



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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May 1, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

HE IS RISEN...HE IS RISEN INDEED!

ALLELUIA!!!

Your Congregation Council has been hard at work! Our meeting was held this past Monday and here are some things we discussed!

- We were excited to learn that six youth will be affirming their baptism today (5/1). Council is thrilled with the activities our children and youth are up to!
- Council will have another Team Building activity at Hillandale Park May 21.
- Our Council Covenant was unanimously approved by everyone there!
- We approved the recommendation from the Personnel Committee to hire a permanent, Part-time Sexton. Please give Jeff Williams a thank you and congratulations when you see him!
- We spent a lot of time listening to each Small Group's report. Each were charged with coming up with ideas that we could implement in 2022 to live out our Strategic Plan. Our four main focus areas were: Youth, Welcome, Small Groups, and Stewardship.

- Your Council approved the Stewardship Appeal that you will hearing more about in the coming weeks. This is an exciting time of growth for Muhlenberg.

As always, your Congregation Council is here for you. Please feel free to reach out to me with your questions, concerns, and comments anytime at mlccouncilpres@yahoo.com.

Greta Willis, Congregation Council President

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation, often called Affirmation of Baptism, is a course of learning, discernment, and service for youth in grades 6 - 8 where they learn what it means to live into their baptisms.



Join us as we celebrate the hard work and faithfulness of our Muhlenberg youth who are choosing to publicly affirm their Baptism this year. **Confirmands will share Personal Faith Statements in the sanctuary during the Christian Formation hour (9:45 - 10:45 am). A reception will follow in the Gathering Area.**

~continued on next page~

At their Affirmation of Baptism **during the 11:00 am service**, Confirmands are asked to make this promise, made by their parents at their baptism, for themselves: "...to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

Join us as we celebrate this milestone step and new beginning for **Ainsley Hargens, Kat Kolodinsky, Sam McKeever, Keira Miller, Ryan Moyers, and Billy Perritt.**

~ see page 3 for the confirmands' verses ~

FOOD COLLECTION

TODAY in the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. 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.

LAY COMMUNION MINISTRY

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Tomorrow (5/2), 7:00 pm via ZOOM

Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us! For details, contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88053197319?pwd=cUFVVeVAzdXhTSDgxUXFBV3gzemhUZz09>

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us **each Wednesday at 10:30 am** for Bible study via **ZOOM**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING CIRCLE

THIS Wednesday (5/4), 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Join us in the Gathering Area as we continue this prayerful ministry and spiritual practice. Whether you knit or crochet, are experienced or just learning, you are invited to join us as we pray and stitch together prayer shawls that will bring comfort, solace, celebration and joy to those in need.

SECOND HOME YARD SALE

DATE CHANGE:

Saturday, June 4, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

You are invited to participate in the community yard sale on Muhlenberg's campus to benefit Second Home Learning Center.)

This is an opportunity to have a personal yard sale and keep the profits, while supporting Second Home through table/space rental fees. We are offering 3 options for rental space:

- Prime for \$40-includes two parking spots and 2 tables. This reservation allows for a parked car, should you need it.
- Regular for \$25-includes one parking spot and 1 table. This reservation allows for a parked car, should you need it.
- Basic for \$15- includes a spot to set up only. No tables provided and no car allowed.

Set up time is 6:00 am. The yard sale begins at 8:00 am and concludes at 1:00 pm. All items need to be cleared by 2:00 pm. To sign up for a table/space, please click [HERE](#). If you have questions, please contact Nadina Pupic at phpharrisonburg.staff@gmail.com. If you want to sell, buy or do both, we look forward to seeing you there!

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION



Martin Luther reminds us that this Christian life is nothing less than a return to our baptism, when we were saved and delivered from sin through Christ's death and resurrection. **Today at the 11:00 service**, the following young people step forward to affirm their baptism with their parents, friends, mentors, and the Muhlenberg family.

