



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



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 12, 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

PASTOR ALEX RETURNING SUNDAY, MAY 26

We are pleased to share that Pastor Alex will return to full-time ministry Sunday, May 26 as he concludes his parental leave. Here is a note from Pastor Alex about his plan to return:



As my parental leave draws to a close, Renna, Nadia, and I wanted to take a moment to express our profound gratitude to each and every one of you. From the moment we shared our joyous news, your outpouring of love, prayers, and support have been a constant source of strength for our growing family. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the congregation in collecting diapers and wipes for us as well. For everything you have done to support us in this time, **THANK YOU!**

These past weeks have been an incredible journey of bonding, learning, and navigating the beautiful chaos of parenthood. Less sleep and more love than we ever could have imagined have defined this time, and we are so in love with this incredible girl. We've cherished every precious moment spent with

Nadia, watching her grow and thrive in our care, and we truly can't wait for her to meet you and flourish among this caring community. We feel immensely blessed to have had this opportunity to be fully present for her during these formative months.



~ continued on page 4 ~

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO STRUGGLE WITH THIS DAY

Today, as we honor and thank the many kinds of mothers in our lives, we would also like to remember and pray for those for whom this day is not as joyful:

- For those who have lost a child,
- For those who struggle with infertility,
- For those who have chosen not to be mothers,
- For those who may not have had a healthy relationship with their mother or their child,
- and for those who have lost their mom, especially those who are spending their first Mother's Day without her.

Remind them, God, that your love is shown to them in many ways, through many people, and help us be messengers of that love today.

(Written by Rev. Natalie Terfa)

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING

All Glory Laud and Honor
Melchior Teschner

Piano Solo
arr. Amy Webb

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Lauren Eanes

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Kim Fawley

11:00 ~ Kim Fawley

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Robert Alley, Biblical Storyteller

11:00 ~ Robert Alley, Biblical Storyteller

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Bill Whitmire

11:00 ~ Sue Koch

TORCH BEARERS

8:30 ~ Crystl Whitmire, Oris Griffin

11:00 ~

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Oris Griffin, Robert Alley
Bill & Crystl Whitmire

11:00 ~ Mark Warner, Robert Alley
Malcolm & Judy Wilfong

USHERS

8:30 ~ Bob Neumann, Jeannette Norfleet

11:00 ~ Brian White, Benjamin Fletchall

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Mark Byerly

MUSICIANS

Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister

Judith Ofcarcik, Organist

Celebration Singers (8:30)

Sanctuary Choir (11:00)

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

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>.

FRIDAY CHEW ON THIS

THIS Friday, May 17, 12 noon

Chew on This concludes! You're invited to join Pastor Lauren at **Lola's Deli** for food, fellowship, and conversation related to the today's Bible text. Please RSVP to eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org by 8:00 am Friday to ensure we reserve enough seats.


MUHLENBERG NEWS

NEW DEADLINE FOR *THE CHIMES*

Now Wednesdays at 12 noon

With so much news to share, we need to adjust the weekly deadline for *The Chimes* to allow time for prioritization, design and proofing. **The new weekly deadline of WEDNESDAYS AT NOON is now in effect.** Requests for a series of articles or a full-column/full-page article should be made two weeks in advance.

CREATION CARE

 Go beyond recycling...Embrace a Zero-Waste Lifestyle. The goal of being waste-free is to send nothing to a landfill, so that all resources are fully returned to our ecosystem. For Zero-Waste in storage, use glass and stainless steel containers; try not to use plastic.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

MUHLENBERG'S 175TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the "birthday of the church", as we celebrate the Holy Spirit empowering believers to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

May 2024 is also the birthday of our church, as it was in May 1849 that the Virginia Synod accepted Muhlenberg officially as a congregation.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, we'll celebrate with festive worship services and cupcakes following each service!

We welcome Bishop Phyllis Milton as our preacher, and will gather at 9:45am for a Q&A with the bishop hosted by the middle school youth. This will also be live-streamed via Zoom (use the *Faith Formation* Zoom link on Muhlenberg's home page.)

Join the fun and celebration!

SUNDAY MAY 19
8:30 & 11:00AM WORSHIP
9:45 Q&A WITH BISHOP
MILTON

Wear red!

Meet the bishop!

Celebrate the Spirit!

Eat cupcakes!



