



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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May 28, 2023

DAY OF PENTECOST

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

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!

A FAREWELL

Well, folks, this is it — my very last Sunday to play in worship as your Music Minister. My, oh my, this day came quick!

This year marks my 46th year as a professional organist, and my 39th year in part-time/full-time music ministry. I am honored to say that the past 15 years have been spent right here at Muhlenberg. Thanks to everyone for your support, for your encouraging words, your patience; but overall, your appreciation towards me, as it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Music Minister. I'm grateful to have met so many wonderful people over the years, and I will cherish the memories made at Muhlenberg.



I'm excited to begin this next journey of my life in another musical capacity. I have always loved collaborating with other musicians both instrumental and vocal, so in the fall I will be working as a collaborative pianist for the School of Music at JMU.

~continued on page 2~

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

A FAREWELL (CONT'D)

Jeff and I plan to stay in the area, and we will also remain members of Muhlenberg. However, I will make myself less visible for a time as I want the new hire to feel fully welcomed in his role as Music Minister. But I can watch online! ☺

So, in the words of Carol Burnett,

“I’m so glad we had this time together, just to have a laugh or sing a song. Seems we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say, so long” (tug on left ear).

Elizabeth Williams

THANK YOU, ELIZABETH!

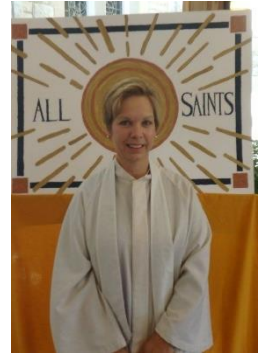
Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love; the unity of heart and mind is like to that above... From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity. (ELW 656, Blest Be the Tie That Binds)

In Christian community, we never truly say goodbye to one another, as the love of Christ and the unity of baptism unite us in a bond of love that reigns “through all eternity,” no matter the change of life, distance, or circumstance. However, we make it a regular and earnest matter of community to say **Thank You**. We thank God for the gifts we’ve been given, and especially we give God thanks for the gift of those individuals who bless our community. So, Elizabeth Williams, our beloved Music Minister, today we give God thanks for you!

For the last 15 years our community has been immeasurably blessed by your passion, skill, commitment, and love. On this day when we celebrate Pentecost—the pouring out of God’s spirit, so that the good news of Christ could be

heard and understood in every language — it is especially appropriate that we give thanks for you.

As Martin Luther once said, “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” Music is a universal language, one that draws words and feelings out of us in the times of joy, faithfulness, or sorrow, when we don’t know the right words to offer. You have faithfully spoken that language among us, and allowed each of us to know the love of Christ in new ways. For these 15 years, you have been faithfully equipping all people to live out Christ’s love, and our community is forever changed by your presence.



For your leadership through the highs and lows of community life, for your relentless pursuit of excellence in sharing music that gives glory to God, for your love of God’s people and nurturing the gifts of all artists young and old, and for your love of Jesus that you have shared with us in countless ways, we say **thank you, thank you, thank you!**

One chapter closes as your ministry among us concludes today, but we give thanks for our journey together and look forward to all the future holds. We pray that this new season of life for you, Jeff, and your family may be blessed and joyful. May perfect love and friendship continue to reign in the days to come as you bear our deepest gratitude into this next chapter of life.

With thankful hearts and voices raised,
*The Pastors, Staff, and Community of
Muhlenberg Lutheran Church*

GOD BLESS YOUR RETIREMENT



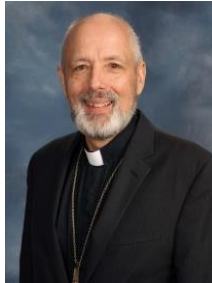
Today, we bid farewell to Music Minister Elizabeth Williams as she retires from serving as our Music Minister for the past 15 years. You are invited to attend a luncheon

TODAY (5/28) at 12:15 pm in the Muhlenberg Activities Center (MAC) in Elizabeth's honor. (Even if you didn't RSVP, please join us for the celebration!)