Our confirmands have received instruction and support through their middle school years and now have come to publicly affirm their faith. This marks a milestone in their lives of faith and in our congregation as they become confirmed adult voting members of the congregation. The Bible verses have special meaning and were chosen by the confirmands. *(Bible verses are from the NRSV.)*

Ainsley René Hargens – Philippians 4:13 ¹*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

Katharine Yafeng Kolodinsky – Psalm 27:1-3 ¹*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?* ²*When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh — my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.* ³*Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.*

Samuel Martin McKeever - Joshua 6:2-5 ²*The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have handed Jericho over to you, along with its king and soldiers.* ³*You shall march around the city, all the warriors circling the city once. Thus you shall do for six days,* ⁴*with seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, the priests blowing the trumpets.* ⁵*When they make a long blast with the ram's horn, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and all the people shall charge straight ahead."*

Keira Anastasia Miller – Psalm 13 ¹*How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?* ²*How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?* ³*Consider and answer me, O LORD my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,* ⁴*and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.* ⁵*But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.* ⁶*I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

Ryan Michael Moyers – Isaiah 41:10 ¹⁰*do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.*

William Jones Perritt - Acts 2:1-4 ¹*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.* ²*And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.* ³*Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.* ⁴*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PROPERTY COMMITTEE WORKDAY Saturday, May 14, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

The Property Committee has scheduled the first workday of the year! The event will be held rain or shine. Projects include painting the nursery, landscaping/mulch, working on the fire escape, and various other important beautification projects. We always appreciate and need your help. If you can attend for only an hour or two, you are more than welcome to participate. Please bring your work gloves, shovel, and/or rake. We look forward to seeing you! Have questions? Contact Property Committee Co-Chair Steve Reich (reichsa@jmu.edu or 540-908-0609).

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR KATIE RAY

Sunday, May 15 after 11:00 am Service



We give thanks for the life of Katie Ray who died January 17. Katie was a member for many, many years. A funeral service was held January 29, and the family is eager to welcome everyone to a Celebration of Life for

Katie Sunday, May 15. We will worship together at 11:00 am, then regather at Purcell Park, shelter #2 to share fellowship, food, and memories of Katie.

If you are able to assist by providing food/drink, helping set up/clean up, or serving at the Celebration of Life, please contact Care Committee Co-Chair Linda Morrison (540-383-5085 or lindamm778@gmail.com).

VOICE/PIANO RECITAL

Sunday, May 22, 3:00 pm

It is always a joy and pleasure to witness the amazing young talents of our Muhlenberg teens! The Music Ministry is pleased to announce **Emily Eppard and Alice Wightman** will present a duo voice/piano recital in the sanctuary. Emily, a graduating high school senior, and Alice, a rising high school junior, will perform a variety of musical styles including classical, sacred, and secular works. This recital is open to all. Please plan to attend and show your support for these incredible musicians!

BRIDGE OF HOPE CONCERT

Thursday, May 26, 6:30 pm

Muhlenberg is hosting a fundraiser for Bridge of Hope. The performance will feature husband-and-wife pianists Dr. Stephen W. and Carolyn R. Sachs, also known as The Sachs Piano Duo. The duo formed in 1985 and since that time has performed a variety of music written for piano duet (one piano, four hands) and piano duo (two pianos, four hands) including music of jazz-classical hybrid composer Claude Bolling and other jazz standards as well classical masterworks of Bartok, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak, Mozart, PDQ Bach, Schubert and others.

The Sachs have ties to Harrisonburg, including membership at Muhlenberg, and work/performing at Eastern Mennonite University and the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival. They have four grown children and 13 grandchildren and enjoy sailing and movies.

In June, Local & Global Mission's *Mission Moment* will focus on Bridge of Hope and the work of the agency.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Our most up-to-date printed directory is available in the Gathering Area today. Please take one per family and review your information. If updates are needed, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy at depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496. Please especially note the email address we have on file. (see the article from Finance Manager Jane Eanes on page 5 for details).

ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY

Since 1981, David Hill has faithfully served as our chairperson of the Altar Guild. This June, he will retire after 41 years of dedicated ministry. We're looking for a group of folks who will step up to shepherd this ministry. Please contact Pastor Lauren if you're interested, or would like to learn more.

