



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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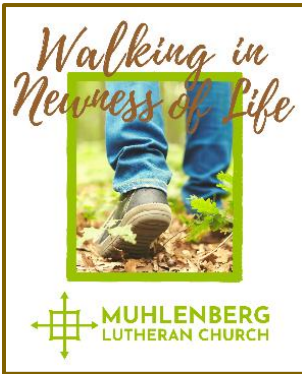
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May 21, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

COMMITMENT SUNDAY: WALKING IN NEWNESS OF LIFE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



First, *thank you* for spending the last few weeks *Walking in Newness of Life* with us. Easter is always a time for discerning what resurrection life looks like in our day to day lives as God's people, and we've used this

time to hear about the ways that members of our community have been inspired and moved by the ministries of Muhlenberg. In this inspiration, our members are responding joyfully to God's generosity with generosity of their own. Today we present our Intent Cards as an act of worship, and we encourage you to reflect on the ways your connection to our ministry has impacted you and those you know and love in the past year.

As the offering plates are brought forward today, we invite each family to walk forward and place their Intent Cards in the basket at the front of the sanctuary. This intentional act of worship reminds us that our generosity is never meant to be a passive process, rather we're called to make generosity an active, joyful, and well-discerned means of *Walking in Newness of Life*. Through this act of worship and intentionality, we can start dreaming about what God may be up to here moving forward.

As you consider your giving to the church this year, please see page 2 for ways to consider how you can grow in your own generosity.

~continued on page 2~

JENNIFER CASSANDRA HAWKINBERRY

Baptized, A New Child of God

Welcome Jennifer Cassandra Hawkinberry into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 11:00 am service! Welcome to the Lord's family, Jennifer!



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

COMMITMENT SUNDAY (CONT'D)

Here are some ideas for how you can grow in your own generosity:

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 by contacting 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. For our church family, as we 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! New life is all around us, and the call to discipleship in this life is one of living generously and joyfully in response to all God has done for us. In continued Easter joy, may our intentionality today mark a new beginning of life in this place as we continue *equipping all people to live out Christ's love.*

UPDATE FROM PASTOR LAUREN

Thank you, dear people of Muhlenberg, for your prayers this past week! On Friday night (May 12) while attending my son's baseball game, I was hit in the head by a wild pitch as some kids were warming up behind the spectators. I lost consciousness and was taken to the hospital. Thankfully the CT scan came back clear, and I was diagnosed with a concussion. After lots of rest, my concussion symptoms have significantly improved.

Unfortunately, the other thing that happened during this event was that my heart paused multiple times (one time for 18 seconds!) The cardiologist has been monitoring my heart closely and once this was observed, it became clear that I need a pacemaker, as this is not the first time we've observed significant pauses in my heart.

I will be having the pacemaker installed this Thursday, May 25 in Charlottesville. I anticipate only being out of work for a couple of days, and then returning to Muhlenberg with a strong heart and renewed mind!

Thank you for your ongoing prayers--they mean the world to me and my family.

Peace, Pastor Lauren

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>

COFFEE HOUSE EVENT

THIS Friday, May 26, 7:00 pm
in the Gathering Area



Yes! This coming Friday! Please plan to come and hear some great music by our own Muhlenberg Teens. Our theme for this

event will focus on the ever increasing amount of gun violence particularly in our schools and how we can offer hope for a better tomorrow. Seating will be limited, so come early and grab a table! Refreshments will be provided!

WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST

NEXT Sunday, May 28

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 50th 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. Many worshipers 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.

PREPARING TO BID FAREWELL

Next Sunday, May 28, 12:15 pm

On Pentecost Sunday 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 at 12:15 pm in the Muhlenberg Activities Center (MAC) in Elizabeth's honor. To be sure we have enough food, **please RSVP by TODAY (5/21)** 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 basket at the Connection Center or in the Connection Box.



DIRECTORY PHOTO UPDATES!

ADDED OPPORTUNITY NEXT SUNDAY (5/28)

Before, in-between, or after
the 8:30 am or 11:00 am services



If you missed our earlier Directory Photo and Information Update sessions, you have another chance!

