

## 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

281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 Phone: 540-434-3496

## April 30, 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

## CAMPUS MINISTRY BLESSING AND COLLEGE GRADUATE RECOGNITION



The school year is coming to a close for our area colleges and universities. Bridgewater College held their commencement yesterday, while EMU will hold their commencement

May 7 and JMU will hold commencement ceremonies from May 11-13.

We want to take a moment to congratulate and celebrate a group of students who have been a special part of our faith community. To these incredible students, know our prayers and love go with you in all your future endeavors. If your journey takes you far from here, we hope you know you will always have a home here in Harrisonburg and at Muhlenberg.

**Camden Brewer** is graduating from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She plans to begin an internship in natural resource management this summer in Minnesota.

**Sarah Furr** is graduating from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Sarah plans to stay in the Valley pursuing a career teaching in an elementary classroom.

**Dolan Nethercutt** graduated from Bridgewater College with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Dolan plans to continue his studies this fall here in the Valley, pursuing his Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Eastern Mennonite University.

**Jocelyn Shinseki** is graduating from James Madison University with a Master of Arts in Teaching. Jocelyn is currently applying to local middle and high school English teacher positions and hoping to be in Harrisonburg next year.

**Philip Quoqui** is graduating from Eastern Mennonite University with a Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation. He'll be continuing studies at EMU this summer and will engage in a practicum this fall.

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

## SPECIAL FOOD COLLECTION Sundays in April

There's still one more opportunity today to give to our condiment collection for Patchwork Pantry. We still need the following to reach our goal of 65 of each condiment ...

2 ketchup 12 mayonnaise 10 mustard 12 relish

#### **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION**

It was wonderful to welcome 30+ new members to Muhlenberg April 16. We are so fortunate to have each and every one! We invite you to read the enclosed brochure to learn a little about our new members, along with a photo to put a face with the name. A PDF copy was also attached to the Friday email. If you don't receive the Friday email, please sign up on Muhlenberg's home page www.muhlenberglutheran.org.

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

#### CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

At the April 17 meeting, we...

- Reflected on our Lenten and Holy Week journeys and Easter celebration and welcoming of 30<sup>+</sup> 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.

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

## 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**: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556</a> Or by phone ...DIAL IN - **301-715-8592** and enter Meeting ID / Passcode: **200491556**#

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

## FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER Next Sunday, May 7

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all-purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.

## CONFIRMATION Next Sunday, May 7

Join two of our youth as they affirm their baptism at 11:00 am. Our confirmands will also be sharing their faith statements at 9:45 in the sanctuary.

## 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 TODAY** (4/30) following the 11:00 am service in the Sanctuary to discuss details. If you are interested in being a part of Muhlenberg's first ever coffee house, or cannot attend today, please email me (williams@muhlenberglutheran.org). Elizabeth Williams

#### **CLARINET RECITAL**

Geneva Maldonado, clarinetist, will present a graduate recital at Muhlenberg NEXT Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 pm. This recital is free and open to all. Geneva will be performing more recently composed music. You will hear pieces for clarinet and piano, flute, as well as clarinet and electronics. Geneva says, "this is a very captivating program, and I am very excited to share music with the community that reflects my progress from my first year of my master's degree at JMU!"

## SAVE THE DATE!

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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!



#### 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

Start practicing your smiles now! See page 8 for details.

#### **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.

#### 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



## Note from the Pastors

It is such a privilege to serve as your pastors! We love to hear from you when things are going on in your life, so that we may pray with you, grieve with you, rejoice with you, and provide you with spiritual support. But here's the thing...we cannot read your mind! We need you to be in touch with us when you'd like to connect.

#### When to Contact the Pastor(s)

Please, please, contact one of us when...

You or a loved one is going into the hospital. With tighter privacy restrictions at RMH, we often cannot be told by the hospital that you are there, even if we call and ask. It's up to you or a member of your family to let us know about a hospitalization.

You have a birth in the family. Pastors love to hear about births in the family and celebrate this special time with you! If you're up for a visit, we'd love to stop by the hospital and say a special blessing for the new baby.

You have a life-threatening illness. We want to walk with you through this difficult time to bring God's strength and hope along the way.

There is a death in the family or funeral in our church. When there is a death, your pastors would like to know immediately—any time, day or night. We are never "too busy" to bring the comfort and assurance of God's love in the darkness of grief. Please also consult one of the pastors before a funeral date is set.

You would like a prayer said for you. We are always happy to do this! We will keep all prayer requests confidential unless you make a specific request that we notify the prayer chain team.

You would like a pastor to visit with you. Whether you'd like a visit at home, at the church, or in a coffee shop, please invite us! Maybe you have a specific spiritual concern, or maybe you just want to get to know the pastor better. We want to get to know you too--invite us over!

You have a question or concern about something at church. Many church-related questions that people have can be cleared up easily. Please talk to the pastors instead of allowing misunderstandings to become rumors!