CREATION CARE TIP

 Just say 'no' to plastic produce bags. About one million plastic bags are used every minute, and a single plastic bag can take 1,000 years to degrade. If you're already bringing reusable bags to the grocery store, you're on the right track. Purchase some reusable produce bags and help keep even more plastic out of the landfill.

REUSE/RECYCLE MATERIALS

To reduce paper waste, we are reusing worship booklets and extra issues of *The Chimes* between services. (As always, we encourage you to take *The Chimes* home with you.) Please place materials in the designated basket. We thank Linda Morrison for taking Sunday materials and office paper to the recycling center.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE NEWS

GREAT NEWS! WE HAVE HIRED A NEW DAYTIME SEXTON

We are very pleased to announce that Jeff Williams has been hired as our Daytime Sexton. Jeff comes to us with a wealth of experience having served as a career Marine, training manager, retirement advisor, in addition to many other positions. Most recently he has been our interim Daytime Sexton. Jeff has been a valuable member of our congregation and has shared his gifts to our church in numerous ways throughout the years. Please join us in welcoming Jeff in his new position.



MOSAIC HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21

Muhlenberg's own Kath Wissinger is also Artistic Director of Mosaic Handbell Ensemble. The group will present *An American Journey* concert series. Bluegrass, Blues, Jazz, Spiritual and Patriotic music provides colorful scenery along the way. Eight advanced ringers play on 3+ octaves bells and 5 octaves chimes - and without a director up front! Two public concerts, both at 7 pm, will be offered: **Friday, May 20 at Harrisonburg Baptist and Saturday, May 21 at Luray UMC.** Donations accepted at the door. See a promo video and info on upcoming events on their [Facebook](#) page.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

VBS IS JUST ON THE HORIZON

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be a week in early August (tentatively August 7-13). VBS is such a great opportunity to spend a week really focused on Jesus and community. I need your help. There are two great curriculums on my radar, and I need some input from you and your family on what interests you the most.

The first is **Passport to Peace** from Menno media. Passport to Peace, an interactive curriculum that explores five Bible stories, encourages children to listen to and learn from people who are different, notice the needs of others and seek to help, creatively work to keep everyone safe, and refuse to respond to conflict with violence.

The other is ReNew: the Green VBS from Sparkhouse. Grounded in Jesus' Parable of the Sower, ReNew connects the Bible and creation care for kids with five fun-filled days.

Both offer activities to help us think outside of our community and see the world around us. **I would love to hear your input by May 15.** Email me at saunders@muhlenberg.lutheran.org.

Ashley Saunders, Children's Minister

YOUTH NEWS

KAIROS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

June 26 (Sunday evening) - July 1 (Friday noon) Kairos will be held at **Roanoke College**. Kairos is our week-long faith formation event, offered each summer for youth who will be 9th - 12th graders in the fall. Several times each day, we gather the entire Kairos group of about 175 youth and adults for lots of singing, skits, fun and prayers; then participants gather in small groups that meet throughout the week. Kairos has many special features: event theme t-shirts, Open Mic Talent Show, faith testimonies, comic relief, reflection time, prayer stations, speed friending, t-shirt fashion show, and more!

This event is a chance for youth who are already committed to a life of faith to be part of a unique Christian community for an entire week, to have 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.

For more information about the event and registration, click [HERE](#).

YOUTH SYNOD ASSEMBLY

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The Virginia Synod Youth Assembly will be held online **Saturday, June 11, 3:30-5:30 pm**. The youth assembly is for Virginia Synod youth in grades 7-12, and there is no cost to attend. The assembly is planned and led by the Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board. For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JUANITA!



Today (5/1) is Juanita Propst's 97th birthday! She has been a member of Muhlenberg for 60 years! If you would like to send a card, her address is 817 Oakland Street, Harrisonburg, 22802. Congratulations, Juanita!

FROM OUR FINANCE MANAGER

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS



Starting in June 2022, for those of you who have email, we would like to begin sending your Muhlenberg contribution statements to you via email instead of through the mail.

For those without email, we will be happy to continue providing you with a paper copy of your statement. The reasons for this change are twofold:

- First, this is a much faster and safer way for you as a donor to receive and save your statements. It is easier to retrieve and less likely to get misplaced. It can also be shared more easily with a tax preparer or other financial advisor.
- Second, utilizing email instead of the post office will save on cost and staff time, going hand in hand with our Strategic Plan.

