



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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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 16, 2021

SEVENTH 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 ...



Center our community life together around worship.

See Muhlenberg's summer schedule information on pages 4-8.

THIS WEEK

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.

WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST

NEXT Sunday, May 23 is Pentecost Sunday! In the church year, the day of Pentecost is the culmination of the 50 days of the Easter celebration. After showing himself to the disciples and after having ascended, Jesus' followers received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

On the fiftieth day of Easter, our worship is filled with festivity, color and movement as we both conclude the Easter celebration and welcome anew the gift of the Holy Spirit. For Muhlenberg this year, it is also the day when we will begin in-person worship together—a fitting day for us to celebrate the Spirit gathering us in and doing new things in our midst. (see pages 4-8 for more details!)

Many worshippers wear red on the festival of Pentecost, recalling the red of the flames of the Holy Spirit. Whether you worship online or in-person next Sunday, wear red and join us for this major festival and fun celebration of God's Spirit among us.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/2	8:30 Communion	21
	11:00 Total Live Views	87
	Total Views this Week	375
	Hours Viewed this Week	93.5
5/9	8:30 Communion	17
	11:00 Total Live Views	65
	4:00 Parking Lot Service	18

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$175,203	\$267,999	\$198,024
Total Receipts	\$213,912	\$304,777	\$253,214
Expenses	\$288,489	\$335,740	\$272,056
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$74,577)	(\$30,963)	(\$18,842)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 6,328.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 8,333.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 14,661.00

April Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$15

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.

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.

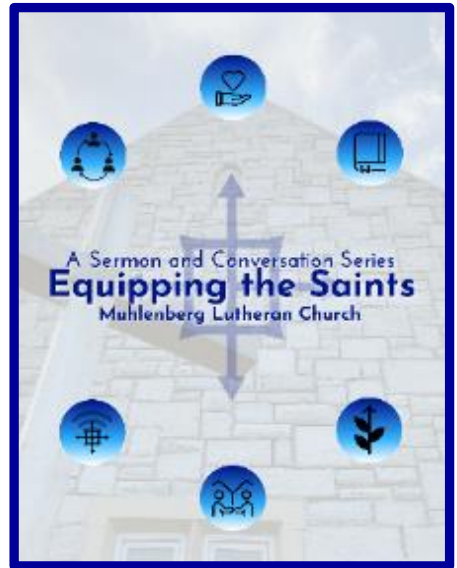
Sundays, **April 18—May 23**, our worship will focus on a sermon series from Acts, paired with initiatives from our strategic plan. Together, we'll consider the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church and the work of the Holy Spirit in our congregation today. Following worship, all are welcome to 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 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!



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

8:30 AM HYBRID SERVICE: IN THE SANCTUARY AND ON 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

- In-person attendance will be limited, and **advanced registration at rsvp.church/r/2vUWXSEz will be required** to give us your name, the number attending and a confirmation email address (see graphic on right). At the beginning of each week, registration will open for the following Sunday. If you do not have internet access, you may call Karen Thomsen at 540-421-4431 to register by phone.
- When you arrive, **enter the Gathering Area using the door closest to East Market Street** (close to the nursery) **and check in**. Hand sanitizer will be available, and you will pick up a bulletin and communion elements. **Instead of entering the sanctuary as you normally do, you will be directed to enter from the front of the sanctuary.** The pews will be marked in order to facilitate physical distancing between households.
- There will be **no congregational singing or nursery** at this service.
- **A well-fitted facemask is required** at all times in the building.
- **We strongly encourage those who attend this service in person to be fully vaccinated.**
- The single-person **bathroom in the Gathering Area will be the only restroom available.** Cleaning wipes will be available for you to wipe the sink and door handles on your way out of the restroom, so it's ready for the next person.
- When the service is over, **you will exit into the Gathering Area using the back door of the sanctuary. We encourage you to proceed to the parking lot to visit with one another outside.**

Online Participation

- **To connect online, simply go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>.** To join in Holy Communion, have bread and wine or juice ready before the service. There is no limit to how many people can join in worship online! Please join us this way if you forget to register, advanced registration is full, or if for any reason you feel more comfortable worshipping at home! We will continue to have coffee hour online at the conclusion of this service.

Register for Pentecost Sunday 8:30 Service

What is your name?

Martin	Luther
--------	--------

How many people will be attending?

1 Person Attending

Where can we send a confirmation email?

reformer1517@muhlenberglutheran.org

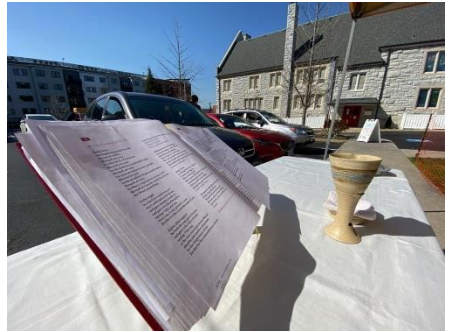
I agree that I am not experiencing COVID symptoms, have not recently been exposed to someone with COVID, and do not believe to be infectious.

Submit

10:00 AM OUTDOORS: IN THE OTT ST. PARKING LOT (BEHIND THE MAC)

Enjoy the gifts of God's creation as we gather outdoors for a 30-minute spoken word worship with communion and special music.

