



# The CHIMES

## MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Equipping All People to Live Out Christ's Love*

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**May 19, 2024**

### DAY OF PENTECOST

#### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

#### DAY OF PENTECOST



From the word “fifty,” Pentecost is 50 days after Easter Sunday. The story of Pentecost is told in Acts 2, when the Spirit of the Living God was poured out upon diverse disciples

from many lands and speaking many languages. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they burst from the house with a unifying story to tell – the story of Jesus, resurrected from the dead! The church marks this day with festive red, the color of the Holy Spirit and symbolic of the tongues of fire resting above the heads of each disciple.

Our task is to determine and live out the meaning of Pentecost for us today. God is at work here, now, in the world. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate and Comforter, enlivens our faith and emboldens our efforts to tell the Good News of Jesus in word and deed. We're excited to do this work together as people of Muhlenberg!

#### WELCOME BISHOP MILTON

We are delighted to welcome the Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, Bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Milton was elected bishop in 2023, succeeding Rev.



Bob Humphrey. She is the first female Bishop and first African American Bishop in the history of the Virginia Synod.

Prior to her election, Bishop Milton served as Pastor at Holy Communion in Portsmouth; Interim Associate Pastor at First Lutheran in Norfolk; Pastor and School Chaplain at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and School in Hampton; and Synodical Minister for Christian Formation for the Virginia Synod.

Bishop Milton is passionate about connecting generations, sharing faith, and discerning what God is up to in the world. Don't miss the Q&A session at 9:45am in the Nielsen Room to learn more about Bishop Milton and the work of the Virginia Synod!

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.

Today, Pentecost Sunday (5/19), 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!

**TODAY (5/19)**  
**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 ~ NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 26

We are pleased to share that Pastor Alex will return to full-time ministry next 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.

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*

## 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>.

### NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 26 ...

We'll celebrate with Anna Stees as she affirms her baptism at the 11:00 am service. We'll also have a special prayer of blessing for our high school graduates Note: if you're graduating from high school and haven't connected with Pastor Lauren yet, please do that ASAP!

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CREATION CARE



The goal of being waste-free is to send nothing to a landfill, so that all resources are fully returned to our ecosystem. Last week our tip was about zero-waste in storage. This week we refer to shopping: buy loose items in bulk and store them in reusable/resealable airtight jars or containers. When shopping, bring your own reusable bags to the market or other retailers.

### 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.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

As you know, Administrative Assistant Liz Engleking has resigned to pursue a full-time career opportunity. We are beginning the search to fill the open position. The Administrative Assistant will provide effective and efficient support for designated areas of Muhlenberg's ministry of administration, including database management, record-keeping, assisting with parish communications, and serving as our Building Use Coordinator. This position will normally be 4 - 5 hours a day, Monday - Friday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the position description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#) (or visiting [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs)). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

## THANK YOU, LINLIN!

Linlin Uta has faithfully served as our Interim Music Minister since October 2023. She took on this job very quickly and unexpectedly, and jumped right in with her characteristic positive attitude and sunny disposition. Linlin has guided the choir through difficult pieces, planned and executed a phenomenal Lenten recital series, corralled youth to provide special music, and made use of her many musical gifts to accompany our worship services. She's done it all with a smile on her face and joy in her heart, and Muhlenberg has been a better place because of it. We are so grateful for her service this year, and beyond delighted that she will be returning as our Accompanist this fall. Thank you, Linlin!



## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### OPERATION RESTORATION

August 5 - 9



In the worship materials this week there is a card to take home and put on your fridge or pass along to friends and neighbors about *Operation Restoration*, a week-long evening kids' camp (VBS). On this card you will find a QR code that takes you to the registration form, and another for volunteer sign up. Extra cards are available at the Connection Center if needed.

### 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 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade every Sunday. Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade used small videos, games, and art to learn about who Jesus was. The 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders learned to find scripture in the Bible and used skits and games to dig deeper into the lesson of the day.

We give thanks 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 - 5<sup>th</sup> is **TODAY** (5/19).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL WRAP UP

Last Sunday was the last day of Middle School Sunday School! It was a great year of learning together about the Scriptures.

Don't forget that you're the hosts **TODAY** (5/19) as we interview the Bishop! We'll see you in the Nielsen Room at 9:45 am!

## 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! Thanks to Jennie and Mark Warner, Karen Thomsen, and Brad Moyers for their leadership of the two groups. The last day of Adult Sunday School will be Sunday, June 2.