You are thankful and want to share your joy! What a gift it is to us to be able to celebrate with you!

This is obviously not an exhaustive list. Give a pastor a call if you have a question about faith, your marriage is strained, you're facing a difficult decision, you're struggling with grief, you're approaching a major life transition, or anytime you are in need of spiritual care. We are here for you!

#### *How to Contact the Pastor(s)*

Call the church or send us an email. This is the best place to start. Text messages are ok if you need a quick and easy response during normal business hours, but generally calling or emailing is best. The church phone number and pastors' email addresses are on the masthead of *The Chimes* every week. Email addresses for all staff are also available from the staff page of our website. <a href="https://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/staff.html">https://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/staff.html</a>

If it's urgent, start by calling the church. If no one answers, then you can hear our cell phone numbers in our voice mail greeting. Don't hesitate to call our cell phone at any time if it's an emergency.

Please do not pass a message along through someone else. If they forget to tell us, then everyone feels bad. And sometimes the message gets conveyed in a different way than you'd prefer. Just give us a call or send us an email!

*Please do not contact us via Facebook or Instagram.* Those messages always seem to get missed! Email and phone are much better.

If you have a non-urgent message, please do not call or text the pastor on their day off. Pastor Lauren is off on Thursdays, and Pastor Alex is off on Fridays. You are very welcome to email them on those days, but understand that you probably won't hear back from them until the next day. However, don't hesitate to call on their day off for a true emergency.

Please give us grace. We do our very best to respond to every message we receive in a timely manner, but we mess up sometimes. If you don't hear back from us within a few hours for a truly urgent matter, or within 48 hours for a non-emergency, then please try again. Sometimes emails don't go through or messages aren't received. You can also feel free to contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy to help ensure your message was received and when you might expect a response.

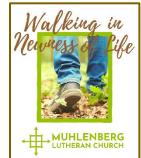
**In summary:** If you find yourself at any point thinking, "I sure would like to talk to a pastor," get in touch! We can't read your mind, but we do very much want to connect with you.

--Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex

Dear people of Muhlenberg,

**Everywhere we look, we see signs of new life around us.** From the buds on the trees and the flowers in our yards, to the baby bunnies hiding in the bushes and the longer days bringing people outside to walk and enjoy the sunshine—all around us, we are reminded of the abundance of God's world. Even the stink bug I found in my living room last week reminds me of the new life that comes each spring!

At Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, we also see signs of new life around us! As we baptize babies at the font and taste the bread and wine of holy communion, we see new life being born in us. From the 30+ new



members we welcomed last week to the longtime member who exclaimed, "Muhlenberg is alive again!" after a long pandemic season, we are reminded of the abundance of new life we receive in Christ.

Throughout this Easter season, we invite you to continue "Walking in Newness of Life" as we explore the abundance of resurrection life. Using the book of Romans as our guide, we'll see how we are set apart, mutually encouraged, justified by faith, and raised from the dead for newness of life. Together we'll explore our need to walk together, continue to innovate, share generously, and step up the ways in which we share God's love to a world that so desperately needs to recognize God's presence.

We'll consider how **our grateful response** in generosity empowers us to continue walking in newness of life, and allows others to walk with us. Your financial contributions allow us to reach out beyond our walls through our online Wellstream ministry, children's programs, service projects, small group opportunities, music ministry, and so much more as we continue to be a *Wellspring of God's grace in Jesus Christ*. We'll hear stories of new life in our midst through articles in *The Chimes*, mission moments, letters and more, and we'll share our hopes for an even more robust ministry in the year to come.

Over the next few weeks, please engage in the materials. Pray about how you can live into this new life in Christ, and generously share in the year to come. Then, on Intent Sunday, May 21, please bring your intent card with you to declare the generosity that you intend to share with this congregation.

**Thank you** for being part of this exciting congregation. Pray for our common work together as we continue to walk in newness of life!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lauren Eanes Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President

P.S. Your intent card will be mailed to your home the week of May 8 for you to return May 21.

And, check out this video from Pastor Lauren: tinyurl.com/mrzvkavs

## FAITHFUL PEOPLE, FAITHFUL QUESTIONS

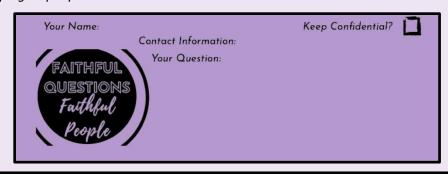


While the season of Lent is over, our faithful practices do not simply end. Throughout this Lenten season, many of our members have taken the opportunity to use the *Why Cross* in the Gathering Area to ask wonderful questions, and the Pastors have enjoyed taking the time to answer them as faithfully 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.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

#### **CREATION CARE**

Research your next big purchase to learn more about its environmental impact. *Consumer Reports* has launched a website to rate items ranging from towels and water filters to refrigerators and cars. In addition to rating their overall performance, special attention is paid to the eco-friendliness of the products. Go to <a href="https://www.greenerchoices.org">www.greenerchoices.org</a> before making your next big purchase.



