



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

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April 16, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Today we welcome new members to Muhlenberg! We extend a warm welcome to:

Dave and Karen Barnes
Sarah, Jeremy and Mila Bundy
Thomas, Kristina, Jefferson, James and
Bryson Gladin
Jennifer and Eli Hawkinberry
Nathan, Jennifer, Caroline and
Jack Leopard
Doug and Lydia Price

It is a joy and delight to welcome these siblings in Christ as they join in our mission to equip all people to live out Christ's love. Please be sure to welcome them and get to know them!

If you are new to Muhlenberg, please know you are welcome to worship and participate in all activities that we offer even if you are not a member. In fact, doing this will be the best way to determine whether this feels like a church "home" for you! And if you'd like to be a part of our next *Welcome to Muhlenberg* experience to learn more about who we are, please contact Pastor Lauren or Pastor Alex (*see contact info above*).

HOLY BAPTISMS

Lola Jane Kiser

Baptized, A New Child of God

At the Easter Vigil last week, we welcomed Lola Jane Kiser, daughter of Christopher and Jennifer Kiser, into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family! Lola's sponsors are Bryce and Ansley Kiser. Welcome to the Lord's family, Lola!



Hannah Lynn Messick

Baptized, A New Child of God

Today we welcome Hannah Lynn Messick, daughter of Travis and Jennifer Messick, into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 11:00 service! Hannah's sponsor is Sarah Furr. Welcome to the Lord's family, Hannah!



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

SPECIAL FOOD COLLECTION

Sundays in April

The Local & Global Mission Committee's focus for April is Patchwork Pantry (70 South High Street, Harrisonburg). Each Sunday in April, our committee is asking for specific donations of **ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and relish**. The pantry will distribute these items in May to help families be prepared for warm weather meals. These items are occasionally available from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, but are nearly always in tiny little restaurant packages.

FOOD COLLECTION UPDATE

Thank you to all who have donated condiments for our special April Patchwork Pantry collection! **We still need the following to reach our goal of 65 of each condiment ...**

- 26 bottles of ketchup
- 44 bottles of mustard
- 43 jars of mayonnaise
- 47 bottles of relish

The bin for our special collection will be in the gathering area all month. **Let's see if we can reach our goal!!**

Local & Global Mission
CONDIMENT
COLLECTION
for Patchwork Pantry



THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10:30 am

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

EARTH DAY

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join the Harrisonburg community at Turner Pavilion in downtown Harrisonburg **NEXT Sunday, April 23 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. Pastor Lauren will preside at communion and Bishop Bob Humphrey will offer our sending benediction. There will also be supervised activities for children during the service, led by our own Children's Minister Ashley Saunders.

Ashley also requests donations of egg cartons, bottle caps, jar lids, milk cartons, and scrap paper. She has a plan to reuse these non-recyclable items with attendees!

This worship service will take place of all Christian 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 if you'd like!

FAITHFUL PEOPLE, FAITHFUL QUESTIONS



While the season of Lent is over, our faithful practices do not simply end. Throughout this Lenten season, many of our members have taken the opportunity to use the *Why Cross* in the Gathering Area to ask wonderful questions, and the Pastors have enjoyed taking the time to answer them as faithfully as possible. Just as Jesus was constantly met with and asked faithful questions, holy curiosity is meant to be at the heart of a healthy Christian community. To that end, we are offering the opportunity for

Muhlenberg members to ask faithful questions in perpetuity! In the pews, you'll now find light purple cards, where you are invited to ask questions whenever one arises. *The purple cards are a reminder that our Lenten discipline continues beyond those 40 days.* These can be big theological questions, life questions where you'd like a faithful response, inquiries about something confusing you read in scripture, or a simple question about why something happens in worship. Any question is welcome!

