



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

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

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

May 8, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW

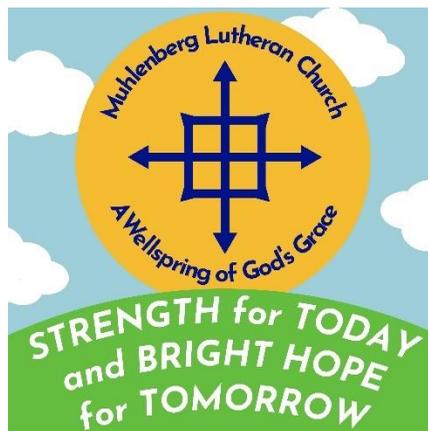
There's been excitement building at Muhlenberg this spring! As we've welcomed new and returning families to worship, celebrated the affirmation of baptism with an amazing group of young people, and begun developing new classes and small groups for adults, we've seen God at work bringing new energy to Muhlenberg. We give thanks for God's faithfulness which provides all and sustains all. As the hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness* proclaims, all we have needed, God's hand has provided.

Our Congregation Council has thoughtfully and prayerfully discerned through faithful conversations and work on our Strategic Plan that now is the time for Muhlenberg to boldly move forward in faith, continuing to grow on the firm foundation we have. God is not calling us to merely survive; God is calling us to generously share the good news of Jesus in our community and world!

Muhlenberg's spring campaign, *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow*, will gather the resources we have to expand leadership in the areas of youth ministry, adult

small groups, and nursery staffing for our littlest members. We want to continue to build a community where people can authentically connect to one another in meaningful relationships, and empower people of all ages to use their gifts in this place.

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow will allow us to grow in the strength and hope that God gives, both today and into the future. Our grateful, generous response to God's gifts will support Muhlenberg's mission to equip the saints to live out Christ's love. You'll be hearing more over the coming weeks. We encourage you to engage the materials and join us in celebrating all that God is doing in our midst!



WHAT'S THE BUZZ (CONT'D)

HE IS RISEN...HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!!!

Your Congregation Council has been hard at work! Our meeting was held Monday, April 25 and here are some things we discussed!

- We were excited to learn that six youth will be affirming their baptism. 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 hear 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

ANDREW MORRISON WOLZ Baptized, A New Child of God

Welcome Andrew Morrison Wolz, son of Katie Sensabaugh & Ryan Wolz, into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 8:30 service this morning! Andrew's sponsors are Diane & Chip Bayer and Hannah & Omar Gonzalez. Welcome to the Lord's family, Andrew!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (5/9), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us **each Wednesday at 10:30 am** for Bible study via [ZOOM](#):

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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE WORKDAY THIS Saturday (5/14), 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

The Property Committee's first workday of the year 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).

THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

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 **NEXT Sunday, May 15. We will worship together at 11:00 am, then regather at Purcell Park (41 Monument Avenue), 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).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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! Our 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 as 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.

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.

~continued on next page~

- 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 pnharrisonburg.staff@gmail.com. If you want to sell, buy or do both, we look forward to seeing you there!

ALL LUTHERAN WOMEN'S RETREAT November 3 – 5

The next All Lutheran Women's Retreat will be held at the Natural Bridge Hotel and Conference Center. The keynote speaker will be Donna Marie Todd, with the theme *Bloom Where You Are Planted - Thriving in Times of Change*. Brochures are available in the Gathering Area, or for more information, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/alwretreat>.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

The sunny skies and warmer temperatures offer the perfect opportunity to save energy. Dryers account for 6% of total electricity consumed in the United States and cost an average of \$80 per year to operate. Using a clothesline will cut back on your energy consumption and leave your clothes smelling as fresh as a summer day.



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.



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 NEXT Sunday, May 15.** Email me at saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org.

Ashley Saunders, Children's Minister

MOSAIC HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Muhlenberg's own Kath Wissinger is also Artistic Director of Mosaic Handbell Ensemble. They will present *An American Journey* concert series including Bluegrass, Blues, Jazz, Spiritual and Patriotic music. Two 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. For more info, visit their [Facebook](#) page.

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](#).

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.

ELCA NEWS

ELCA OBSERVES ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) observed its 35th anniversary April 30. On this date in 1987, the ELCA constitution was adopted during the opening session of the Constituting Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

The ELCA was formed from a merger of three Lutheran churches – the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America. To symbolize the formation of the new denomination, the bishops from the three predecessor church bodies poured water from separate containers into one baptismal font.

As the church commemorates its history, it also is looking toward the future. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton spoke of the importance of the “Future Church” priority being rooted in tradition while also being relevant to people who may not know the gospel message of freedom. Click [HERE](#) to read the entire press release.



The photo shows the bishops from the three predecessor church bodies pouring water from separate containers into one baptismal font on April 30, 1987.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/24	8:30 Holy Communion	70
	11:00 Holy Communion	70
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	48
	Total Views this Week	440
	Hours Viewed this Week	41.7
5/1	8:30 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Holy Communion	106
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40

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	\$ 3,745.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 100.00
Total Giving	\$ 3,875.00

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 9 - 15, 2022

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

Mon	7:00 pm	Ministries Night via ZOOM
Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	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	Property Committee Workday
Sun		Fifth 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
	12:30 pm	Celebration of Life for Katie Ray

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)

Last Sunday was Confirmation Sunday for some wonderful Muhlenberg youth:

Ainsley René Hargens

Katharine Yafeng Kolodinsky

Samuel Martin McKeever

Keira Anastasia Miller

Ryan Michael Moyers

William Jones Perritt

