



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

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



May 14, 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

UPDATE FROM THE MUSIC

MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE



We are pleased to announce that our search for a Music Minister has concluded! We interviewed several worthy candidates, but one rose to the very top. We are delighted to introduce Wade Meyers to our Muhlenberg

family. Wade comes to us from the Gaithersburg, MD area. He looks forward to making a home in a smaller community.

Wade earned his Bachelor of Music at Stetson University and received his Master of Music from George Mason University. He has served in many other Music Minister roles and has also been a Teaching Artist, most recently in Georgetown, MD. He has been directing and coordinating 11 ensembles in the DC Metro Area for the past few years as well.

Wade's official start date is July 15, and he is ready to focus on one priority instead of the many hats he's currently wearing. Muhlenberg is so delighted to offer this opportunity to him. In the coming weeks, you will hear more about his arrival and plans for the congregation to meet him.

Here are a few words from Wade:

"Hi everyone! I'm Wade Meyers. My journey has taken me through various roles in music ministry, from working with choirs and handbell ensembles to writing music and performing with renowned musicians. I'm passionate about creating an inclusive and engaging worship experience, and empowering volunteers to share their gifts to praise God and minister to the congregation. The people of Muhlenberg who I've met so far have been a delight to get to know — you all have a very positive, exciting environment at your church, and I cannot wait to get to know you all soon!"

In Your Service,

MLC Music Minister Search Committee

Greta Willis

Malcolm Wilfong

Kevin Stees

Judith Ofcarcik

Liam Wightman

Pastor Lauren Eanes

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

NEW EVENING SEXTON

We are extremely pleased to announce that Aracely "Grace" Campbell was selected and has accepted the Part-Time Evening Sexton position previously held by Flo Najarro Bernal. Grace, who will work alongside Jim Doyle, comes to us with lots of energy and enthusiasm. She currently works full time as a Quality Assurance Analyst and lives in Harrisonburg. Grace has excellent skills in attention to detail, and ensures that all tasks are completed to perfection. We welcome Grace to our team!

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CHARLOTTE MABLE SAWYER

Baptized, A New Child of God

Welcome Charlotte Mable "Charlie" Sawyer, daughter of Amada & Daniel Sawyer into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 11:00 am service! Welcome to the Lord's family, Charlie!



BAPTIZED
UNTO THE
LORD

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

PHOTO DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY PHOTO UPDATES!

TODAY (5/14)

*Before, in-between, or after
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 **TODAY (5/14)** 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 as possible!

We'll have staff set up in the Gathering Area 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, 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).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

COFFEE HOUSE EVENT Friday, May 26, 7:00 pm



Meetings for our upcoming Coffee House Night have led to some great conversations about what's important to high schoolers these days. It was agreed that one of their biggest concerns is gun violence, particularly in our schools. Thus, our theme for this event will focus on this senseless act of killing and how we can offer hope for a better tomorrow. The Coffee House Event is open to all. Please plan to come and hear some great music by our own Muhlenberg teens!

PREPARING TO BID FAREWELL

On Pentecost Sunday, May 28, we will bid farewell to Elizabeth Williams as she retires from serving as our Music Minister for the past 15 years. You are invited to attend a luncheon on May 28 at 12:15 pm in the Muhlenberg Activities Center (MAC) in Elizabeth's honor. To be sure we have enough food, please RSVP by **May 21** at <https://bit.ly/3o9TRpN>. If you don't have internet access, you may call the church office (540-434-3496) to RSVP. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, you are welcome to drop off a card for Elizabeth in the Connection Center or the Connection Box.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

MUHLENBERG MERCH

Start your summer off right with a new Muhlenberg t-shirt or hat to wear through all the warm months! T-shirts are available in blue and gray, in youth and adult sizes. Hats are one-size-fits-all. **The cost is \$20 per shirt and \$25 per hat.** You can purchase them online [HERE](#) or using the QR code below. **The deadline to place your order is**



May 28. If you don't have internet access, please stop by the table in the Gathering Area **TODAY (5/14)** to place your order, or contact Emily Carneal at 540-421-1994.

This project is sponsored by the Entrepreneurial Task Force as a fundraiser to help meet our aspirational line item in the budget. Recommendations for other fundraisers can be sent to Emily Carneal, Vicki Curry, Chris Kyle, Russell Presnell or Matt Wade.

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



FAITHFUL PEOPLE,

FAITHFUL QUESTIONS



We offer the opportunity for you to ask faithful questions! In the pews and at the Connection Center, you'll find light purple cards, where you are invited to ask questions whenever one

arises. These can be big theological questions, life questions, inquiries about something confusing you read in scripture, or a simple question about why something happens in worship. Any question is welcome!