You can either **place your purple card in the Offering Plate, or in the purple lock box at the Connection Center.** Please always add your name to the questions so we can follow up directly. The Pastors will take time to answer these questions, often sharing the answers in *The Chimes*, or in video format on Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube for the benefit of the wider community. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions confidentially if you wish. Simply check the *Keep Confidential?* box on the card, add your contact information, and place it in the lock box. Only the Pastors have access to this box. For confidential questions they will arrange to respond to you one-on-one via email or through a face-to-face conversation. Questions can also be asked digitally using [THIS GOOGLE FORM](#).

If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to the Pastors. We look forward to our continued discernment and growth together as we demonstrate that Muhlenberg Lutheran Church is a community where questions, doubts, and struggles are a welcome part of *equipping all people to live out Christ's love.*

Your Name:		Keep Confidential? <input type="checkbox"/>
Contact Information:		
Your Question:		

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!



We have a busy spring planned at Muhlenberg! Every Sunday has something exciting happening. Keep an eye on *The Chimes* for more details. For now, be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us!

April 23 ~ Ecumenical Earth Day worship at Turner Pavilion

See page 2 for more information.

April 30 ~ Lutheran Campus Ministry Senior Recognition

Let's send our college seniors off with a blessing!

May 7 ~ Confirmation Sunday

Join two of our youth as they affirm their baptism at 11:00 am.

May 7 and 14 ~ Photo Directory Days

More info coming--Start practicing your smiles now!

May 21 ~ Commitment Sunday

A special day to wrap up our spring stewardship campaign.

May 28 ~ Pentecost Sunday AND Elizabeth Williams' retirement celebration/Farewell and Godspeed.

Plan to attend a special luncheon in Elizabeth's honor at 12:15 pm.

June 4 ~ High School Senior Recognition

We'll pray for our youth as they prepare for graduation.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE

Store your winter clothes without mothballs. Mothballs might keep moths from nibbling holes in your favorite sweater, but their toxins are harmful to the environment. Mothballs are made from dichlorobenzene, a pesticide that may get into groundwater and can be toxic to animals.



There are more environmentally friendly options for storing your winter clothes. For example, put them in an airtight container with bay leaves or cedar blocks — both are natural materials that will repel moths and keep your clothes smelling fresh until next year.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers/greeters, communion assistants, sound techs, etc.



Sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center **for May**. Signing up really helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged — just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or contact [Kathy Thompson](mailto:kathy.thompson@jmu.edu) (540-578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu). If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Sermons > Serve in Worship

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities — talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SUNDAY CLASS LOCATIONS

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

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

Grades 6 - 8 ~ Augsburg Room

40-Day Journey ~ Nielsen Room

Faith Lens High School & Adult Class ~ Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

VBS IS JUST ON THE HORIZON

August 7 - 11

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be August 7 - 11 (in the evenings). VBS is a great opportunity to spend a week focused on Jesus and community. We have decided on the *Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs* curriculum.

Participants will explore what all living things need to live—*shelter, food, water, air, and community*—and how we can have compassion for the living earth, especially in their local ecosystems. Through awareness, gratitude, wonderment, reciprocity, and kinship, participants will consider how to become co-sustainers and participants in the work of God's creation.



SENIOR HIGH NEWS

KAIROS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Rising 9th – 12th graders this summer are encouraged to mark their calendars for **June 25-30** 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 for a week, to gain a fresh experience of the grace and presence of God in that community, 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 about the event, click [HERE](#). The registration deadline is **April 24**; to register, click [HERE](#). Contact Pastor Alex with any questions.

CAROLINE FURNACE NEWS

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp in Fort Valley, VA is a place to encounter God in God's creation and through an intentional Christian community. Week-long

summer camp experiences are available for kids and youth, as well as families and adults! Check out the schedule at carolinefurnace.org and register today. If cost is a concern, reach out to one of the pastors to learn how Muhlenberg can help.



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

COFFEE HOUSE EVENT



I am looking for some creative and energetic high schoolers (grades 9-12) who might be interested in performing at our first ever Coffee

House at Muhlenberg! The date for this event will be **Friday, May 26 beginning at 7:00 pm.**

I'm looking for instrumentalists, vocalists, poetry readers, one-acts.... you get the idea! All performances should be 5 minutes or less, to allow time for many to show off their talents.

