



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



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

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

April 21, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

LOTS OF STAFF NEWS!

We have a number of exciting Muhlenberg staff updates to share!

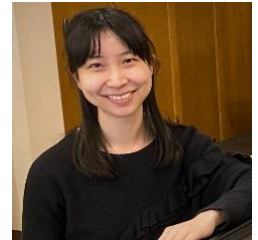


First, we have a Music Minister! **Matt Thomas** has accepted the position and will start at Muhlenberg June 17. Matt comes to us from the Berkshires in western Massachusetts where he served as Minister of Music at St. John's Williamstown, Artistic Director of the Berkshire Concert Choir, and Dean of the Berkshire Chapter of the AGO (American Guild of Organists). He was raised in Franklin and Hendersonville, TN and received his bachelor's of Piano Performance from Belmont University, and an artist diploma from the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow. He took a gap year in New York City to study Musical Theatre performance, which turned into a short career as a musical theatre performer, theatre music director, and an audition and performance accompanist. Concurrently, he served as Director of Music at a Lutheran Church on the Upper West Side

where he became "immediately passionate about the organ and its power to support congregational singing." He began studying intently and graduated with a master's in Organ Performance and Music Composition from Hunter NYC.

Matt says he "looks forward to working with the many talented singers and instrumentalists in the congregation, and the excellent staff. But mostly, I look forward to worshipping with you all very soon!"

Second, we are so pleased to announce that **Linlin Uta** will be returning as our amazingly talented Music Ministry Accompanist in the fall! We are so blessed to have Linlin share her talents and passion with us, and we thank her for her dedicated service as our Interim Music Minister. Thank you, Linlin!



~ continued on page 2 ~

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

OFFERTORY

8:30 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* R. Hobby

11:00 *Christ the Lord is Risen Again* W.J. Stopford

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Mark Radecke

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Mary Elizabeth Skinner

11:00 ~ Kim Fawley

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Oris Griffin

11:00 ~ Mark Warner

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle

11:00 ~ Meg Wightman

TORCH BEARERS

8:30 ~ Gus & Roger Kagey

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Gus & Roger Kagey, Jim Doyle,
Oris Griffin

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak, Mark Warner
Meg Wightman, Greta Willis

USHERS

8:30 ~ David & Susan Lawrence

11:00 ~ Brad Moyers, Alice Wightman,
Mark Byerly

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Tom Pippert

11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

MUSICIANS

Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister

Celebration Singers (8:30)

Sanctuary Choir (11:00)

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

LOTS OF STAFF NEWS! (CONT'D)

Next, we are saddened to announce that our wonderful Administrative Assistant **Liz Engleking** is leaving her position at Muhlenberg. Her last day is this Friday, April 26.

We are very pleased to announce that she is pursuing a new, full-time career opportunity. We wish Liz all the best in her new venture!



On a related note, we are so grateful to announce that our very own **Pam Briehl** has graciously stepped in to serve as our Interim Administrative Assistant! Pam will be serving in the church office on a part-time basis until a permanent Administrative Assistant is hired. Please join us in thanking Pam for stepping up to help us during this transitional time! Pam will officially begin her new role Monday, April 29.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At our Congregation Council's April 15 meeting we discussed the following:

- Our congregation's progress on meeting objectives set in the 2021 Congregational Strategic Plan and priorities for the near future
- Agreed upon expectations regarding report/minutes due dates prior to Council meetings. Note: minutes/reports from committees/task forces/ministries are due to Linda Depoy within 3 days of a meeting

- Mission and Seminary Endowment Granting processes for 2024
- Notification from Council Secretary Rachel Peters of her plans relocate to Pennsylvania in June. Her last Council meeting will be in May.
- Gave approval for the Personnel Committee to search for and hire a part time Interim Administrative Assistant following the news of Liz Engleking's resignation to take a full-time position elsewhere.