Please take an extra 10 minutes

NEXT SUNDAY (5/28) to have a photo taken of you or your family and to confirm/update your information for our database.

We'll have staff 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

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP

Wednesday, June 7, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you basic stitches. If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

MUHLENBERG MERCH



Start your summer off 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. Info is also available at the Connection Center. **The deadline to place your**

order is next Sunday, May 28. If you don't have internet access, please 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.

CREATION CARE

If you have a garden, you probably have weeds. Pulling them by hand is more work, but much more environmentally friendly than using harsh chemicals. A hand trowel or small hoe might make the job easier. Pull weeds when the ground is moist and spread a thin layer of mulch to shade the surface of the garden and prevent weeds from germinating. Be sure to add the weeds to your compost pile.



SECOND HOME NEWS

ANNIE JR. ~ LAST PERFORMANCE

TODAY (5/21) AT 4:30 PM

This is your last chance to see Second Home in their 10th musical production! We are proud to present *Annie Jr.*, in our final performance **TODAY (5/21)** at Back Home on the Farm. 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!



LOCAL AND GLOBAL MINISTRY

LET'S LUNCH TOGETHER THIS 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), 11:30 am THIS 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).

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).



WHERE IS SHUKULU? An RLS Alumni Story

Did you know that Muhlenberg has sponsored several students in Rwanda through the Rwanda School Project?

The very first student sponsored by Muhlenberg is Shukulu, who was in the first graduating class at the Rwamagana Leader's School (RLS). She was accepted after her mother came to the school and asked if her daughter could attend. They had experienced the genocide and her mother did not have the money to pay tuition but hoped that a scholarship might be available. She even offered to work at the school cooking and cleaning to help pay for Shukulu's fee. That's when the Rwanda School Project asked Muhlenberg to sponsor her, and we did so for her entire upper level education at RLS.

We have watched this young girl grow in so many ways and she is now not only a proud graduate of the school but has continued her education through scholarships from the Rwanda education program. Here is her progress report in her own words:

"I graduated from Rwamagana Leader's School in 2015. A big part of who I am today is because of the foundation I got there. RLS helped me acquire advanced academic knowledge as well as social skills.

Currently, I am studying in Japan. I am planning to continue for doctoral studies. RLS helped me have hope for my future. Based on the strong academic background I got from RLS, I had a chance to work with people from different countries in the field of peacebuilding and development. In 2019, I worked in Ethiopia, and I am an international facilitator in the program called Alternative to Violence Program. Currently, I am studying for a

Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies in Japan. I will graduate in September. I believe that God will bless me so that I can achieve this goal. RLS also activates young people to be agents of social change in the world. I am among those people."

Muhlenberg has sponsored three other students: one who has also graduated (update coming soon), one who will graduate this year and Patrick, who will continue next year. We thank all those who have contributed to their success and welcome new donors to continue helping future students.

For more information, please visit rwandaschoolproject.org, or contact Jean Helmick (jean.helmick@gmail.com or 540-830-1930). Contributions can be made to the Rwanda School Project by placing a check in the offering plate or clicking [HERE](#) to give via the Muhlenberg website.

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)

Please note: The last day for these classes this program year will be **NEXT Sunday, May 28.**

CELEBRATION CORNER

We want to celebrate some exciting moments happening in our community. If you know of moments worth celebrating, pass them along to the pastors or Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) so we can celebrate these times of joy together!

APPROVED FOR THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT!

Since 2019, Muhlenberg has been sponsoring Mycah McNett in her candidacy journey as she pursues her calling to be a Pastor in the ELCA. We've supported Mycah through seminary with Endowment Scholarships and we are delighted to share that she graduated from United Lutheran Seminary Friday with her Master of Divinity degree. Additionally, Mycah passed the third and final step of the ELCA Candidacy process for Rostered Leaders, being Approved for Ordination! She is now approved to pursue a call by any congregation throughout Christ's church, and we look forward to her ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. We'll be sure to share details on that event when it happens, and are happy to share this note from Mycah to our community:



"Thanks be to God! After four years of candidacy work in the Virginia Synod, seminary in the pandemic, hospital chaplaincy in the summer of 2021, a pastoral internship serving a Mission Developed ELCA site with people in addiction recovery and folks who are food/housing insecure, I have been approved for ordination. I could not have gotten here without the prayers and support of you all at my home congregation! Thank you!"

