



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 9, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

NEW VOLUNTEER TREASURER!

Congregation Council is excited to announce that Ted Sudol has been elected to fill the role of Congregation Treasurer for the remainder of this year. Ted brings a great deal of experience and we look forward to working with him on Council. Please see his bio below. We thank Ted for his willingness to serve Muhlenberg as Treasurer and as a Council member.



Ted Sudol, Muhlenberg's new Treasurer, joins Congregation Council for the first time. Previously, he served as chair for the Call Committee that presented Pastor Lauren to the congregation. Ted is managing director for Carter Global, a worldwide consulting firm focused on philanthropy and the success of charitable organizations. In the community, he serves on the Board of Directors for the new Blue Ridge Free Clinic. Ted is a graduate of Georgetown and Temple Law School. He and his spouse, Jill Kastanek, are the parents of four children, and they have eight grandchildren.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SERMON SERIES

Today we continue our sermon series focused on the book of Acts and Muhlenberg's new Strategic Plan, *Equipping the Saints*. You can learn more about the plan on page 3 or by clicking [HERE](#). We are excited to explore the Holy Spirit's movement in the early church and in our congregation today.

Following worship, we invite you to join the pastors on [ZOOM](#) to share initial insights and raise questions about each of the focus areas of the Strategic Plan. For more in-depth exploration, join the community conversations happening **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm via [ZOOM](#)**. This week's topic is ...



Know our neighbors, and serve together with them.

PARKING LOT SERVICE ~ 4:00 PM

Join us for a brief worship service. The audio is broadcast through a radio transmitter so people can stay in their cars. We'll share communion. Bread will be available or you may bring your own.

THIS WEEK

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (5/10), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

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

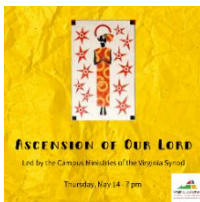
Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Join us for Holden Evening Prayer **Wednesdays, 8:00 pm** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). You're invited to this beautiful evening prayer service and worship with the gathered virtual assembly. It can also be accessed at any time during the week. If you'd like a copy of Holden Evening Prayer so you can follow along at home, please contact one of the pastors.

ASCENSION WORSHIP SERVICE



Gather together with the Virginia Synod Campus Ministries, including members of our own Lutheran Campus Ministry at Muhlenberg, for online worship this **Ascension Day, Thursday, May 14**. On

this fortieth day of the Easter season, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven and the missions and ministries that are still happening "on the ground."

The service will be hosted at **7:00 pm by Peace and Hope**. Join by clicking [HERE: www.peacehopeva.org/ascensionday](http://www.peacehopeva.org/ascensionday). We will hear from the students, staff, and supporting congregations of many of our campus ministries and celebrate the way that God has been with them throughout this pandemic school year.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/25	8:30 Communion	21
	11:00 Total Live Views	87
	Total Views this Week	373
	Hours Viewed this Week	113.1
5/2	8:30 Communion	21
	11:00 Total Live Views	87

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$134,994	\$217,607	\$150,102
Total Receipts	\$166,778	\$248,436	\$189,604
Expenses	\$231,391	\$256,924	\$216,328
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$64,614)	(\$8,488)	(\$26,724)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 16,197.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>3,148.00</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 19,345.00

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg is not suspending its ministry through this unprecedented time, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to maintaining our ministries, even if they are in a different form for now. We also want to be able to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

You can make a one-time or recurring donation through the [donation page](#) on our website, or mail your check to the church: 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS: MUHLENBERG'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Congregation Council has been thoughtfully and prayerfully developing a Strategic Plan over the past year and a half. While COVID slowed the process down, it also gave church leadership the opportunity to further consider how we are called to be the church in a changing world. The whole congregation is invited and encouraged to engage with the first draft of the plan, which is available [HERE](#). Printed copies are available from the Connection Box.

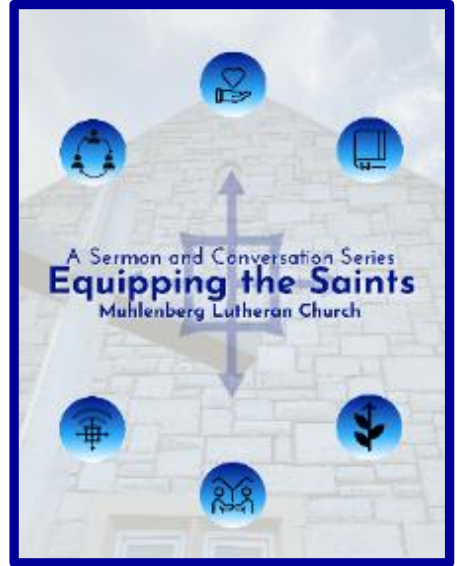
Sundays, **April 18—May 23**, our worship will focus on a sermon series from Acts, paired with initiatives from our strategic plan. Together, we'll consider the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church and the work of the Holy Spirit in our congregation today. Following worship, all are welcome to join in a casual after-church coffee hour chat about the weekly theme via the Sunday morning [ZOOM](#) link. You may also join by phone: dial 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 847 3141 6878).

