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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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April 23, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

At Monday's Congregation Council meeting...

- Reflected on our Lenten and Holy Week journeys and Easter celebration and welcoming of 30+ new members into our body.
- Heard a presentation from Communication Minister Christian Perritt about the MLC branding and brand identity work he's been doing. Our congregation is so fortunate to have him and his talents and experience.
- Approved working with MinistryWorks to assist our congregation in applying for an IRS Pandemic Employee Retention Credit.

Peace to you,

Meg Wightman

Congregation Council President

mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

PASTOR ALEX OUT TODAY

Pastor Alex is in Huntsville, Alabama this weekend with the Massanutten Brass Band for the 2023 North American Brass Band Association Championships. In addition to Pastor Alex, the band includes three

Muhlenberg members, Kevin Stees (Director), Andrew Foote (tuba), and Chris Walton (tenor horn).

WELCOME GUEST PREACHER

KATHY THOMPSON

Our guest preacher this week is a familiar face! Muhlenberg member Kathy Thompson is a frequent participant and leader in worship, faith formation, welcome, care, and service ministries. One of Kathy's projects after retiring from her role as Assistant Dean and instructor at James Madison University was participating in the Lay Preaching Academy through the Virginia Synod. Kathy was commissioned last summer as a Lay Preacher, and preached her first official sermon here at Muhlenberg. Today, she brings us the Word once again with her sermon entitled *We Are Witnesses*. Thank you, Kathy, for your faithful proclamation among us this day!



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

EARTH DAY

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE



Join the Harrisonburg community at Turner Pavilion in downtown Harrisonburg **TODAY (4/23) 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.

This worship service will take the place of all Christian Formation classes today 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!

SPECIAL FOOD COLLECTION

Sundays in April

Today we conclude our condiment collection for Patchwork Pantry. We still need the following to reach our goal of 65 of each condiment ...

- 19 ketchup
- 34 mustard
- 37 mayonnaise
- 39 relish

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#**

OUR COMMUNITY PLACE LUNCH

Friday, April 28, 11:30 am

Would you like to enjoy a delicious meal and support a local non-profit at



**OUR
COMMUNITY
PLACE**

the same time? Local and Global Mission invites you to lunch at Our Community Place (OCP) the last Friday of every month. OCP hosts a Friday Lunch Restaurant from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, serving a delicious 3-course meal for just \$10. The Lunch Restaurant provides work for OCP's Kitchen Industries employees, meaningful training for OCP community members, support for OCP programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.

April 28 is our next lunch date. We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) at 11:30 am. Please sign up at the Connection Center or contact Susan Lawrence (540-908-0073 or lawrensj@comcast.net) if you plan to attend or want more information. It is also fine to just show up at the last minute. Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Hope to see you Friday, April 28 at OCP!

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 **THIS 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 on Sunday, April 30** following the 11:00 am service in the Sanctuary to discuss details. 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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP

Wednesday, May 3, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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. If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net).

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 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.

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: _____

Contact Information: _____


Keep Confidential?

Your Question: _____



MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE

 Celebrate Earth Day by planting a tree. The cooling effect of a young tree is equivalent to that of 10 air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. Planting a tree may significantly decrease energy bills.

Celebrate Earth Day **TODAY** with a service at **Turner Pavilion**. See page 1 for details.



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* (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.

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.muhenberglutheran.org



PHOTO DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY PHOTO UPDATES!

Sundays, May 7 & 14
*Before, in-between, or after
the 8:30 am or 11:00 am services*



We're updating photos and information for our Photo Member Directory! Please make sure to take an extra 10 minutes at worship on either **Sunday, May 7** or **Sunday, May 14** to have your or your whole family's photo taken, and to confirm / update your information for our database. We're trying to get as many photos taken during these two dates as possible — so please mark your calendars! We'll have staff ready to take your photos and check your info starting at 8:00 am both these Sundays, and we're available all morning until after the 11:00 am service.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SUNDAY CLASS LOCATIONS

This Earth Day worship service at Turner Pavilion will take the place of all Christian Formation classes today for children, youth, and adults. Below is the typical schedule for future reference.

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)

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 TOMORROW, April 24;** to register, click [HERE](#). Contact Pastor Alex with any questions.

DITIGAL 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.

Thank you to our extremely talented musicians, Vocal Soloist Cynthia Page and Music Minister Elizabeth Williams for this beautiful rendition of Psalm 121!



VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

WELCOME RESOURCES

FROM THE VIRGINIA SYNOD

Truth in Love: Speaking in Love Workshop, Today (4/23), 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.

Truth in Love: 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.

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.

POWER IN THE SPIRIT:

SEEKING & FINDING ~ July 13 - 15

POWER
I N T H E
SPIRIT

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.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/9	8:30 Holy Communion	140
	11:00 Holy Communion	223
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	46
	Total Views this Week	298
	Hours Viewed this Week	93.8
4/16	8:30 Holy Communion	66
	11:00 Holy Communion	103
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	37

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 <u>Actual</u>	2023YTD <u>Budget</u>	2022YTD <u>Actual</u>
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	\$ 4,648.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 114.23
Total Giving	\$ 4,762.23

April Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$86

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 24 - 30, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
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	Fourth Sunday of Easter	
	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 lift up five households from our congregation in prayer. Our prayer families for this week are:

Sue Panos

Phil and Becky Peery

Debra Pelikan

Vito, Katharine, Giorgio, Giuliana, Gianluca and Gabriella Pellerito

Christian, Melissa, Billy and Henry Perritt

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)

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