Mycah McNett, M.Div.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH AT MUHLENBERG

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives, and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. This is a time for raising awareness and understanding about mental health, and we hope to do that here with a particular lens toward the role of faith in responding to mental health care needs. I know from personal experience the value of destigmatizing conversations around mental health, both for my own well-being and the well-being of others, and I hope that as we prioritize mental health at Muhlenberg, we can foster a supportive community for all.

Mental Health Awareness Month serves as a vital reminder that mental health is a fundamental aspect of our overall well-being, and grants us an opportunity to engage in open conversations, challenge stigmas, and extend compassion to those living with mental illness. Historically, the church as a whole has not always gotten this right, often attributing mental health crises to a sinful origin, or labeling them as a moral failing. It's time to do our part to #StopTheStigma and cultivate a community of welcome where mental health concerns are met with compassion and not judgement. **If you or a loved one is struggling with your mental health, please know that you are not alone, and your pastors are always willing to talk with you. Your health and your life matter.**

At Muhlenberg, we recognize the importance of nurturing an inclusive environment where everyone feels accepted and supported. To further our understanding of mental health, we invite you to explore the ELCA's comprehensive [Social Message on Mental Health](#). This enlightening document delves into the church's perspective on mental health, addressing topics such as the historical exclusion of individuals with mental illness and the significance of healing and companionship. Also, information will be shared on Social Media through videos and posts about the crossroads of mental health and faith. As your Pastor, I will strive to bring my own authenticity and vulnerability to these conversations as a means of inviting further dialogue. Feel free to share these resources and start a conversation within your own circles. Let me know directly if you are interested in beginning a community study around the ELCA Social Message.

During this month, and always, let us strive to create a community that embraces mental health and well-being. Engage in meaningful discussions, listen with empathy, and offer support to those who may be facing mental health challenges. Remember, even small acts of kindness and understanding can have a profound impact on someone's journey toward healing. Together, we can foster an environment that promotes mental well-being and ensures that no one feels alone in their struggles. Together we can realize a future where mental health is prioritized and destigmatized.

May this be a month filled with compassion, growth, and resilience,
Pastor Alex



FAITHFUL PEOPLE, FAITHFUL QUESTIONS

“How will I know my loved one is still with me after their physical body is gone? What signs can I look for?”



Losing a loved one is a deeply challenging experience. As we see when Jesus weeps at the tomb of Lazarus, death is a separation that truly grieves the heart of God. At the same time it's natural to wonder how we can continue to feel the presence of our loved ones once their physical body is gone. Our Lutheran theology calls us to name and claim the finality of death, the hard separation, and the pain of this grief. At the same time, we bear the hope of the resurrection, and somehow see a glimpse of resurrection life for ourselves and our loved ones here and now. Christ meets us in that mysterious intersection of life. The reality is, while death brings the finality of physical separation, the impact of our loved ones can endure in beautiful and profound ways.

In the face of this mystery, we find solace in the power of love and the memories we cherish. Our Jewish neighbors express a beautiful sentiment for the dead, saying, “May their memory be a blessing.” The influence our loved ones had on our lives continues to resonate within us, shaping our thoughts, actions, and values. Their love becomes a part of who we are, and in that sense, they live on through us in blessed memory. This understanding of blessed memory still honors the painful separation of death, while giving space for the endurance of love.

Scripture offers comfort in assuring us that love transcends the boundaries of physical existence. 1 Corinthians 13:8 says, “Love never ends.” Love is an eternal force that persists beyond our mortal lives. While we may not see or hear our loved ones as we did before, their love endures, strengthening our bonds and providing comfort in times of need.