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR ALEX RETURNING SUNDAY, MAY 26 (CONT'D)

Your generosity in granting us 12 weeks of parental leave has been a gift beyond measure. [Note: 12 weeks of parental leave is part of our congregational and Synod policy.] In a world where such leave is not always readily available, we are deeply grateful for the values and grace that Muhlenberg embodies. Your recognition of the importance of family and the multifaceted roles we all inhabit speaks volumes about the kind of community we are privileged to be a part of.

As I prepare to return to my role as pastor, I am filled with a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm. As hard as it will be to leave these first days of Nadia's growth behind, I am eager to continue our shared mission of *equipping all people to live out Christ's love*, and to see what this next chapter of Nadia's life will bring her as well!

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to those who have stepped up to keep the ministries dear to my heart thriving in my absence. Your dedication and willingness to serve have allowed me to focus wholeheartedly on my family during this precious time. I am continually inspired by the passion and dedication of our community, and I hope we can continue to grow in support together of these vital ministries as I return. I'd like to offer a special word of gratitude to Pastor Lauren and our exceptional staff for their tireless efforts in making this leave possible. I am blessed to work alongside such an amazing team. As my family looks ahead to the next chapter, we do so with hearts full of love and gratitude for each of you. Thank you for embracing our family, for your unwavering support, and for being a shining example of what it means to live out Christ's love in community. With love and gratitude, *Pastor Alex, Renna, and Nadia*

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

CHILDREN'S WRAP UP

We had a great year of growth in Faith Formation since Fall Kick Off. We have had anywhere from 10 - 14 kids ages Pre-K - 5th grade every Sunday. Pre - K-2nd grade used small videos, games, and art to learn about who Jesus was. The 3rd - 5th graders learned to find scripture in the Bible and used skits and games to dig deeper into the lesson of the day.

I want to say thank you to Jocelyn Shinseki, Erin Burke, Keira Miller and Catherine Creasy for the time and energy they put into Faith Formation this year. The program was a huge success because of your work. The final day of Faith Formation for Pre-K - 5th is next Sunday, May 19 (Pentecost).

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRAP UP

TODAY is the last day of Middle School Sunday school! It's been a great year of learning together about the Scriptures. Each week, our group of 10 6th - 8th graders has done a deep dive into the Narrative Lectionary text for the day and asked a LOT of good questions. Sometimes we've even discovered some answers! Once a month, parents have joined us for even more learning about each section of the Bible.

Pastor Alex, Pastor Lauren, Rachel Peters, Justin Creasy, Kathy Thompson, Haley Tabor, Melissa Perritt, Adam Copeland, and Kristee Trumbo have all been involved in leading the group this year. Many thanks to all the adults on the team, and to the middle schoolers for making this year so much fun!

Middle schoolers: Don't forget that you're the hosts next week as we interview the bishop! We'll see you in the Nielsen Room at 9:45am!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Both of our adult classes (40-Day Journey and Faith and Civic Life) have been well attended and full of excellent conversation this year! Thanks to Jennie and Mark Warner, Karen Thomsen, and Brad Moyers for their leadership of the two groups. Our last day of Adult Sunday School will be Sunday, June 2.

Both classes will join the congregation at the Bishop Q&A next Sunday, May 19 at 9:45am in the Nielsen Room.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

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.

The Baptismal Covenant which our confirmands affirm for themselves says, "We are to "...live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth." What does this look like for you in your daily life?

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

POWER IN THE SPIRIT:

SEEKING & FINDING ~ June 13 - 15

This inspirational conference is held at Roanoke College for all ages. Our own Ashley Saunders will lead activities for ages 3-10 and older kids can help with younger ones or attend the rest of the event. **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. Learn more at <https://vasynod.org/event/youth-assembly/> Interested in representing our congregation? **Registration deadline extended to May 13.** Contact Pastor Lauren if interested in attending.

VIRGINIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY RECAP

Over 300 Lutherans gathered online via Zoom for the 2024 Virginia Synod Assembly. The Rev. Tim Brown, Director of Congregational Stewardship of the ELCA, was welcomed as our Churchwide Representative. The Assembly theme was *Strong Connections*. After opening with worship, elections were held, reports were shared, and assembly business was conducted. Our own **Kristee Trumbo** was elected to serve on the Consultation Committee. To view the entire Assembly, click [HERE](#) or visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMe1tUit5IU&t=1698s. You can also visit the Connection Center for a detailed summary.

LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH

PATCHWORK PANTRY



The Patchwork Pantry collection total for May is 36 pounds. Thank you for your continued generosity to support those in need.

REMINDERS

WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AT 11 AM

Digital ministry is an essential part of our community. Our *Wellstream* service at 11:00 am allows those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a hybrid service of Holy Communion. This means cameras will be on during worship. Cameras are primarily focused on worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the sanctuary. *We will not intentionally focus on congregation members in the pews*, but you may briefly appear in view depending on your seat. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Alex or Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberg_lutheran.org) for possible solutions. You're welcome at any time during worship in the sanctuary to connect on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) to comment a word of welcome or peace to those worshipping online!

With great sadness, we share the news of Arlene Blaskowski's death (April 25). We keep her family in our prayers. A memorial service will be held at Muhlenberg May 18 at 2:00 pm.

CHURCH ENTRY SYSTEM

Outside Doors Rekeyed!

All outside doors of the church building have been rekeyed. As you may recall, improving our entry security has been completed in phases. Phase 1 was the installation of the doorbell and entry keypad on one of the east side Gathering Area doors. Phase 2 was to issue PINs to those who routinely need access to the church building so they can gain entry using the keypad.



We completed Phase 3 (our final phase) by rekeying all outside doors to maximize security. **“BCK” and all previous keys that unlocked outside doors no longer work.** If you need routine access to the church and have not applied for a PIN, please contact Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496). *Please note this rekeying does not affect the MAC. You will gain access to it the same way you always have.*

During the Week

If you do not have a PIN: Come to the Gathering Area doors and press the doorbell (instructions are posted on the door). When the call is answered, please identify yourself, and the door will be unlocked remotely so you can enter. Please note that **the office is staffed Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.** If you arrive outside of those hours, there's still a good chance someone will be here, but please call before you come to be sure. Please do not use the red doors at the back of the building — for security reasons, these doors are reserved for Day Care use only.

JOYS & CELEBRATIONS

We have several pieces of good news to share about recent events in our congregation. If you have news to share, please submit it to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) no later than Wednesdays at 12 noon. Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.



CONGRATULATIONS, GUS KAGEY!

Congratulations to Gustavo Kagey for successfully passing his citizenship exam and being sworn in as a U.S. citizen April 29. We celebrate this significant milestone and achievement with you, Gus!

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS AND ANNA MEYERS!

Congratulations to Chris and Anna Meyers on the birth of their son, Everett Thomas Meyers, on April 15; and congrats to Margot for becoming a big sister!

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU Ministries Revitalization Event

The Ministries Revitalization Task Force and Congregation Council are grateful to the 35+ who attended the *May the 4th Be With You* event Saturday morning (5/4). We found many ways to support each other in our commitment to the 16+ ministry teams here at Muhlenberg. Thank you so much to the staff, council, the task force, ministry leaders and committee members.



CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO LILY HARMISON

Here's an article from the Virginia Synod's Weekly Update about Muhlenberg's own Lily Harmison.



Lily has been active in Virginia Synod Youth Ministry ever since she served on the Seventh Day planning group, attending every event she could through her high school years. She was a member of the Roanoke College class that had to start during COVID, but once her class was in-person on campus, she jumped right in to Campus Ministry and Synod Youth Ministry, working closely with me in the Bishop's Office, serving twice as my summer youth ministry intern and during the school year as the Virginia Synod Office of the Bishop staff assistant, including as designer of our current youth ministry newsletter, "Five Petal Friday." We'll all miss her presence in Bittle Hall, but I'll especially miss her wonderful work and delightful friendship.

- Pastor Dave Delaney

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/28	8:30 Holy Communion	70
	11:00 Holy Communion	110
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	35
	Total Views this Week	160
	Hours Viewed this Week	77.7
5/5	8:30 Holy Communion	69
	11:00 Holy Communion	107
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	42

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	\$ 13,175.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,417.75
Total Giving	\$ 14,592.75

April Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$6



To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 13 - 19, 2024

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tues	6:00 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via Zoom
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Fri	12:00 noon	Friday <i>Chew on This</i>
Sat	2:00 pm	Blaskowski Memorial Service
Sun	Day of Pentecost/175th Birthday Party	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Q&A session with Bishop Milton & 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:

- Don & Mona Long*
- Garland & Jeannie Long*
- John & Kathy Lubkowski*
- Paul, Erika, Gene and Alice Mabrey*
- Bill & Brenda Maddox*

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: (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)