manger that held the Christ child. In many Christmas scenes, we see people kneeling before the manger to worship, but they are not worshipping the manger. They are worshipping the Christ Child who is in the manger. So, also, we do not worship the Bible. We worship the Christ who is found in the Bible.

## LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) at Muhlenberg serves students attending James Madison University, Bridgewater College, Eastern Mennonite University, and Blue Ridge Community College. Even though you may not have a Lutheran background, please join us. All are welcome as we strive to build a community where all people are seen, heard, and valued. LCM also strives to connect students with faculty and staff who are Muhlenberg members to form friendships and support that transcend the campus and classroom.



LCM members have access 24/7 to the campus room at Muhlenberg to gather, study, eat, and be our community center. We gather regularly throughout the semesters for food, fellowship, and conversations about faith and life. For more information, follow along with us on Instagram and Facebook @LCMatMLC, or contact Ashley Saunders ([saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)) while Pastor Alex is on parental leave.



*LCM students and Pastor Alex gather around fireside for fellowship.*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

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

### Adult Choirs

**Celebration Singers ~ Tuesdays, 6:00 pm**  
**Sanctuary Choir ~ Wednesdays, 6:30 pm**

### Children's Choirs

**Cherub Choir ~ Sundays,**

For ages 4 – grade 2; led by Rachel Peters. The Cherubs practice in preparation for singing in worship during special services like Advent, Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. For more info, contact Rachel ([rgpeters9@gmail.com](mailto:rgpeters9@gmail.com) or 570-975-5457).

**Youth Ensemble ~**

For grades 3 – 8; led by Interim Music Minister Linlin Uta. This group practices in preparation for singing in worship during special services and seasons like Advent and Christmas Eve, as interest allows. For more info, contact Linlin (540-434-3496 or [uta@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:uta@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

### Handbell Choir

**Gloria Dei Ringers ~**  
**Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Led by Handbell Director Kath Wissinger. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary. For more info, contact Kath ([longwalk3@aol.com](mailto:longwalk3@aol.com) or 540-383-3522).



## LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH

### LENT LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PROJECT

Success! Thank you for your generous donations to Lutheran World Relief. Our project during Lent provided 75 care bundles to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Also we thank the youth for helping to pack all the care bundles.

### GREAT COMMUNITY GIVE April 17, 2023



The **Great Community Give** is a way for local non-profits in our community to be lifted up and fundraise together. Our Local and

Global Mission Outreach Committee continues to support organizations the Great Community Give has supported in the past. These organizations include Second Home Learning Center, People Helping People, Harrisonburg Rockingham Child Day Care Center, Minnick School, Patchwork Pantry, Open Doors, Bridge of Hope, Valley Interfaith Action, Virginia Interfaith Center, First Step, Our Community Place, Church World Service, and Habitat for Humanity. If you are moved to provide additional support to any of these non-profit organizations or others of your choice, please go to the following website on April 17 to make your donation...

<https://www.greatcommunitygive.org/>

## VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

### POWER IN THE SPIRIT: SEEKING & FINDING ~ June 13 - 15

This inspirational conference occurs each year at Roanoke College for people of all ages who wish to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, games, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders — teachers, music directors, choir members, council and committee members, family life consultants, deacons, pastors, and others—will find Power in the Spirit nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



## PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

### LAWN MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



During peak season, lawn maintenance is needed weekly. Please volunteer to mow and trim the grass on Muhlenberg's campus. Less than two hours of your time can make a difference. Bring a buddy and complete the task even faster. Volunteers are needed from April through October. All equipment and training are provided, along with flexible scheduling. Please use the *Sign-Up Notebook* in the Gathering Area or contact Sexton Jeff Williams ([sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org) or text/call 804-931-2274).

## REMINDERS

### COMMUNION IN THE PEWS



For those who wish to receive Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, communion is served in the pews. **Please raise your hand as the Lay Assisting Minister comes into the sanctuary with the elements.** In addition to bread and wine, **grape juice and gluten-free bread** are also available. Please indicate your preference to the Lay Assisting Minister.

### COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WITHOUT ONLINE ACCESS

Those who cannot access *The Chimes* online can request a copy be mailed to them weekly. If you know someone without online access, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-434-3496), and we will be glad to mail an issue each week.

### KIDS AND THE NURSERY

Children are always welcomed and encouraged to be a part of our worship services, and their presence and participation are important! Activity packs are available in the Gathering Area that include quiet activities. We also have a weekly children's message in worship.

For our very youngest (birth to kindergarten), quality childcare is provided each Sunday in the nursery 8:15 am - 12:30 pm, so little ones will have a safe space to be during worship and Faith Formation.

## CHURCH ENTRY SYSTEM

### Outside Doors Rekeyed!

**All outside doors of the church building have been rekeyed.** As you may recall, improving our entry security has been completed in phases. Phase 1 was the installation of the doorbell and entry keypad on one of the east side Gathering Area doors. Phase 2 was to issue PINs to those who routinely need access to the church building so they can gain entry through the keypad.

We completed Phase 3 (our final phase) by rekeying all outside doors to maximize security. **“BCK” and all previous keys that unlocked outside doors no longer work.** If you need routine access to the church and have not applied for a PIN, please contact Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-434-3496). *Please note this rekeying does not affect the MAC. You will gain access to it the same way you always have.*

### During the Week

**If you do not have a PIN:** Come to the Gathering Area doors and press the doorbell (instructions are posted on the door). When the call is answered, please identify yourself, and the door will be unlocked remotely so you can enter. Please note that **the office is staffed Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.** If you arrive outside of those hours, there's still a good chance someone will be here, but please call before you come to be sure. Please do not use the red doors at the back of the building — for security reasons, these doors are reserved for Day Care use only.





## REMINDERS (CONT'D)

### UPDATED NOTEBOOKS

Historically we have had a single notebook at the Connection Center. Its primary purpose is to provide sign-up sheets and Funds Reports that communicate details of our weekly offering/income. Last fall, we moved the notebook closer to the Sanctuary entrance hoping more people would see it and sign up to participate — it worked!

Congregation Council has decided to share minutes of their meetings and minutes of our Congregational Meetings to make more details available. It is also a good location for additional information so you have one resource to find most documents of interest.

So, we will now have two notebooks in the Gathering Area:

1. **Sign-Up Notebook** (located on a stand close to the Sanctuary entrance), containing sign-up sheets for the following...

- Worship Assistants
- Altar Flowers
- Meals
- Other Miscellaneous Events

2. **Resource Notebook** (located at the Connection Center), containing the following...

- Weekly Funds Reports
- Approved Council Minutes (which includes committee minutes, Pastors' reports, financial reports, etc.)
- Approved Congregational Meeting Minutes
- 2024 Standing Committees
- 2024 Spending Plan
- 2023 Annual Report
- Ratified Constitution

If you have questions, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy.

### BUILDING USE REQUESTS

With the arrival of spring comes an increase in Building Use requests to the church. We are excited for the chance to be a part of building faith and connection, and in our supporting role in the lives of our community.

Not only do we share our space with H-R Day Care and Second Home, but also a variety of other support groups share our campus, mostly in the evenings on weekdays. Last year at this time, we had several requests to use the MAC for overnight guests on mission trips. It's exciting to see our facilities being used in the ways imagined so long ago when they were built.

**For church meetings/events**, we need your help to ensure the space you want to use or a suitable alternative is available. To schedule space, contact Building Use Coordinator Liz Engleking before you plan an event.

**For non-church meetings/events** (i.e. support group meetings or a personal birthday party), an updated Building Use Policy, along with updated application forms, was created in 2022 to account for our post pandemic world. The policies and forms can be found in the mailboxes in the Administrative Hallway. There are fees associated with using the different rooms available on our campus for non-church events. There is a Fee Reduction or Waiver request form for non-profit groups.