Peace be with us all,

Meg Wightman

Congregation Council President

mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SEASONAL WORSHIP BOOKLETS

We have returned to using “seasonal worship booklets” that we’ll reuse for several weeks. You’ll find specific parts of our worship (some hymns, music, and worship participants) listed on page two of *The Chimes* each week.

EARTH DAY

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

TODAY (4/21) at 9:45 am



Join the Harrisonburg community at Turner Pavilion in downtown Harrisonburg 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 today for children, youth, and adults.

We will have regular 8:30 and 11:00 am worship at Muhlenberg. Former Interim Pastor Mark Radecke will preach at both services; you’re welcome to attend worship here AND/OR at the Turner Pavilion!



You are invited to a

Baby Sprinkle!

honoring

The Zubers!

Please join The Young Adult Group in sprinkling the Zubers with love by bringing donations of diapers and wipes to the Gathering Area. Little Baby Nadia is already growing out of newborn diapers, so size 1 and above would be appreciated.

Starting:
Sunday
April 7

Ending:
Sunday
April 28

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

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 (haleyntabor@gmail.com). If you're interested in supporting LCM or helping to provide a meal, contact Sarah Orem (oremse@gmail.com).

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>

FRIDAY *CHEW ON THIS*

You're invited to the final *Chew on This* with Pastor Lauren this Friday. We'll gather **at noon** for food, fellowship, and conversation related to the previous Sunday's Bible text. Please RSVP to eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org by 8:00 am Friday to ensure we reserve enough seats.

April 26 Urgie's Cheesesteaks

OUR COMMUNITY PLACE LUNCH

THIS Friday, April 26, 11:30 am



**OUR
COMMUNITY
PLACE**

The last Friday of the month is a time to gather for fellowship and lunch at Our Community Place (OCP) Friday Restaurant. The Restaurant is open from 11:30 - 1:30 and serves a delicious 3-course meal for just \$12.50. The Restaurant provides work for OCP's programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.

We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg). Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431).

PROPERTY WORKDAY

THIS Saturday, April 27, 8:00 am

The Property Committee will hold a workday beginning at 8:00 am and hopefully ending by noon. We need your help to mulch all the planting areas around the church campus and clean out the basement of the Ott Street House. We have tools available but you are welcome to bring rakes, forks and wheel barrows. Coffee and donuts will be provided. All are welcome. Bring a friend. For more information, contact Mark Byerly at (msbyerlytype@comcast.net or 540-271-1478). We hope to see you then!

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

NEXT 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 the link below. For details, contact Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org).

<https://forms.gle/m5vmdEXbRgH7FAtv6>

May the 4th Be With You!

A gathering of all ministry teams is planned for **Saturday, May 4 8:30 - 10:30am** in the MAC. There will be food, visioning, team-building, & relationship-building among our ministries. **Everyone** is invited to attend and consider being a part of the ministries at Muhlenberg!



Come One and All - On **Saturday, May 4, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the MAC**. The Church Council will share with you the plans for revitalizing our Ministry Groups. We have 16 standing committees and the committee chairs will be there to meet you. There will be coffee, food, discussions and visioning for each committee, team-building that puts a new spin on storytelling, and relationship-building among all of our ministries. Everyone is invited to attend!

Child care will be provided. We are excited to meet you - greet you - and see you in person. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kristee Trumbo at 540-246-1461.

Please sign up by clicking the link below or using the Sign-Up Notebook in the Gathering Area.

Sign-Up Link:

<https://bit.ly/3VPOvyP>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THURSDAY MEN'S GROUP

Thursday, May 2, 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) or Dave Barnes (barnesda09@gmail.com).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

ATTENTION BAKERS!

We need 10 bakers to make two to three dozen frosted cupcakes each for our celebration of Pentecost, **Sunday, May 19**. We will host a gathering following each service as part of our 175th Happy Birthday celebration, and Bishop Phyllis Milton will be with us to help mark this exciting year for our congregation.



If you would like to volunteer, please email Tassie Pippert (pippertl@jmu.edu). Thank you in advance for helping us make this a day to remember. Mark your calendar now for this fun-filled gathering.