We will have our first meeting after Easter, TBA, to discuss details, but for now, if you are interested in being a part of Muhlenberg's first ever coffee house, please email me (williams@muhlenberglutheran.org). Elizabeth Williams

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

People Helping People has had a very busy beginning of the year. We have seen unprecedented client numbers with more people coming with their utilities already disconnected resulting in large bills that are all due at once to reconnect. Even with our help being limited to \$400 a year per household (split up \$200, every six months), the donation dollars are just not meeting the need. Our donations for January were less than \$5,000; however, we gave over \$14,000 to 88 households. In February we gave \$10,500 to 51 households. As we close March over \$12,000 has been distributed to 72 households.



This is the time to help our neighbors in need. Please consider donating by mailing a check directly to PHP (281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg 22801) or by placing your check in the offering plate and designating "PHP." Muhlenberg continues to serve the community in so many ways, and we look forward to continuing to serve alongside.

*Leeanne Shepherd, Executive Director
People Helping People*



GREAT COMMUNITY GIVE

April 19, 2023



The **Great Community Give** is a way for local non-profits in our community to be lifted up and fundraise together. Through our Local & Global Mission ministry, Muhlenberg supports Second Home Learning Center, People Helping People, 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, in addition to hosting Harrisonburg Rockingham Child Day Care Center. If you are moved to provide additional support to any of these organizations or others of your choice, please go to the following website on April 19 to make your donation...

www.greatcommunitygive.org/

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION (CONT'D)

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

At a moment's notice natural disasters, like the powerful tornadoes that hit the South, Midwest and even places (like Delaware) that don't normally have tornadoes, can cause widespread destruction. Please pray for those impacted.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

100% of your gifts given to LDR go directly to aid in disaster relief. Visit the Connection Center for more information. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** www.elca.org.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time).
- **Mail:** make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response, designate tornadoes (or the disaster you wish to support) and send to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering plate:** make check payable to Muhlenberg and designate *Lutheran Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent Financial members can direct their Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com Disaster Response for details.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS)

We received this message from CWS...

To the Muhlenberg congregation:

Thank you so very much for your care and compassion for CWS clients (refugees, asylum-seekers, immigrants, and unaccompanied children) who are beginning their new life in the US. Donated items are already helping new arrivals get set up in safe homes, and begin to rebuild in security and peace. For many, the help received in the initial period of arrival is something that goes on to shape their lives and experience, and they begin to contribute and give back to the community. Thank you for being a part of this story and strengthening our community in this meaningful way.

Emily Bender

Associate Director of Development, Virginia
Church World Service

HOLY WEEK & EASTER ATTENDANCE

4/6	7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	71
	Live Wellstream Worshippers	26
4/7	7:00 Good Friday Service	97
	Live Wellstream Worshippers	31
4/8	4:00 Easter Vigil Service.....	51
4/9	8:30 Holy Communion	140
	11:00 Holy Communion	223
	11:00 Live Wellstream Worshippers.....	46

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

POWER IN THE SPIRIT:

SEEKING & FINDING ~ July 13 - 15



This inspirational conference occurs each year 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.

WELCOME RESOURCES

**LOOKING TO LOVE: LGBTQIA+
CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR CHURCH**

May 1, 15 and June 5, 7:00 pm

The LGBTQIA+ Inclusions Tapestry Thread is hosting a three-part discussion series in May and June. Participants will collectively watch a YouTube *TED Talk* and join Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (Our Saviour, Norge, VA) and Pastor Joel Neubauer (St. Mark, Yorktown, VA) in an exploration of the weekly topic and its application in daily life.

May 1 Civility: Faithful Civil Engagement.

May 15 Acceptance: Faith and Family.

June 5 Love: Extending Love to All.