Both classes will join the congregation at the Bishop Q&A **TODAY** (5/19) at 9:45 am in the Nielsen Room.

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

### CONFIRMATION CORNER

Next week is Confirmation Sunday, and today is Pentecost! While we celebrate the "birthday" of the church, and the 175<sup>th</sup> "birthday" of Muhlenberg today, we remember that we can celebrate our Baptismal Birthdays as well! Talk with your family, find the day that you were baptized, and make a plan for how you wish to celebrate that day. Maybe you could make a special meal, for yourself or for someone else, and find a way to serve together as a family. Then light your baptismal candle, and pray together with friends and loved ones, and allow someone to offer this prayer for you: "Gracious God, we thank you for the new life you give us through holy baptism. Especially, we ask you to bless \_\_\_\_\_ on the anniversary of her/his/their baptism. Continue to strengthen \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit, and increase in her/him/them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**"

## VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

### YOUTH ASSEMBLY - CANCELED

Due to low registration numbers, Youth Assembly scheduled for Saturday, May 25 has been canceled. Registrants who paid the fee online will be reimbursed in the coming weeks. The Synod's Lutheran Youth Organization Board will soon announce details on an alternative online gathering for later in the summer so that LYO business, including Board elections, can be conducted. Watch for information from the Synod office.

### *POWER IN THE SPIRIT:*

#### *SEEKING & FINDING* ~ June 13 - 15

This inspirational conference for all ages is held at Roanoke College. Our own Ashley Saunders will lead activities for ages 3 – 10, and older kids/teens can help with younger ones or attend the rest of the event. **Registration is now open.** Visit [vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/](https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/) or click [HERE](#) for more information.

### 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMe1tUit5IU&t=1698s). A detailed summary is also available at the Connection Center.

## REMINDER

### GATHERING AREA NOTEBOOKS

Historically we have had a single notebook at the Connection Center. Its primary purpose is to provide sign-up sheets and Funds Reports that communicate details of our weekly offering/income. Last fall, we moved the notebook closer to the Sanctuary entrance hoping more people would see it and sign up to participate — it worked!

Congregation Council has decided to share minutes of their meetings and minutes of our Congregational Meetings to make more details available. It is also a good location for additional information so you have one resource to find most documents of interest.

So, we will now have two notebooks in the Gathering Area:

1. **Sign-Up Notebook** (located on a stand close to the Sanctuary entrance), containing sign-up sheets for the following...
  - Worship Assistants
  - Altar Flowers
  - Meals
  - Other Miscellaneous Events
2. **Resource Notebook** (located at the Connection Center), containing the following...
  - Weekly Funds Reports
  - Approved Council Minutes (which includes committee minutes, Pastors' reports, financial reports, etc.)
  - Approved Congregational Meeting Minutes
  - 2024 Standing Committees
  - 2024 Spending Plan
  - 2023 Annual Report
  - Ratified Constitution

If you have questions, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy.

## 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](mailto: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 4<sup>TH</sup> BE WITH YOU* Ministries Revitalization Event

The Ministries Revitalization Task Force and Congregation Council are grateful to the 35+ who attended the *May the 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

5/5	8:30 Holy Communion .....	69
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	107
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	42
	Total Views this Week .....	201
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	55.6
5/12	8:30 Holy Communion .....	64
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	75
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	34

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

I am encouraged to see a slight increase in gifts and offerings compared to last year with expenses remaining stable. As a congregation, we are called to be stewards of God's resources. God's abundance is in our midst through worship, ministry and outreach. Prayerfully, consider how you can grow your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to support the Wellspring of God's grace.

*Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2024			
	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$156,075	\$251,667	\$165,281
Total Income	\$212,295	\$294,925	\$267,791
Total Expenses	\$255,936	\$298,540	\$259,341
<b>Excess Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(43,641)</b>	<b>\$(3,615)</b>	<b>\$8,450</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 11,695.38
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 245.25
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 11,940.63</b>

April Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$6



To give online, scan here →

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 20 – 26, 2024

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tue	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
Sun		The Holy Trinity
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Adult Faith Formation in person & via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>



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

*Emily Becher-McKeever, Martin, Samuel and Oliva McKeever*

*Barbara McManus*

*Bob and Margie Miller*

*Maxine Miller*

*Diane Mincey*

*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 [depy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depy@muhlenberglutheran.org))*

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: ([depy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depy@muhlenberglutheran.org) /540-434-3496)