



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

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May 15, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Dear family in Christ,

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." -Mark 6:30-31a

In the midst of his busy, productive, and life-giving ministry, Jesus recognized the need for rest, and called his disciples to practice the same. Recognizing this faithful call, beginning Monday, May 9, I will be away on a time of Sabbath Leave for 6 weeks in order to focus on restoring both my physical and mental health. I will be fully disconnected from email and social media during this time, and Pastor Lauren will be responding to any pastoral concerns that arise.

These last years have been challenging for all of us, and I've been grateful to serve as your pastor through them. As I've often counseled folks through this time, you need to give yourself space, ask for help, breathe, and be sure to focus on your own wholeness before being able to faithfully care for others. It's time for me to listen to that advice, to hit the reset button on my own life for a season, care for my family, and ensure that on June 20th I

can return to you healthier and better able to serve as your pastor.

I'm deeply grateful for this community that takes our call to love one another seriously and for your willingness to grant me this space for rest and renewal. Muhlenberg is in great hands, with wonderful leaders and so much energy. I'm excited to return to you in June, ready to match that energy and continue to live out Christ's love together for the sake of our community.

Peace, Pastor Alex

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR KATIE RAY

We give thanks for the life of Katie Ray who died January 17. Katie was a member for many, many years. The family is eager to welcome everyone to a Celebration of Life for Katie **TODAY. 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.** Directions to the park are available at the Connection Center.



COMFORTS ON DISPLAY TODAY

Katie Ray provided this article many years ago. She was always so proud to have the hard work of our Comfort Makers blessed each year. Our current comfort makers carry on this same tradition.

Are you cozy and comfortable today in the pew? Aren't they beautiful! Imagine the joy one of these warm comforts will bring to someone who needs warm winter bedding. Over the past 20 years, Muhlenberg has made more than 2,500 comforts to give to local, national and international disaster relief projects.

Comforts may be purchased for \$55 and proceeds will be used to pay for batting. If interested, pin your name and phone number on the comfort you choose, and someone from the Comfort Makers group will be in touch with you. (pins, pens and paper are available on bell table at back of the Sanctuary)

NURSERY CLOSED TODAY

The nursery is not open today, but there is an unstaffed space with toys and activities in the Gathering Area for families to bring children to play during worship. *See page 6 for details.*

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

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

VOICE/PIANO RECITAL

Next 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 & 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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

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 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

It takes a lot of energy to preheat the oven; the longer the oven is on but not used, the more energy it wastes. Your oven only needs a few minutes to reach the desired temperature so heat it when you're ready to make dinner, not 30 minutes before. If you bake twice a week, you can save almost 50 pounds of carbon per year by not preheating the oven earlier than necessary.



NEW AND IMPROVED SERMONS WEBPAGE

We are excited to announce that the Sermons webpage (located under "Worship & Sermons" on our website — muhlenberglutheran.org/sermons) has just had a major facelift! You'll now find links to our recent sermon videos from past worship services, as well as links to sermon video archives and instructions on how to access them. We hope these inspiring videos lift you up and help you through your week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LORA!

Lora Dugard turns 99 Tuesday, May 24!!



Lora is Muhlenberg's eldest member! If you would like to send a card, her address is 1491 Virginia Avenue #213, Harrisonburg, 22802. Congratulations, Lora!

STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW



Muhlenberg has been blessed with a long history of faithful worship and service in Harrisonburg. Though the pandemic has challenged us all, the past few years have also shown us that the mission of our congregation is more important than ever. God is at work in our midst and has given us strength for today. As we look to the future, let's invest in making the ministry that has meant so much during the pandemic even stronger. Let's welcome new people to faith and build a community connected to one another in new ways. We have bright hope for what God will do among us!

The Vision

Muhlenberg's Congregation Council has prayerfully considered priorities from our Strategic Plan and has determined that with a few new key leaders in place, we will build the infrastructure needed to grow in our mission to equip all people to live out Christ's love. These leaders are ...

- **Nursery Coordinator:** As families return to church, they need a safe place for their very young children to be during worship. (5 hours/week)
- **Youth Minister:** With a strong group of middle school youth already engaged in our congregation, we need to organize and empower youth ministry to thrive. (25 hours/week)
- **Small Group Coordinator:** As we move into the next phase of pandemic life, we are all seeking greater connection and community, and need someone who can oversee the coordination of small group opportunities. (10 hours/week)

We seek to raise \$60,000 to fund these three positions for one year, as well as a 10% mission support gift to the Virginia Synod.

We're on Our Way!

A generous donor has provided a \$10,000 Challenge Gift. When 40 commitments toward this campaign are received, we'll receive \$5,000; when an additional 40 commitments are received, we'll unlock an additional \$5,000. Together, we can make this happen!

STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW (CONT'D)

Find Your Place

This chart illustrates the commitments needed to reach our goal. Prayerfully consider how your above-and-beyond giving from June 2022-May 2023 can help make this goal a reality! Intent cards will be mailed next week, and we ask you to bring your card with you to worship on Pentecost, June 5.

Number of Gifts	Value of Gift	Running Total
1	\$10,000	\$10,000
1	\$5,000	\$15,000
2	\$3,000	\$21,000
5	\$1,200	\$27,000
12	\$900	\$37,800
22	\$600	\$51,000
23	\$300	\$57,900
14	\$150	\$60,000



An introductory campaign letter was mailed recently; copies are available at the Connection Center.

NURSERY UPDATE

The joy of any congregation is in the youth of the community. I am sure over the past months, you have had the joy of engaging a young one during the service, all while hearing their joyful and holy noises. We are so lucky to have a beautiful and real example of bright hope for tomorrow.

The nursery has started to be full of life at both services. Sunday May 8, we had 7 children in the nursery at 8:30 and 4 at 11:00.

When you give to the *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign, please know that one of the things we will gain from the campaign is a paid nursery coordinator. Your giving is a beautiful commitment to the hope we hold for all children that come through our church doors. Having a paid nursery coordinator means young children will get to see the same face every Sunday, making them more comfortable to come into the nursery. Building relationships with the adults at church is the earliest building block in a young child's faith formation.

There is also another wonderful opportunity you have for supporting the young children's ministry — the nursery is in need of volunteers! Our church policy states that two adults be present when working with children. So, we need volunteers for each service; and it's a great way for adults to get to know the beautiful families and children in our congregation.

Yesterday (5/14), the Property Committee came together to paint the nursery and freshen up the space, so it is closed **TODAY (5/15)**. Please come by next Sunday, May 22, to see the refurbished nursery and ask any questions you may have about the young children's ministry here at Muhlenberg.

Ashley Saunders, Children's Minister

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 TODAY**

Email: 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.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/1	8:30 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Holy Communion	106
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40
	Total Views this Week	207
	Hours Viewed this Week	61.6
5/8	8:30 Holy Communion	67
	11:00 Holy Communion	75
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	27

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 16 - 22, 2022

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

Mon	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Mtg.
Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
Sun		Sixth 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
	3:00 pm	Voice/Piano Recital

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)