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. ~ continued on next page ~

MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

A full job description can be found at 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 or 804-931-2274). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

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.

LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

In just the first quarter of 2024, Muhlenberg members and friends have supported the following ministries in our community with monetary donations.

Virginia Synod World Hunger	\$235.00
Virginia Synod Disaster Response	\$75.00
Patchwork Pantry	\$289.41
People Helping People	\$461.65
Second Home	\$2,036.65

We share our love for God when we show our neighbors love. It is easy to show support for

these and other ministries by going to the Muhlenberg web page and accessing the giving tab.

Can't decide which group to support? By giving to Muhlenberg's general fund you automatically support People Helping People, Second Home, and many other recovery groups that use Muhlenberg as a safe place to meet.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

LAWN MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow and trim the grass on Muhlenberg's campus. During peak season, lawn maintenance is needed weekly. Less than two hours of your time can make a difference. Bring a buddy and complete the task even faster. Volunteers are needed April - October. All equipment and training are provided, along with flexible scheduling.

If you can help, please use the *Sign-Up Notebook* in the Gathering Area or contact Sexton Jeff Williams (text/call 804-931-2274 or email sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org).

SENIOR HIGH NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERINGS

THIS Saturday, April 27, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

All 9th–12th grade youth are invited to gather at the home of the Gibsons (663 Circle Drive, Harrisonburg) for a dinner bonfire. Come roast hot dogs, make s'mores, and have fun with the high school youth! Please RSVP to Jenny Gibson so we'll know to expect you (540-538-2121 or gibsonsjenny@gmail.com).

KAIROS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The Virginia Synod will host Kairos for rising 9th – 12th graders, **June 23 - 28** at Roanoke College. 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.

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.

3b. Scripture Interprets Scripture: Justification by Grace through Faith.

Lutherans believe that the Bible as a whole presents God as gracious and merciful and “abounding in steadfast love” (Exod 34:6; Ps 103:8; Joel 2:13). We are unworthy sinners, but we have been reconciled with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus to die for our sins, and we can be put right with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1-11; Eph 2:8). Since Scripture as a whole teaches this, we know better than to think that our own efforts or merit will improve our status with God or increase God's love for us. There are many passages of Scripture that encourage us to do good works, and we take those seriously, but we do not think that those works will enable us to earn favor with God. Interpreting Scripture in light of Scripture leads us to view the call to good works as an invitation for people redeemed by God's grace to act as the transformed spirit-filled “new creations” that God has made them to be (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 5:22-23).

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. **Registration is now open.** Visit vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/ or click [HERE](#) for more information.

REMINDER

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](#)!

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)

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/7	8:30 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Holy Communion	70
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40
	Total Views this Week	173
	Hours Viewed this Week	45.1
4/14	8:30 Holy Communion	60
	11:00 Holy Communion	78
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	18

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Gifts and Offerings were slightly higher than the previous month with expenses remaining similar. The deficit remains comparable to February. You will notice there is less income compared to last year because in 2023 we sold the church van in March, which increased the income and created a surplus in our budget.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 2024

	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$123,879	\$188,750	\$114,289
Total Income	\$160,517	\$221,194	\$208,509
Total Expenses	\$197,056	\$224,955	\$184,000
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(36,539)	\$(3,761)	\$(24,509)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	7,091.25
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	620.00
Total Giving	\$	7,711.25

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 22 - 28, 2024

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tues	6:00 pm	Lutheran Campus Ministry
	6:00 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via Zoom
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Fri	11:30 am	Our Community Place Lunch
	12:00 pm	Friday <i>Chew on This</i>
Sat	8:00 am	Property Workday
	2:00 pm	Student Recital
Sun	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Welcome to Muhlenberg
	9:45 am	Faith 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:

Mike and Sue Koch

*Bob Kolodinsky, Corey Reed,
and Kat Kolodinsky*

Ken Kotcha

Chris, Mari, Abigail, and Jonny Kyle

Frank and Betty Lambert

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 depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)