The sessions will not be recorded. You do not have to attend all three sessions. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Truth in Love Workshops

Speaking in Love Workshop

Sunday, April; 23, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Being heard, understood, and accepted is one of the most powerful gifts that we can grant to others - which we explored in the first Truth in Love Workshop. Having others hear, understand, and accept you and your point of view is also a vital component to healthy communication and conflict management. With this in mind we will be focusing on Emotional Intelligence and Nonviolent Communication which are needed tools to speak to one another in love. This is a digital workshop. The cost per person is \$25. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Implicit Bias — What You Don't Think You Think

Thursday, April 27, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Sunday, April 30, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Perhaps you've heard this term: "implicit bias." Sometimes there are things going on inside us that we don't even realize are happening, things that have an impact on how we speak, how we listen, and how we manage conflict. It's what we don't think we think. This workshop will unpack implicit bias and the effect it can have on conflict management. We will look at: 1) Recognizing Implicit Bias within ourselves and within our community; 2) Questioning Implicit Bias; and 3) Transforming Implicit Bias. We'll ask the Holy Spirit to intercede for the sighs that aren't quite making it to words. These are digital workshops. The cost per person is \$25.

Click [HERE](#) to register for April 27.

Click [HERE](#) to register for April 30.

A REMINDER – TEXT & EMAIL SCAMS

We've heard from some members about a recent **email scam**, involving emails that pretend to be from Pastor Lauren (using a different email address that features the word "pastor") and addresses the recipient by their first name in the subject line. See the example below:

Scams such as these are a common annoyance for our members, our Pastors, and our staff - and we just wanted to remind you of steps to take if you ever receive a suspicious message like this one. Thank you to those who have alerted us, and please see the tips below!

We encourage you to follow these guidelines for messages claiming to be from Muhlenberg Pastors or staff members:

- If you receive a suspicious message, we remind you that it's best **not to respond**, to **block the email / account**, and to **delete the message**.
- **Authentic emails** from Muhlenberg Pastors and staff will come from addresses that end in "**muhlenberglutheran.org**".
- **Texts** from Pastors will only come from **their cell phone numbers**.
- Please note that Muhlenberg Pastors and staff will **never** reach out to you directly in a text, email, or social media direct message (like Facebook Messenger) asking for favors, money, gift cards, etc.
- Finally, **if you have any questions or concerns** about a suspicious message, please feel free to email Christian Perritt, Communication Minister, at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org, or you can email the church directly at info@muhlenberglutheran.org.

Thank you!



DIGITAL MINISTRY

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 [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages.

We've heard so many wonderful stories and positive feedback from this past Holy Week and Easter! So, we want to make sure and thank the people that actually make everything happen behind the scenes - our amazing staff and volunteers. So much of the wonderful experience we all had this past week would not have been possible were it not for the tireless work of these amazing people fixing copiers, proofreading bulletins, changing paraments, setting up worship, and so much more. THANK YOU!





TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/2	8:30 Holy Communion	90
	11:00 Holy Communion	139
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40
	Total Views this Week	189
	Hours Viewed this Week	123.1
4/9	8:30 Holy Communion	140
	11:00 Holy Communion	223
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	46

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Through the first quarter, gifts and offerings are comparable to last year. Total income is more than the previous year due to the sale of the church van and liquidating the van replacement fund per the approved spending plan. Expenses are a little less than expected at this time. Thus, you see a current surplus, however, we need your continued financial support to achieve our income goals and sustain God's work in our community.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 2023

	2023YTD Actual	2023YTD Budget	2022YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$114,289	\$158,500	\$119,307
Total Income	\$208,509	\$192,194	\$146,010
Total Expenses	\$185,500	\$221,123	\$200,565
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$23,009	\$(28,929)	\$(54,555)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 24,835.11
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,479.23
Total Giving	\$ 26,314.34

April Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$86

To give online, scan here ➔



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 17 - 23, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Mtg.
Tues	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via Zoom
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Sun		Third Sunday of Easter
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Earth Day Service (Turner Pavilion)
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube



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

Jeanette Norfleet

Kyle, Kelly, Patrick and Andrew O'Brien

Jon and Lori Oliver

Nate, Ren, Lochlan and Weston Oliver

Vinnie and Kim Paladino

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 **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 /540-434-3496) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).