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 card 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. Only the Pastors have access to this box. Questions can also be asked digitally using [THIS GOOGLE FORM](#). If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to the Pastors.



CREATION CARE



A 30-minute workout on the treadmill uses approximately .75 kWh of energy per day. Run/walk “unplugged” twice a week, and over the course of a month, you will conserve the amount of energy required for 12 hours of television or 24 loads of laundry.

LOCAL AND GLOBAL MINISTRY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

WORK DAY

Saturday, June 24, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Local and Global Mission Ministry Team is providing Muhlenberg members an opportunity to “Live Out Christ's Love” by helping with a construction project for a Habitat for Humanity home being built. It is projected that we will either be painting or laying flooring. The home is in Harrisonburg, most likely on Virginia Avenue. Please save the date and commit to this project as soon as possible by contacting Karen Thomsen (kethomsen25@gmail.com or 540-421-4431).



LET'S LUNCH TOGETHER

Friday, May 26, 11:30 am



OUR
COMMUNITY
PLACE

The last Friday of the month is a time to gather for fellowship and lunch at Our Community Place (OCP) Friday Restaurant. The Restaurant is open from 11:30 - 1:30 and serves a delicious 3-course meal for just \$10. The Restaurant provides work for OCP's Kitchen industries employees, meaningful training for OCP community members, support for OCP programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.

We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) at 11:30 am Friday, May 26. Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431).

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS



Have you always thought that gifts to endowment funds needed to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars? The Muhlenberg Lutheran Church Endowment Committee would like

you to remember that any gift compiled with others can grow funds that far exceed the individual donations. Muhlenberg's two endowment funds (The Mission Endowment Fund and the Seminary Scholarship Fund) have nearly doubled in size through sound, professional investments. A small amount doubled is no longer small. Please consider giving to this mission outreach resource during your lifetime through your regular designated offerings or designated memorials. Estate planning and insurance beneficiary assignments are ways to support this mission after you're gone. For more information, contact Endowment Committee Chair Doris Stone (dmstone99@gmail.com or 540-289-5520).

CAROLINE FURNACE NEWS

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp is a place to encounter God in God's creation. Week-long summer camp experiences are available for kids and youth, as well as families and adults! Check out the schedule at carolinefurnace.org and register today. If cost is a concern, reach out to one of the pastors to learn how Muhlenberg can help.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SUNDAY 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 - 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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

VBS IS JUST ON THE HORIZON

August 7 - 11 (in the evenings)

VBS is a great opportunity to focus on Jesus and community. Our theme is *Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs*. Participants will explore what all living things need to live—*shelter, food, water, air, and community*—and how we can have compassion for the living earth, especially in their local ecosystems. Through awareness, gratitude, wonderment, reciprocity, and kinship, participants will consider how to become co-sustainers and participants in the work of God's creation.



YOUTH NEWS

KAIROS REGISTRATION STILL OPEN

June 25 – 30

Kairos is open to rising 9th – 12th graders. Contact Pastor Alex if you're interested.

DIGITAL MINISTRY

To help share information from our social media with those who don't have access or may have missed it, we are including recent posts in *The Chimes*. Posts may come from Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages.

Congratulations to William Fletchall and the entire Fletchall family on the occasion of William's Confirmation! He's such an impressive young man, delivering a wonderful and moving presentation last Sunday on the importance of his faith. Well done, William!



REMINDERS

ADDITIONAL PARKING

On special days like Pentecost Sunday, we are blessed with more people in attendance. Sometimes, it can be challenging to find a parking spot in the lot surrounding the church. We have agreements with our neighboring businesses for additional parking on Sundays, so remember you can always park in the following locations as well:

- **The Ott Street Parking lot** behind the MAC beside the Ott Street House (which we share with Michael Layman Law Group). Do not park in Urban Exchange's lot on the corner of Ott and Water Streets with numbered spaces (you may be towed — see details below!).
- **Gary's Piano** lot next to the church.
- **Farm Credit** lot across East Market Street.
- **Michael Layman Law Group** lot across from the Water Street entrance to our parking lot (note: parking cones may be moved for church parking use).
- **Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver Law Offices** lot between W. Water Street & Newman Avenue.
- Visit the Connection Center for a parking map.

PARKING ALERT!

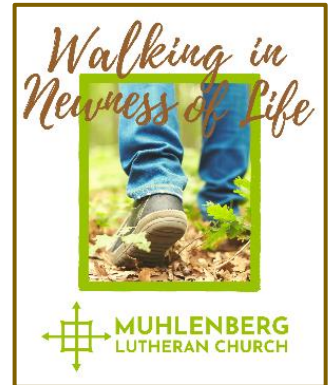
If you park in a numbered space at the lot on the corner of Ott and Water Streets (behind the MAC), **your car may be towed!** That lot is leased by Urban Exchange and no other vehicles are permitted.