Wednesdays, April 21—May 26 (note new end date), all who are a part of our Muhlenberg community (whether you're "officially" a member or not) are invited to conversation at **7:00 pm** via [ZOOM](#) or by phone: dial 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 812 2682 5160 and Passcode: 212430).

Each week we will focus on a different goal of the Strategic Plan with opportunity for questions, brainstorming, and big dreaming about our life together. The remaining sessions are:

- May 12 Know Our Neighbors, and Serve Together With Them
- May 19 Center Our Community Life Together Around Worship
- May 26 Be Good Stewards of the Gifts We Have Been Given

Expect these conversations to be dynamic and energizing! Plan to attend one, or attend all. This is OUR work together as a faith community!



CREATION CARE TIP

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: (rsanders97@verizon.net or 433-1165).



It doesn't matter if you plant food or flowers, a lawn or a grove of trees. The experience you'll have working with nature to make something grow and prosper will satisfy you long after you've put the hoe back in the shed. Through gardening, you can actually help restore the earth in many ways. By favoring ivy or grass over concrete and asphalt, you replenish underground aquifers every time it rains. Because they absorb carbon dioxide, which causes global warming, every tree you plant will help cool the globe. Maintaining a green landscape provides a safe haven for wildlife, especially birds whose breeding grounds are being destroyed by deforestation.

GATHERING TOGETHER UPDATE

The Gathering Together Task Force is hard at work pulling together details for a safe worship experience for all this summer. Baptisms, weddings, and funerals are being planned with limited attendance, and the pastors have resumed some in-person pastoral care visits. The Task Force encourages all Muhlenbergers to get the COVID vaccine as they are able, so we can regather as safely as possible. Don't hesitate to reach out to any members of the Task Force with questions or comments: Neil Alexander, Erin Burke, Cynthia Page, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, Greta Willis, Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The pandemic has so changed our world that there's no going back to the way things were. But we are very excited to be moving *forward* with two new in-person worship opportunities! Beginning on **Pentecost, May 23** and continuing throughout the summer, our Sunday morning worship schedule will be:

8:30 am Hybrid Worship: Worship in the sanctuary either in person or via Zoom! No matter how you connect to this service, we'll be one community together sharing in a 30-minute, spoken word worship with communion. In-person attendance will be limited to 50 people, and advanced registration will be required for sanctuary seating. Masks are required and full vaccination is strongly encouraged for all in-person attendees.

10:00 am Outdoor Worship: Bring your own chairs to set up outside for this 30-minute, spoken word worship with communion and special music (weather permitting). Unlike the parking lot service (where we stayed in our cars and listened via the radio), this service will be completely outside. No registration required—we'll spread out to make room for all. Masks required, regardless of vaccination status.

11:00 am Worship on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#): Our full liturgy Service of the Word with hymns and special music isn't going anywhere! No masks necessary as you join the community in worship from wherever you are.

If you are on our mailing list (either regular mail or email) you will receive full details for all of these services this week. If you're not, please sign up for email from our website or contact Linda Depoy in the church office to be put on our snail mail list. You can also find all the details on our website. We look forward to these new opportunities to gather to praise God together!

SECOND HOME NEWS

We are excited for our students to be back in their school buildings four days a week. Most 3rd - 5th grade students had a great first day back and returned from school excited and happy. Since school days are only five hours and Wednesdays are virtual, we still spend many more hours with our students than before the pandemic. You may have seen some of our students practicing drumming or dancing in front of the MAC. Ms. Shepherd and Ms. Payne have been working their magic with the children to prepare an outdoor musical performance in June. Lions, hyenas, and wildebeest will fill up the outdoor stage of Back Home on the Farm. We hope you can come and see the great stampede, and enjoy the circle of life. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for more information and updates.

Executive Director Krisztina Szekely

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Karen Thomsen

(kethomsen25@gmail.com or 540-421-4431) for more information about the Habitat Build or to volunteer.

HABITAT FAITH BUILD

The Habitat Faith Build duplex at 658 and 660 Virginia Ave. (Route 42) continues to move along. We have raised **\$9,315** of our \$10,000 goal. If you would like to contribute to our Faith Build, please make your check payable to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church and note *Habitat Faith Build* on the memo line.

