



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

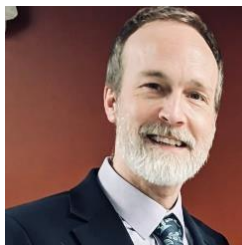
April 28, 2024

FIFTH 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

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING

8:30 *From the Rising of the Sun* arr. B. Greer

11:00 *Make a Joyful Noise* W B Petrucij; arr. T. Davis

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Lauren Eanes

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Mary Elizabeth Skinner

11:00 ~

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Larry Blade

11:00 ~ Bob Kolodinsky

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Oris Griffin

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

TORCH BEARERS

8:30 ~ Gus & Roger Kagey

11:00 ~ Sarah Sunde

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Gus & Roger Kagey, Oris Griffin,
Larry Blade

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak, Bob Kolodinsky,
Malcolm Wilfong, Sarah Sunde

USHERS

8:30 ~ Karen Thomsen, Susan Gallaher

11:00 ~ Brad Moyers, Alice Wightman

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Bazil Gibson

MUSICIANS

Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister

Judith Ofcarcik, Organist

Celebration Singers (8:30)

Sanctuary Choir (11:00)

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Shirley Crawford and Jackson Quick, Jr. by Lola Heffner.

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 was 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 tomorrow (4/29).

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 to 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

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

TODAY (4/28), 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 **TODAY at 9:45 am** in the Sanctuary. New members will be received in worship next 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>

CUB SCOUT PACK

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church will be chartering a Cub Scout pack starting this fall. Cub Scouts is for all elementary school aged children who may be interested and is a very family-oriented program. Matt Phillippi, the local Scout Council Commissioner and a Muhlenberg member, will be available between and after services **TODAY (4/28)** in the Gathering Area to answer questions and provide information about this opportunity for our community.



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>

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING CIRCLE THIS WEDNESDAY (5/1), 6:30 – 8:00PM

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 (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net).

THURSDAY MEN'S GROUP THIS Thursday (5/2), 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).

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 - **THIS 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 for food preparation purposes

Sign-Up Link:

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

THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

FRIDAY CHEW ON THIS

Chew on This continues for another month! Each Friday in May, 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. Please RSVP to eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org by 8:00 am each Friday to ensure we reserve enough seats.

May 3 Magpie Diner

May 10 Pasha

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PENTECOST/ BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday, May 19

You're invited to Muhlenberg's 175th Birthday Party! On Pentecost, May 19, we'll celebrate the birthday of the church along with Bishop Phyllis Milton, bishop of the Virginia Synod. In addition to festive worship services at 8:30 am and 11:00 am, we'll gather for cupcakes following each service.

At 9:45 am, come to the Nielsen Room (or join online via Zoom) for a Q&A session with Bishop Milton, hosted by the middle school youth. Join in the fun and celebration!



MUHLENBERG NEWS

NEW DEADLINE FOR *THE CHIMES!*

Now Wednesdays at 12 noon

With so much wonderful news to share, we need to adjust the weekly dead-line for *The Chimes*. To allow time for prioritization, design, and proofing, **the new weekly deadline will now be WEDNESDAYS AT NOON effective with next week's issue.** Requests for a series of articles or a full-column/full-page article should be made two weeks in advance.



CREATION CARE

Drip irrigation systems apply water slowly and directly to the roots of the plant, using up to 50% less water than a traditional sprinkler. You can buy simple drip hoses at home improvement stores. Choose a lawn sprinkler that has an automatic shutoff device and a moisture sensor to ensure you're only watering when the lawn really needs it.



BRONZE BELLS

ON THE SILVER SCREEN:

MOSAIC Handbell Ensemble performs **TODAY** (4/28), 4:00 pm at Massanutten Presbyterian Church and May 3, 7:00 pm at Asbury UMC. Muhlenberg's own Handbell Director Kath Wissinger is the Artistic Director. Come enjoy some dazzling ringing of movie themes!! For details, visit www.mosaicbells.org



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

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](#). **By May 1**, the Synod needs to have a good beginning idea of how many participants there will be so they can plan properly, so please take time now to register. 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.

4. The Plain Meaning of the Text. Lutherans say that Scripture is to be interpreted in line with its "plain sense." This means that passages are to be understood in the sense that would have seemed obvious to their original readers. They are not to be taken out of context or twisted to be read in a sense that never would have occurred to their original readers. It was popular in Luther's day for interpreters to come up with creative ways of understanding the Bible that never would have been intended by the author. This was done by finding "secret meaning" in the Bible that no one had ever noticed before. Luther hated this way of interpreting the Bible. He would claim, if you allow this sort of thing to go on, people will find they can make the Bible say anything they want it to say. We should stick to the plain sense of Scripture - the meaning it had for its original readers.

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, and fellowship. Congregational leaders (teachers, music directors, choir members, council and committee members, family life consultants, deacons, pastors) and others will find this event nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry. Children are also invited to attend. Muhlenberg's own Ashley Saunders will lead special activities for ages 3 – 10 and older kids/teens can help with the younger children or attend the rest of *Power in the Spirit*. **Registration is now open.** Visit vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/ or click [HERE](#) for more information.

YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Saturday, May 25, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm



The Virginia Synod Youth Assembly is the annual meeting of the Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization, to which all Lutheran youth in grades 7 - 12 in the Virginia Synod automatically belong. The event will allow youth to gather at one of four places around the synod and be linked via Zoom for presentations, singing, and discussions! We are delighted to be one of the host sites for the Youth Assembly this year. Each congregation of the VA Synod is invited to send up to four delegates to the Youth Assembly. Delegates may be in 7th - 12th grades. Learn more at <https://vasynod.org/event/youth-assembly/>
Interested in representing our congregation? Contact Pastor Lauren by Wednesday, May 1.

REMINDER

BUILDING USE REQUESTS

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 when they were built.

For church meetings/events, we need your help to ensure the room(s) you want to use or a suitable alternative is available. Before you plan a meeting/event, contact our Building Use Coordinator to schedule space.

For non-church meetings/events (e.g. 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 "Building Use Forms" mailbox 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, please reach out to buildinguse@muhlenberglutheran.org or call the church weekdays, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. **Until we identify a new Building Use Coordinator, Linda Depoy and Interim Administrative Assistant Pam Briehl will process building use requests.**

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/14	8:30 Holy Communion	60
	11:00 Holy Communion	78
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	18
	Total Views this Week	174
	Hours Viewed this Week	50.8
4/21	8:30 Holy Communion	54
	11:00 Holy Communion	69
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	22

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	\$ 7,957.33
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,499.44
Total Giving	\$ 9,456.77

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 29 — May 5, 2024

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

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
	6:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle
Thu	9:00 am	Thursday Men's Group
Fri	12:00 noon	Friday <i>Chew on This</i>
Sat	8:30 am	May the 4 th Be With You Event
Sun		Sixth Sunday of Easter
		New Members Received
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	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:

Susan Lance

Helen Landis

Nancy Landis

David & Susan Lawrence

Louise Layman

Please note: if you notice an unintentional omission in our list or prefer your name not be listed, please contact Parish

The **weekly deadline** for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Wednesday at 12 noon**. 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 /540-434-3496)