WALKING IN NEWNESS OF LIFE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Over the past few weeks, we've heard stories about how Muhlenberg has inspired others to "Walk in Newness of Life." As we prepare to return our Intent Cards next Sunday (May 21), take time this week to reflect on the ways in which connection to our ministry has impacted you and those you know and love in the past year and start dreaming about what God may be up to here moving forward.

As you consider your giving to the church this year, please consider how you can grow in your own generosity. Here are some ideas:



1. *Systematic giving leads to generosity:* For most people, we can grow significantly in our giving just by making our gift on a regular basis. Sign up for automatic giving (contact Finance Manager Jane Eanes [eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org / 540-434-3496) or just add an amount each week or month. Growing giving by \$1 per day equates to significant growth over the course of the year.
2. *An extra gift or two during the year:* One congregation member said, "I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but for now I am doing okay, so I will double my giving in the month of April." Well, what if we decided to double our giving one month or even two months next year?
3. *Grow by a percentage each year:* For some, the idea of a tithe is unachievable in a single year, but something people would like to reach someday. By growing giving by a percentage each year, it is achievable over the long term. If you currently give away 2% of income, perhaps you can reach 3% next year and 4% the year after. This takes discipline, but over the long term can be very effective!
4. *An idea for someone whose income has gone down in the last year:* Everyone can grow in generosity, *even if that means the overall dollars given decreases.* Perhaps, if before your income decreased you were giving away 2% of your income, now with income being less, can you find a way to grow the percentage of giving to 3 or 4%.

You may have your own ideas for growing in generosity. As a church family, as we each grow in our generosity, it will have a tremendous overall impact. Keeping our ministry strong will enable us to dream about an ever-growing ministry into the future!

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. <https://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/staff.html>

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

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

POWER IN THE SPIRIT:

SEEKING & FINDING ~ July 13 - 15

POWER I N T H E SPIRIT

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.

WEAVE US TOGETHER

VIRGINIA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

July 21-22 at Roanoke College



For information about the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization convention or to register, click [HERE](#). Brochures are also available at the Connection Center.

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 and too often feel judged
- For those who may not have had a healthy relationship with their mother or their child
- For those who have lost their mom, especially those who are spending their first Mother's Day without her.

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

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

✚ Lora Dugard, Muhlenberg's eldest member, is celebrating a birthday reaching triple digits — 100 years! — on **May 24**. You are invited to send birthday greetings to Lora at 1491 Virginia Avenue Mumaw House in Woodland Park, H'burg 22802

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, communion assistants, sound techs, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center for **June**. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson (578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu)*. If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Sermons > Serve in Worship

SECOND HOME NEWS

ANNIE JR. ~ THIS WEEK, THURSDAY – SUNDAY, MAY 18 - 21

Second Home goes back to NYC for their 10th musical production! We are proud to present *Annie Jr.*, **THIS WEEK, Thursday – Sunday, 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!**



**Second Home Learning Center
is proud to present...**



MAY 18 @ 7:30PM

MAY 19 @ 7:30PM

MAY 20 @ 7:30PM

MAY 21 @ 4:30PM

Outdoor Performance
Back Home on the Farm

2915 Willow Run Rd, Harrisonburg, VA
22802

WATCH FOR DETAILS ON
FACEBOOK @SECONDHOMEVA
OR SECONDHOMEVA.COM



**ADMISSION BY DONATION
SUGGESTED \$10**

Music by Charles Strouse
Lyrics by Martin Charnin
Book by Thomas Meehan
Annie Jr. is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International, New York, NY
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

4/30	8:30 Holy Communion	58
	11:00 Holy Communion	73
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	39
	Total Views this Week	163
	Hours Viewed this Week	65.9
5/7	8:30 Holy Communion	82
	11:00 Holy Communion	79
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	25

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

April was a busy month in the life of the church. Due to this, there is an increase in expenses and gifts and offerings. However, compared to last year, gifts and offerings are lagging behind. As we go into the summer months, be sure to continue regular giving.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2023

	2023YTD <u>Actual</u>	2023YTD <u>Budget</u>	2022YTD <u>Actual</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$181,275	\$264,167	\$207,745
Total Income	\$287,868	\$320,323	\$256,542
Total Expenses	\$285,625	\$365,138	\$275,497
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$2,243	\$(44,815)	\$(18,955)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 15,994.06
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,335.74
Total Giving	\$ 17,329.80

April Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$86

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 15 - 21, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Congregation Council Meeting
Tues	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Sun	Seventh 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



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

*Betty Propst
Harley Propst
John Propst
Juanita Propst
Sue Propst*

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 depoym@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: (depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)
Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.