



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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May 22, 2022

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

INCREASED PRECAUTIONS

Due to increased COVID-19 exposure among the Muhlenberg community and beyond, and in collaboration with the Gathering Together Task Force, **we are implementing precautions for TODAY (5/22). Masks are required and we will practice social distancing** by using every other pew. Thank you for doing your part!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Hello Muhlenberg! Your Congregation Council met this past Monday. Here are some things we talked about!

- A mini retreat is planned for Saturday (5/21) at Hillandale Park. Pastor Lauren has some fun teambuilding activities for us.
- A survey available for folks to let us know if they'd like to keep Ministries Night virtual or meet in person. To participate, click [HERE](#).
- Sarah Sunde, Treasurer, updated Council on the financials. See page 8 for details.
- In preparation for the 2023 Budget, Sarah Sunde and I are meeting with ministry teams to hear their dreams for next year in keeping with our Strategic Plan.
- We learned of bequests coming from the estates of Bill Cartwright and Katie Ray.

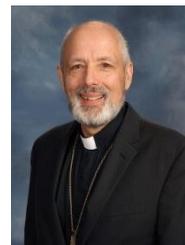
- Pastor Lauren updated Council on the *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign. Executive Committee and Council will fill out intent cards this coming week.
- We reviewed/approved the Youth Minister job description for Personnel to post.

As always, your Council is here for you. If you have a question, comment, or suggestion, please do not hesitate to contact us!! You can reach me at mlccouncilpres@yahoo.com.
Greta Willis, Congregation Council President

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME GUEST PREACHER

We welcome a familiar face to our pulpit this morning! Bishop Bob Humphrey shares God's Word with us as guest preacher today. Bishop Humphrey served as pastor of Muhlenberg from 2010-2017 before being elected Bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He and his wife Barbra live in Harrisonburg, and we're delighted to welcome him "home" to Muhlenberg today!



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

VOICE/PIANO RECITAL AT 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 **TODAY (5/22) at 3:00 pm**. 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!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

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

BRIDGE OF HOPE CONCERT

THIS Thursday (5/26), 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. See our interview with Bridge of Hope Executive Director Chris Hoover Seidel by clicking [HERE](#) and on our [YouTube](#) page!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING CIRCLE

Wednesday, June 1, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Join us in the Gathering Area as we continue this prayerful ministry and spiritual practice. Whether you knit or crochet, are experienced or just learning, you are invited to join us as we pray and stitch together prayer shawls that will bring comfort, solace, celebration and joy to those in need.

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 ppharrisonburg.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

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.

NURSERY MAKEOVER!

The Property Committee worked very hard repainting the nursery and making small upgrades. Please come in before or after services and take a look at their beautiful work. You can also visit with Ashley Saunders who will be available to answer any questions about the nursery ministry.

The nursery is generally staffed with volunteers for both the 8:30 and 11:00 services and available for children birth to 5 years old. We have age appropriate activities based on the liturgy for the day. These include reading from the Children’s Bible and offering play opportunities to expand on the scripture using materials like Playdough, dolls, pit balls, water, and other relevant materials. To learn more about the nursery, contact Ashley at saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org.



CREATION CARE TIP

Members of Congress care about the viewpoints of their constituents and take their feedback into account when it's time to vote. Your letter could help influence their vote on issues ranging from expanding local recycling programs to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Get tips for writing a letter to your representatives at www.pfaw.org.



~ Muhlenberg News continued on page 6 ~

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

Lily Harmison grew up in the Youth Ministry program at Muhlenberg and spoke last Sunday about the impact of the program on her life and the importance of supporting our Spring campaign.

“I would not be who I am today without the Youth Ministry program I grew up in at Muhlenberg. This amazing program led me to be a faithful servant; encouraged me to be a fierce advocate and compassionate friend; and provided me with an intentional faith community where I felt welcomed, heard, and cared for. Being involved in this community connected me to some of my best friends in the whole world, and provided me with leadership opportunities I never would have known. Your generosity through the “Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow” Campaign will allow the youth coming up behind me to engage in the same intentional faith community that has benefited my life in more ways than I can imagine. I encourage you to support the youth of Muhlenberg so they can be equipped to serve themselves, their peers, and the next generation to come.”



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

MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Last week's issue of *The Chimes* was not updated to reflect giving for the week of May 8. Below are the correct offering figures:

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 15,289.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 920.00
Total Giving	\$ 16,209.50

END DATES FOR SUNDAY

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

Devotional Classics Adult Class ~ Today, 5/22
Faith Lens Adult Class ~ *to be determined*
Children's Classes ~ June 5

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

YOUTH MINISTRY

As you have heard, the Congregation Council has been working diligently to implement our Strategic Plan. As part of that plan, Council has 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 creative and dynamic leadership, in addition to oversight for youth ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Youth Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in people from 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 by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ALEX

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

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:

5/8	8:30 Holy Communion	67
	11:00 Holy Communion	75
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	27
	Total Views this Week	172
	Hours Viewed this Week	39.3
5/15	8:30 Holy Communion	46
	11:00 Holy Communion	136
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	36

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Thank you for your continued support of Muhlenberg's Ministry. Expenses continue to track less than the previous year with staffing adjustments and ministry teams and staff judiciously managing their spending. As per the 2022 budget, we moved approximately \$39,000 from the reserve contingency account into the operating budget. This helps reduce the deficit. The remaining \$39,000 will be moved proportionately monthly beginning in July. Continue to prayerfully consider how you can support the Muhlenberg ministry.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2022	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget	2021 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$166,997	\$205,000	\$181,986
Total Income	\$200,975	\$234,583	\$213,912
Total Expenses	\$222,423	\$280,291	\$287,787
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(21,448)	\$(45,708)	\$(73,875)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 7,445.78
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 30,126.02
Total Giving	\$ 30,571.80

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 23 - 29, 2022

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

Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thu	6:30 pm	Bridge of Hope Concert
Sun		Seventh Sunday of Easter
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation in person & via ZOOM
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube

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:

[\(depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496\)](mailto: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)