WELCOME

THE REV. ROBERT F. HUMPHREY BISHOP, VA SYNOD, ELCA

We welcome a familiar face to worship this morning! Bishop Bob Humphrey joins us as our presiding minister 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!



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.



LIFT HIGH THE CROSS!

CELEBRATING OUR PROCESSIONAL CROSS, MADE BY MARK WARNER

"Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, til all the world adore his sacred name." (ELW 660: Lift High the Cross)

The Processional Cross is an incredibly important symbol for our community gathered in worship. Each week, worship begins and ends at the Baptismal Font, but our attention is always guided and directed by the Cross of Christ lifted high! Symbolically, the procession with the cross of Jesus going on before is a powerful practice of the Christian life, following Christ wherever he leads. In this manner, worshippers are invited to reverence toward the cross as it passes and we humbly and joyfully thank God for the love poured out there and the call to follow.

As our mission at Muhlenberg involves *equipping all people to live out Christ's love* it is always exciting to celebrate the ways that our members use their gifts to tell the story of Christ's love. So today, we celebrate



our return to using a beautiful wooden Processional Cross handmade by Muhlenberg member Mark Warner. This piece of liturgical art is a basswood processional cross made in 2009 using a traditional technique called chip carving. The entire design was carved using one small knife where micro "chips" are cut to create the macro image.

THANK YOU: 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. We had a wonderful "Commitment Sunday" last week! Many members and families submitted their Intent Cards, pledging their support of Muhlenberg's ministries in the year to come! Some highlights from this past Sunday included...

- **Over half** of the commitments submitted pledged an *increase in their generosity* for the coming year!
- **Approximately 20%** of actively contributing households have responded with Intent Cards.

And now - *it's not too late for you* to submit an Intent Card and show your support of not only the campaign, but also of Muhlenberg's life-changing and life-giving ministries for the coming year.

Visit the "Give page" of our website at muhlenberglutheran.org/Give. There, you can read letters from the Pastors, see moving testimonial videos, and fill out your Intent Card today. Please faithfully consider increasing your commitment, so that our congregation can continue to share the Gospel here and across the country and world!

Fill out your online Intent Card [HERE](#). Cards are also available at the Connection Center, and you may place completed cards in the offering plate.

Our offering is an intentional act of worship, reminding us each week 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*. Thank you for joining us in this walk, and we look forward to the year ahead!

DIRECTORY PHOTO UPDATES! Additional Day, Today May 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 **TODAY (5/28)** to have a photo taken 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 questions, contact Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

AN UPDATE ON PASTOR LAUREN

We give thanks that Pastor Lauren successfully navigated pacemaker surgery on Thursday. We thank you in advance for your grace and prayers as she continues to recover.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

THIS Wednesday, 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> Or by phone ...DIAL IN – **301-715-8592** and enter Meeting ID / Passcode: **200491556#**

Please note: May 31 will be the last Bible Study of this program year.

ICE CREAM FELLOWSHIP

Next Sunday, June 4



June is Dairy Month! Come join us at the Fellowship table next Sunday, June 4 as we celebrate **with ice cream!** Milk is an important food group for our health and an important part of our local community/economy. In June of 1937 new ways were tried to distribute milk in the summer months. Beginning as *National Milk Month*, it is still celebrated today!

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER

Next Sunday, June 4

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all-purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.



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! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone, or have yarn you would like to donate to the group, please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net).

WEAVE US TOGETHER

VIRGINIA SYNODICAL

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

July 21-22 at Roanoke College

For information about the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization convention or to register, click [HERE](#). Brochures are also available at the Connection Center.

VBS IS JUST ON THE HORIZON

August 7 - 11 (in the evenings)

Summer is fast approaching.

