



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 29, 2022

SEVENTH 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 TODAY (5/29). 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 May 16. 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 is 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.

~ continued on page 4 ~

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

THANK YOU, TEACHERS!

We are grateful for the leadership, knowledge, and love of our Christian Formation teachers. In the midst of a crazy pandemic year, these teachers have helped to cultivate faith in new ways through in-person, online, and hybrid classes for both young and old. We will give thanks for these leaders at our 11:00 am service: Erin Burke, Jean Helmick, Melissa Perritt, Jocelyn Shinseki, Karen Thomsen, Kathy Thompson, Jennie Warner, Mark Warner, Ashley Saunders, Pastor Lauren Eanes, and Pastor Alex Zuber.

FAREWELL & GODSPEED



Today we wish Farewell and Godspeed to Ted Sudol & Jill Kastanek. They have been a faithful part of our community, with Ted serving as our Treasurer for part of 2021. We wish them well as they move to Athens, GA.

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 have been mailed, and extras are available at the Connection Center. Please bring your card with you to worship next Sunday, 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

Rachel Peters serves on Congregation Council and attends Muhlenberg with her family (including her son, Henry, pictured here!). Rachel recently spoke about the importance of small groups and the Nursery at Muhlenberg, and about supporting our Spring Campaign.



"When my husband and I joined Muhlenberg 6 years ago, we found a church home mostly thanks to a small group called "Life on Tap." The group would meet and talk together, and grow in our faith and in our community. Those people became "our tribe" here at Muhlenberg and in our lives. Since then, our needs have changed - but the need for small group community has not. Wouldn't it be amazing if we had a point person here at the church to help organize, schedule, and promote small groups, so that more people could benefit from that community? It would also be nice if someone could take my child Henry for some time during worship, so that my husband and I could focus on what is being said. I believe the sound of a small child in church is beautiful, but sometimes it's a little loud and daunting for the adults. To have a Nursery Coordinator that we could trust and rely on consistently would be wonderful. These needs require financial support. They require us to give so that everyone can receive these benefits. Thank you for considering!"

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us for the **final session of the season** **Wednesday, June 1 at 10:30 am** via [ZOOM](#).

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

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 pnharrisonburg.staff@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST

NEXT Sunday, June 5 is Pentecost Sunday! In the church year, the day of Pentecost is the culmination of the 50 days of the Easter celebration. After showing himself to the disciples and after having ascended, Jesus' followers received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

On the fiftieth day of Easter, our worship is filled with festivity, color and movement as we both conclude the Easter celebration and welcome anew the gift of the Holy Spirit. 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.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

- 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

MUHLENBERG NEWS

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

As Muhlenberg seeks to expand opportunities for fellowship and social activities, the Fellowship Committee will be needed more than ever. If you would like to help with these church events, please contact Barbara Roadcap at 540-830-1896. We are looking for 2-3 folks!

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP BULLETIN COVER ARTISTS!

We want to extend a heartfelt *thank you* to all members who have given their time and talent to make our worship booklet covers so beautiful! Since February, our covers have featured artwork provided by our membership — drawings, paintings, photography, digital art, woodcarvings, and more. Your response to our call for your creativity was robust and generous, and we so appreciate your creative collaboration. Our worship booklets over the summer will return to their previous format, but please continue to send your creative thoughts and expressions to our Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) whenever you feel so moved. We are, after all, a congregation of storytellers!

CREATION CARE TIP

Switch to an all-natural dishwasher detergent. Your detergent probably contains petroleum-based products. Petroleum, made from the same crude oil used to manufacture gasoline, is a known carcinogen. Opt for vegetable-based dishwasher detergent; the soap is milder and made from all natural ingredients.



END DATES FOR SUNDAY

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

Devotional Classics Adult Class ~ ended 5/22
Faith Lens Adult Class ~ *to be determined*
Children's Classes ~ June 5
Youth Class – June 5

FROM OUR FINANCE MANAGER

ELECTRONIC GIVING



We are part of a faith community, busy serving in our area and reaching out to folks in need around the world. To financially support our mission and ministry, in addition to giving in more

traditional methods (like the offering plate, envelopes, etc.), we also have available online automated giving methods through both our website and a mobile app. You can enroll easily, change or stop these contributions at any time, and schedule them for any time period.

Since your giving can be scheduled for donation each week, month, or quarter, this can help eliminate the need to remember your paper envelope and check while dashing out the door. Particularly as we make our commitments to the *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* (aka *Strength and Hope*) campaign, this is a helpful tool to support your generosity.

On Sundays, June 5 and 12, you will find me in the Gathering Area between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, eager to meet you and ready to help anyone who would like assistance in enrolling in one of our online giving systems. To complete the enrollment, please bring a voided check in order to enter your bank account and routing numbers.

Also, on June 5 and 12, I will have on display a QR code which you can scan if you would prefer to fill out an online *Strength and Hope* pledge form or if you would like to set up a recurring donation yourself on our website for this campaign. Thank you in advance for supporting this exciting idea.

Jane Eanes

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

YOUTH MINISTRY

As you have heard, 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each Saturday on Facebook and Instagram, we share “The Prayers of the People,” and invite members to write and share these prayers. Prayers can be simple and spontaneous, or they can follow a fairly traditional form like we see in worship.

Further instructions and forms are available at the Connection Center to submit your requests in writing, or you may submit prayers electronically via our website by clicking [HERE](#).

Have questions? Contact Christian Perritt at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org.

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:

5/15	8:30 Holy Communion	46
	11:00 Holy Communion	136
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	36
	Total Views this Week	153
	Hours Viewed this Week	64
5/22	8:30 Holy Communion	47
	11:00 Holy Communion	70
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	42

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	\$ 10,564.02
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 69,394.33
Total Giving	\$ 79,938.35

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 30 — June 5

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

Mon	Memorial Day ~ Church Office Closed
Tues	1:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
Wed	10:30 am Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle
Sat	8:00 am Second Home Yard Sale
Sun	Day of Pentecost <i>Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow</i> Intent Sunday 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)

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

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)