- **Bring your own chairs, please!** If you do not have portable chairs, please contact Crystl Whitmire in the church office (540-434-3496) by noon on Friday if you need chairs available that coming Sunday.
- **We will also be using the grassy area behind the Ott St. house** for seating. You may choose to bring a blanket and sit on the ground.
- Unlike the parking lot service where we stayed in our cars and listened via the radio, **this service will be completely outside** with a portable sound system amplifying the service.
- **When you arrive, please check in at the Welcome Tent** where you will receive your bulletin and communion elements. Then proceed to the seating area (see map on page 6 for parking and seating details). Place your chairs or blankets wherever you'd like in the seating areas. Use marked lines on the pavement and be sure to allow 6 feet between households.
- **No advanced registration is required** for this service. We'll spread out to accommodate all participants.
- There will be **no congregational singing** at this service. There will be special musical offerings by soloists and musicians. We will re-evaluate the possibility of congregational singing as the summer goes on.
- There will be **no nursery or children's church** at this service, but kids are very much welcome. Parents may want to bring a blanket to set up in the grass and some toys and snacks for their young kids
- **Well-fitted masks will be required for all participants, regardless of vaccination status.** Although the CDC has loosened restrictions on outside masks for vaccinated individuals, we ask everyone to mask for this service as a way to care for one another and not draw distinctions between vaccinated and unvaccinated people.
- **The single person bathroom in the Gathering Area will be the only restroom available.** Cleaning wipes will be available for you to wipe the sink and door handles on your way out of the restroom, so it's ready for the next person.
- **THIS SERVICE IS WEATHER PERMITTING.** If weather does not allow us to gather, an email will be sent Sunday morning by 8 am, and a notice will be put on Muhlenberg's website. If you do not have internet access, please check with someone who does if the weather may be a factor.



MAP WITH PARKING AND SEATING DETAILS



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.

- **No masks or pre-registration required here! Join in worship wherever you are at www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran or www.youtube.com/c/muhlenberglutheranchurch**
- **Greet one another, share prayer requests, and connect with newcomers using the chat feature**
- Print out the bulletin ahead of time or follow along digitally
- **Sing hymns and enjoy special music, as well as a full Service of the Word with sermon, prayers, etc.**
- **Practice generosity through online gifts at muhlenberglutheran.org/give**



CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Compassion Camp Returns This Summer for All Ages! June 27-July 18 ~ Kids, youth and adults of all ages are invited to join us for a summer of compassion as we learn about changing the world with lovingkindness! For four Sundays, we'll have opportunities for kids, youth, and adults to engage in learning and service together. There will be both in-person and online ways to participate in this Vacation Bible School experience. Save the dates and invite your friends! Want to help make it happen? Contact Ashley Saunders at 540-746-8102.

Adult Learning

- **Faith Lens Sunday School class:** This Sunday morning class will continue to meet over the summer with times of conversation, reflection and occasional service projects. Jean Helmick leads this class and would be happy to connect with you if you'd like to learn more. Contact Jean at jean.helmick@gmail.com or 540-830-1930.
- **Wednesday morning Bible study:** This adult class meets via Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am, and will meet throughout June and July. Led by Pastor Lauren, the group will dive deep into the book of Ephesians. Sessions are recorded so it's easy to get caught up if you miss a week or two. Contact Pastor Lauren if you have any questions.

Senior High Youth

- **Kairos:** Kairos is the Virginia Synod's faith formation event for youth who will be 9th 12th graders in the fall. This summer the event take place online from **Sunday evening June 27 through Wednesday evening June 30**. Kairos includes large group activities with lots of singing and skits and fun, a small group that meets throughout the week, daily prayer, t-shirts, Open Talent Mic Show, faith testimonies, comic relief, reflection time, prayer around the cross, speed friending, t-shirt fashion show, and more! Right before the event starts, each participant will receive a package of supplies in the mail, including an event shirt, devotional materials, and small group supplies.



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. Pastor Alex helps lead this event and would love to tell you more about it! Register by June 14 at <https://www.vasynod.org/event/kairos/>.

MORE INFORMATION

Join the Team to Support Worship!

We are currently scheduling ushers, readers, assisting ministers, musicians, sound techs and Zoom hosts to support all three of these worship opportunities. Contact Pastor Lauren at eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org to learn more or sign up to serve.

Before You Come to Church...

Before you leave your house to come to an in-person worship service, please answer the following questions. If the answer to any of these questions is “yes,” please stay home and enjoy our online worship!

- Do you have any of these symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea?
- Have you had close contact with anyone who is ill? Have you been in close contact with anyone you know had COVID-19 or COVID-like symptoms?
- Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days, or are you awaiting results of a COVID-19 test?
- Within the past 14 days has a public health or medical professional told you to self-monitor, self-isolate or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection?

Have any questions?

Don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Lauren, Pastor Alex, or any of the members of our Gathering Together Task Force: Neil Alexander, Erin Burke, Cynthia Page, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, and Greta Willis.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

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).

The most “benign” way you can garden is organically. Organic gardening “works” just as well on trees and flowers as on fruits and vegetables. The need for organic approaches to food production could not be more critical. Both the groundwater we tap for drinking supplies and our own personal health have been put at great risk from the application of pesticides by the agriculture industry. Whether you are a farmer, a homeowner, or someone who gardens a community plot, organic gardening lets you get the most out of your labor by causing the least amount of damage to the environment. Now is the time to begin the transition to chemical-free gardening.

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.

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 **TODAY (5/16), 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 depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

✚ Thank you so much for all of the pretty birthday cards that I received for my 96th birthday. You are a special group of people. I love you all.

Juanita Propst

✚ 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 17-23

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Congregation Council Mtg.
- Tue. 5:00 pm** Tweens and Teens
6:30 pm Gloria Dei Ringers
7:00 pm Adult Choirs
- 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. Day of Pentecost**
[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)
8:30 am Hybrid Communion Service
9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins
9:30 am 4th - 5th Grade Class
9:30 am Faith Lens Class
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
10:00 am Outdoor Worship
11:00 am Service Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
After worship ~ Coffee Hour to discuss Strategic Plan via [ZOOM](#)

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:*

depoym@muehlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496

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