Before we start the hustle and bustle of summer vacations, the Children's Ministry Team is asking you to make the commitment to volunteer for *Compassion*

Camp: Every Living Thing. We need 13 or more adults ready to spend time with the children of Muhlenberg and Shalom Mennonite. Will it be you?

If you are interested, email Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberghlutheran.org) or fill out an interest form located in the Connection Center.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

MUHLENBERG MERCH

Order Deadline Extended to June 4



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. You can purchase them online [HERE](#) or using the QR code below. Info is also available at the Connection Center. **The cost is \$20 per shirt and \$25 per hat. Unfortunately, we have**

not met the minimum number of orders for each item required for printing. So, the deadline to place your order has been extended to NEXT Sunday, June 4. If either shirt or hat order minimums are not met, money collected will be refunded. Orders making/exceeding the minimum requirement will arrive sometime around June 20. If you donated money beyond the \$20/\$25 cost, the additional funds will be sent to the church. If you don't have internet access, please contact Emily Carneal (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.

CREATION CARE

Schedule your errands back-to-back. Driving to the post office in the morning, the dry cleaner in the afternoon, and the supermarket in the evening burns a lot of gas. Starting a car with a warm engine results in five times less pollution than starting a car with a cold engine. You can make your errands more eco-friendly by scheduling them back-to-back, instead of over several days. You'll keep the engine warm, cutting down on harmful emissions. Making fewer trips will also help you save gas money.



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: TODAY (5/28) is the last day for these classes this program year. Please join us again in the fall.

YOUTH NEWS

KAIROS REGISTRATION STILL OPEN

June 25 – 30

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

LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

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. 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.

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.



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 May 19 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.

CODE OF ETHICS AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to two of our Muhlenberg youth members, **Will Fletchall** and **Caroline Eppard**, who were recognized as 2023 Code of Ethics Awards winners by the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg! Two students from each Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County elementary school, middle school, and high school, as well as Blue Ridge Christian School, Eastern Mennonite School, Rockingham Academy and Massanutten Technical Center were selected to be honored for their ethical behavior through the Rotary Ethics Awards Program. The students are selected from each school on the basis of truthfulness, fairness, consistency, dependability, integrity, service to others, concern for others, friendliness, depth of commitments and reverence.



LORA DUGARD CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Members of our Care Committee gathered on May 24 at VMRC to celebrate the 100th birthday of Muhlenberg's eldest member, Lora Dugard! It was a wonderful day of celebration with Lora, her family, friends, and caregivers. There was also plenty of delicious cake to go around! We give God thanks for the life and witness of Lora, and are grateful for the chance to celebrate such a milestone of a life well-lived and for our Care Committee members who brought everything together.



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, ELIZABETH!



March 14, 2019 with Bill Vance



The Tweens Choir



With daughters
Madeline & Katherine

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, ELIZABETH!



With husband Jeff



With the Pastors Easter Sunday



2013 Church Picnic



2014 Cherub Choir



Coffee House rehearsal

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, ELIZABETH!



Elizabeth's first recital



The family dog Roxie gets blessed



April Fools' harmonica recital



2023 Children's Choir



Sunday, April 9 - Wellstream Worship With Muhlenberg

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/14	8:30 Holy Communion	62
	11:00 Holy Communion	85
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	22
	Total Views this Week	122
	Hours Viewed this Week	40.4
5/21	8:30 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Holy Communion	98
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	32

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	\$ 10,135.06
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,422.42
Total Giving	\$ 11,557.48

April Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$86

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 29 – June 4, 2023

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

Mon	Memorial Day Church Office Closed
Wed	10:30 am Bible Study via ZOOM
Sun	The Holy Trinity Food Pantry/Lay Communion Sunday Fellowship Sunday 8:30 am Holy Communion in person 11:00 am Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube



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

*Steven and Lori Reich
Jeff Revercomb
Evelyn Rickman
Barbara and Bob Roadcap
Libby Robinson*

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 depoy@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: (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)
Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.