Embracing the mystery of blessed memory allows us to honor our loved ones and at the same time honor the reality of this painful separation of death through our grief. Through sharing stories, engaging in traditions they held dear, and living out the values they instilled in us, we perpetuate their legacy. As we carry their love within our hearts, they remain present in our lives.

While we may long for tangible signs of their presence, it is through the intangible realm of memory, love, and shared experiences that we connect with our departed loved ones. In the depths of our hearts, we can find reassurance that their love continues to guide and inspire us, offering a source of comfort and strength. In the journey of grief, we acknowledge the finality of death—earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust—yet we also embrace the enduring power of love. May we find solace in the cherished memories and the lasting impact our loved ones have left behind, knowing that through love and Christ’s resurrection, they remain forever connected to us.

After seeing us use ‘High Voices and Low Voices’ on Palm Sunday, a member said, “I appreciated that! Could we use more inclusive language like ‘Siblings in Christ’ instead of ‘Brothers and Sisters’ in worship?”

Absolutely! Language has a powerful impact on our sense of belonging and inclusivity. We have been striving to ensure that our language in worship reflects a diverse understanding of God and God’s people for some time now. While the phrase 'brothers and sisters' has been traditionally used in worship, it's important to recognize that language evolves over time to reflect a more inclusive understanding of our diverse congregation.

Just a few decades ago, it was common to exclusively use the terms ‘brothers, man, or mankind’ when referring to the entire congregation or humanity. However, the introduction of 'brothers and sisters' marked an important step towards inclusivity, acknowledging the presence and contributions of all women within the community of faith who were left out by that language.

Expanding our language to more frequently use terms like 'Siblings in Christ, Friends, and Beloved Community’ continues this journey of inclusivity. By doing so, we actively join God in the work of sharing an ever-widening circle of grace, embracing and affirming the diverse identities and experiences of all people. It sends a powerful message that everyone, regardless of their gender identity or expression, has a valued and welcome place in God’s family.

We will continue to use words like ‘Father’ in our creeds and the Lord’s Prayer, but don’t be surprised to hear prayers that call upon the “Mothering love” of our God like Jesus described in Luke 13:31-35, or intercede to the Spirit as a feminine embodiment of wisdom, as seen in the Hebrew Scriptures. These diverse images allow us to see and hear the wideness of God’s presence in biblically grounded ways.

When we are intentional about embodying God’s radical hospitality and embracing the diversity of God’s creation, our worship is a celebration of the richness of our shared language that reflects the beauty and inclusivity of our congregation. We’ll continue striving to create a worship experience where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued as beloved Siblings in Christ.

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. Any question is welcome! Place your purple card in the Offering Plate or in the purple lock box at the Connection Center. 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.



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 (VSWO)

July 21-22 at Roanoke College

For details about the VSWO convention or to register, click [HERE](#). Brochures are also available at the Connection Center.



YOUTH NEWS

KAIROS REGISTRATION STILL OPEN

June 25 – 30

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

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 depoy@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, sound techs, communion assistants, 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

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

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.

REMINDERS

DIAL 988

MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS ASSISTANCE

You can now dial 988 and get directly connected to a counselor who can assist you in a mental health or substance abuse crisis. This new easy dial hotline became universal across the United States in July. A 911 phone call still connects you to a dispatcher for police, fire, and ambulance calls. Read more about 988 through this link to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



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 with numbered spaces on the corner of Ott and Water Streets — you may be towed!
- **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.

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.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/7	8:30 Holy Communion	82
	11:00 Holy Communion	79
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	25
	Total Views this Week	138
	Hours Viewed this Week	49.3
5/14	8:30 Holy Communion	62
	11:00 Holy Communion	85
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	22

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	\$ 4,673.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,209.23
Total Giving	\$ 5,882.23

April Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$86

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 22 - 28, 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
Fri	7:00 pm	Coffee House Event
Sun		Day of Pentecost
	8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Added Photo Day
	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
	12:15 pm	Elizabeth Williams' Retirement Celebration



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

*Terry Propst
Machelle and Eddie Rader, Jr
Alison and Robert Raines
Carolyn Randolph
Tony and Sandy Randolph*

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](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).