We will be sending statements to your email address we have in our system. If your email address has changed recently, please contact me at the email address or phone number below so I can update your information. Additionally, if for some reason you would prefer to receive a paper statement rather than an emailed copy, please also let me know so that I can make note of this request. Finally, please contact me also if you have questions regarding the first quarter statement that was mailed recently.

Thank you for your cooperation as we make this small change in our financial communication method. And thank you for your generous support to Muhlenberg.

Jane Eanes, Finance Manager

finance@muhlenberglutheran.org / 434-3496

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

July 14-16 ~ Registration is Open

What does it mean to be a leader in the Church and a follower of Jesus? The words of Saint Thomas reveal a disciple whose faith in Jesus makes him willing to go where Jesus goes, even when danger and death are real possibilities. For Thomas, it's better to be unsafe with Jesus than to stay behind as Jesus heads into dangerous places. For the Church today, we just may be called to a similar faith that goes with Jesus—even into danger. At Power in the Spirit 2022 we'll explore these themes, and more! Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

IN-PERSON SYNOD GATHERING

July 15-16 ~ Registration is Open

In conjunction with Power in the Spirit, the Virginia Synod looks forward to gathering in person to celebrate ministries of service from around the Synod, worship together, and learn from one another.

Everyone can attend. Unlike an Assembly where the number of participants is limited, anyone can attend the Synodical Gathering. There are **two options for Registration:**

- **On-Campus Housing** includes the event, one-night lodging on Roanoke College's campus, plus Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday breakfast. The cost will be \$140.
- **Commuter** includes the event, Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday breakfast. The cost will be \$100.

You are automatically registered for the Synodical Gathering if you attend Power in the Spirit. Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 4/17 | 8:30 Holy Communion | 164 |
| | 11:00 Holy Communion | 152 |
| | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 51 |
| | Total Views this Week | 321 |
| | Hours Viewed this Week | 150.8 |
| 4/24 | 8:30 Holy Communion | 70 |
| | 11:00 Holy Communion | 70 |
| | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 48 |

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

As the first quarter closed, gifts and offerings continue to lag behind what was budgeted and also in comparison to the previous year. Expenses exceed income, thus we continue to show a deficit. While a deficit at this time of year is not unusual for most congregations (as a significant percentage of gifts and offerings tend to come during the final month of the year), our Congregation Council is keeping an eye on this and continuing to be thoughtful stewards of the generous gifts you are giving, while moving forward in our mission to equip all people to live out Christ's love.

Personnel is the largest expense and the most critical to equip the saints. Property and maintenance is the second largest expense and is currently comparable to past years. MLC is fortunate to have a team who carefully cares for this campus. God's love is overflowing with abundance for each of us. Take time to consider how you can contribute your time, talents, and treasures to MLC. Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 2022

| | 2022 YTD Actual | 2022 YTD Budget | 2021 YTD Actual |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gifts & Offerings | \$119,307 | \$153,750 | \$139,724 |
| Total Income | \$147,510 | \$175,937 | \$166,778 |
| Expenses | \$202,043 | \$211,828 | \$230,688 |
| Excess Income/(Expenses) | \$ (54,533) | \$ (35,891) | \$ (63,910) |

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Giving in support of our Spending Plan | \$ | 5,172.00 |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds | \$ | 170.00 |
| Total Giving | \$ | 5,342.00 |

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 2 - 8, 2022

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

| | | |
|------|-------------------|--|
| Mon | 7:00 pm | Eldercare Support Group via ZOOM |
| Tues | 1:00 pm | Weekly Staff Meeting |
| | 6:30 pm | Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle |
| | 6:30 pm | Celebration Singers |
| | 7:00 pm | Gloria Dei Ringers |
| Wed | 10:30 am | Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM |
| | 6:30 pm | Sanctuary Choir |
| Sat | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm | Second Home Yard Sale |
| 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 |

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/434-3496)

Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION 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 -12 ~ Campus Room

Devotional Classics Adult Class ~ Nielsen Room

Faith Lens Adult Class ~ Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:

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