Upcoming work opportunities include electrical finishing and yard seeding at the end of May and flooring at the beginning of June. If you're interested in these volunteer opportunities, please call, text or email Karen Thomsen.

PEACE POLE

Our Confirmation youth have finished the Peace Pole to be placed at the Habitat Faith Build duplex. Our youth created a different design for each side of the pole and the words, "May Peace Prevail On Earth" was written in 4 different languages; English, Spanish, French, and Tigrinya. French and Tigrinya are the native languages of our Habitat partner families that will live at 660 and 658 Virginia Avenue. The Peace Pole will be placed in front of their homes.



YOUTH NEWS

CONFIRMATION/ALPHA TEENS

Our final meeting for this year will be **NEXT Sunday, May 16, 1:00 – 3:00 pm** at Hillendale Park, shelter #1 (where we have met all year). It will be a very fun afternoon with *Minute to Win It* style game challenges and some pretty amazing scripture reading. It will be a celebration of our year of learning and growing in faith together. You don't want to miss it!

VIRGINIA SYNOD YOUTH ASSEMBLY Saturday, June 12, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Full details and registration information can be found at the [youth ministry tab of the Virginia Synod website](#). Any 7th - 12th grade member of a Virginia Synod congregation can attend at no cost. This is the Virginia Synod's event where they update youth on the work of the church beyond their home congregations, elect the LYO Board for the coming year, and announce other plans for synodical youth ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRY AT MUHLENBERG

In updating our Strategic Plan, Congregation Council examined the staffing needs to accomplish our spiritual development goals. One very important component of the plan is to uplift our focus and attention on youth ministry.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hiring a part-time Youth Minister. This person will provide dynamic leadership and oversight for youth ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Youth Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in young people grades 6 - 12 and their families.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

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

✚ The Good Family would like to announce that our son, Parker Noah Good arrived April 13, 2021, 4:40 am at RMH. We are adjusting to being a family of four and are overjoyed and blessed with Parker's arrival.

Dave, Kelly, Kylie Jo & Parker Good

✚ A huge thank you to everyone who supported Second Home in the Great Community Give! We raised **\$12,000** in the event. This amount will help us continue serving our neighbors and their school-age children. It takes a village to raise a child and we felt the rallying of the village behind us. You are all fantastic!

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

We would like to recognize all high school and college graduates in the Muhlenberg community. If you or your child will be graduating this year, please contact Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) so we can be sure you're included in the celebration!



CONNECTING TO SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each Sunday from 8:30 – 11:00 using this link:

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

8:30 – 9:00 Communion Service via Zoom
9:00 – 11:00 “Coffee Hour” Fellowship
9:30 – 10:00 K - 3rd Grade Class
9:30 – 10:00 4th - 5th Grade Class
9:30 – 10:30 Adult Faith Lens Class
9:30 – 10:30 Adult 40-Day Journey Class
10:15– 10:30 Pre-K Story Time
11:00 Worship on [Facebook](#),
[YouTube](#), Wellstream Phone

- **Pastoral Care** ~ If you would like a private word with the pastor on call, we will provide a breakout room for you.
- **Small Group Fellowship** ~ Want to catch up with a small group of friends? We have private breakout rooms for that!

If you don't have a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

WELLSTREAM PHONE

We want all members to have the opportunity to “participate” in worship and hear The Word. Wellstream Phone is a service that works from your home or cell phone — no internet required. Simply call the number below and select an option. Information will be available by 11 am each Sunday. Contact Linda Depoy (434-3496) with any questions.

Wellstream Phone Number:

1-434-205-8777

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 10-16

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Ministries Night
via [ZOOM](#)
- Tue. 5:00 pm** Tweens and Teens
6:30 pm Gloria Dei Ringers
- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study
via [ZOOM](#)
7:00 pm Strategic Plan Discussion
via [ZOOM](#)
8:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun. Seventh Sunday of Easter**
[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)
8:30 am Communion Service
9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins
8:30 am Communion Service
9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins
9:30 am K – 3rd Grade Class
9:30 am 4th - 5th Grade Class
9:30 am Faith Lens Class
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
11:00 am Service Livestreamed
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
After worship ~ Coffee Hour to discuss
Strategic Plan via [ZOOM](#)
1:00 pm Confirmation/Alpha Teens

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is Thursday at 8 am. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy:

[\(depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496\)](mailto:depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496)

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



A parent of Second Home students gives thanks for the care and services provided to our community's children.