If you are interested in reserving a space on the church campus for a church or non-church meeting/event, please reach out to Building Use Coordinator Liz Engleking at [buildinguse@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:buildinguse@muhlenberglutheran.org) or call the church weekdays, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

## 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.

- ✦ To all those who helped prepare our space and hearts for worship as we journey through Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection of Our Lord, we thank you for all you do and have done, things seen and unseen, that help make our ministry here so special!
- ✦ To all who have served at recent funeral lunches, we thank you for providing delicious food, warm hospitality, and behind the scenes set-up and clean-up. We are so grateful to the Care Committee for coordinating these meals for our community!

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**CONTACT information** With our ever-changing lifestyles, it's sometimes difficult to be sure everyone has your correct contact information. Have you recently ...

- moved?
- cancelled your home phone?
- changed your cell phone number?
- changed your home/work email address?

If so, please be sure we have your updated information by contacting Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 540-434-3496).

### WE MOURN THE LOSS OF TWO PILLARS OF OUR CONGREGATION



**Joan Strickler**  
Sept. 10 1936 · Feb. 29 2024



**K. Roy Nilsen**  
Dec. 29 1931 · Mar. 22 2024

With great sadness and with great hope in the promise of the resurrection, we share news of the deaths of two pillars of our Muhlenberg congregation - Joan Strickler and the Rev. Dr. K. Roy Nilsen.

Joan, the widow of Pastor Warren Strickler, died in Gaithersburg, MD February 29. Despite having moved several years ago to be closer to family, Joan always considered Muhlenberg to be her church home and actively participated in online worship. Joan was also the author of Muhlenberg's history, *Strong Roots for New Plantings* written in 1999 in celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Her memorial service will be held at Muhlenberg Saturday, May 4 at 1:00 pm (and live-streamed to [Facebook](#) / [YouTube](#)).

Pastor K. Roy Nilsen died in Woodstock, VA March 22. Pastor K. Roy served as Muhlenberg's pastor from 1992 – 1996. His ministry focused on strengthening lay leadership. Since his retirement, Pastor K. Roy has been pastor emeritus and a member of our congregation. His funeral service will be held at Muhlenberg Wednesday, April 3 at 10:30 am (and live-streamed to [Facebook](#) / [YouTube](#)).

Both Joan and Pastor K. Roy will be fondly remembered and dearly missed, and we ask that you keep their families in your prayers.

# TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

## RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

3/17	8:30 Holy Communion .....	58
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	119
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	33
	Total Views this Week .....	n/a
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	62.6
3/24	8:30 Holy Communion .....	72
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	124
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	n/a

## NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Moving into February, the deficit remains similar to January. We see this stability because expenses were less in February. If we can hold expenses stable at \$60,000 each month and steadily increase gifts and offerings, then we will begin to see a shift in the deficit. The good news, gifts and offerings did increase slightly in February. Let's keep working together to reach our stretch budget for 2024. Continue to prayerfully consider your giving strategy.

*Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2024			
	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$67,036	\$125,833	\$87,491
Total Income	\$94,932	\$147,463	\$105,245
Total Expenses	\$127,901	\$150,521	\$125,220
<b>Excess Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(32,969)</b>	<b>\$(3,058)</b>	<b>\$(19,975)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 7,729.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 5,080.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 12,809.50</b>

To give online, scan here →



# WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 1 - 7, 2024

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

- Mon** Easter Monday ~ Church Office Closed
- Tues** 1:00 pm Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm Joint Choir Rehearsal
- Wed** 10:30 am Funeral for K. Roy Nilsen
- Sat** 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle
- Sun** Second Sunday of Easter  
Food Pantry, Lay Communion and Name Badge Sunday  
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](#)  
6:00 pm Confirmation for All

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: ([depay@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depay@muhlenberglutheran.org) /540-434-3496) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).

## SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Are you on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram or Twitter? Why not Like or Follow Muhlenberg? Get informative updates regularly throughout the week, photos, videos, prayers, and inspirations/ devotionals. It is also a great way to let your friends know about your church and our ministry. Find us on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) by searching for Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, or follow us on Instagram and Twitter at @MuhlenbergLC.