Thanks to all who came out to the Harrisonburg Ecumenical Earth Day Service last week! Thanks to Pastor Lauren, Ashley Saunders, Christian Perritt and Bishop Bob Humphrey for their parts in the service. Seven area churches were represented last Sunday!

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

#### **SUNDAY CLASS LOCATIONS**

Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> 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

## PHOTO DIRECTORY

## DIRECTORY PHOTO UPDATES! Sundays, May 7 & 14

Before, in-between, or after the 8:30 am or 11:00 am services



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 either NEXT 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 review your family's information on file (contact info, birth dates, etc.) for accuracy starting at 8:00 am both 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@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

## CELEBRATION CORNER

We wanted to take the opportunity to celebrate some of the exciting moments happening in our community and recognize the accomplishment of our members. If you know of moments worth celebrating by Muhlenberg members, pass them along to the pastors or Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) so we can celebrate these times of joy together!

#### BRITTANY DYER COMPLETES THE BOSTON MARATHON



On April 17, Brittany Dyer raced in the Boston Marathon and completed the event with a final time of 3:37:12. After qualifying for the prestigious event in 2020 and having the race canceled due to COVID, and enduring an injury from a hit-and-run accident while running in 2021, Brittany was able to persevere, qualify for Boston again, and race in 2023. It has been quite the journey, and we give thanks for the healing, newfound joy in running, and hope she has found along the way. Congratulations on this incredible accomplishment, Brittany!

## MUHLENBERG MEMBERS PLACE 2ND AT NORTH AMERICAN BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Under the direction of Muhlenberg Member Kevin Stees, the Massanutten Brass Band placed 2nd in the Second Section of competition at the NABBA Championships in Huntsville, AL last week. The Massanutten Brass Band is a community "British Style" brass band, made up of musicians from all over western Virginia, including Muhlenberg Members Andrew Foote (Bb Tuba), Chris Walton (Principal Tenor Horn), and Pastor Alex (3rd Cornet). NABBA Championships bring bands from all over North America to compete, and in addition to the success of Massanutten, Kevin directed the JMU Brass Band to a 3rd place finish in the Championship division, the highest and most



challenging division of competition. Congratulations to all our musical members!

## SECOND HOME NEWS

Second Home goes back to NYC for their 10<sup>th</sup> musical production! We are proud to present *Annie Jr.*, **May 18 - 21** at Back Home on the Farm. Come see our children tell the story of Annie, the scrappy young orphan who finds her way into the heart and home of the VERY rich Oliver Warbucks, all while trying to hold onto the hope of finding her real parents and avoiding the nasty Ms. Hannigan. There's laughs, there's fun, there's a yellow dog named Sandy. Admission by donation. Come enjoy the outdoors, get an authentic New York style hotdog from our concession stand and watch the talented kids of Second Home!



## Virginia Synod News

## 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



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. Registration is now open — click HERE to register and for more information.

## 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 (540-434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the editor and pastors.

+++ Two of Muhlenberg's oldest members are celebrating birthdays in May! Juanita Propst will be 98 on May 1, and Lora Dugard reaches triple digits--100 years!-- on May 24.

You are invited to send birthday greetings:

Juanita Propst 817 Oakland St Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Lora Dugard 1491 Virginia Avenue Mumaw House in Woodland Park Harrisonburg, VA 22802

We offer prayers for the family of Lib Kyger following her death April 19. Lib was a long-time member of Muhlenberg, and we ask for your prayers to be with her three children: Erich Kyger and wife, Shirley, Margaret Kyger-Liskey and husband, Jeff Liskey, and Philip Kyger and wife, Krys; four grandchildren; two greatgrandchildren, and extended family. Margaret is receiving cards on behalf of the family at ...

32 Spring Court Waynesboro, VA 22980

### TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

#### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/16	8:30 Holy Communion	66
	11:00 Holy Communion	103
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers	
	Total Views this Week	153
	Hours Viewed this Week	61.9
4/23	8:30 Holy Communion	77
	11:00 Holy Communion	68
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers	

#### 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	2023YTD	2022YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	Budget	<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
Giving to Other Designated Funds

Total Giving

\$ 7,745.06
\$ 1,169.43
\$ 8,914.49

**April Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$86** 

To give online, scan here



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

#### May 1 - 7, 2023

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

Tues 6:30 pm Celebration Singers Gloria Dei Ringers 7:00 pm 10:30 am Wed Bible Study via **ZOOM** 6:30 pm **Sanctuary Choir** 6:30 pm **Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle** Fifth Sunday of Easter, with Confirmation Sun Food Pantry/Lay Communion 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** 

2:00 pm Clarinet Recital by Geneva Maldonado



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

Bud and Pat Perry
Chris, Rachel & Henry Peters
Joann Petonke
Tom and Daille Pettit
Tom and Sally Pettit

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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