



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



281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 † Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org † Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org

June 2, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME, PASTOR NABERS



Today at the 11:00 service we welcome Pastor G. William Nabers to help us celebrate Muhlenberg's 175th Anniversary. Pastor Nabers was an Assistant Pastor at Muhlenberg from 1982 to 1986. In addition to preaching and leading worship, he led the youth ministry and was very involved with Social Ministry at Muhlenberg, in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County community and throughout the Virginia Synod. Pastor Nabers came to Muhlenberg from Christ Lutheran Church in Radford. After serving Muhlenberg, he served Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Orkney Springs and Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg. He most recently served Saint Jacob's Lutheran Church in Rockingham County from which he retired last June. Bill and his wife June reside in Basye. Please greet them in the Gathering Area between services. Welcome back, Pastor Nabers!

GIFTED TO SERVE SERMON SERIES

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.
(1 Peter 4:10 ESV)

Today we continue our 4-week sermon series, *Gifted to Serve*. On Pentecost, we were reminded that we are one body in Christ, and each one of us has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. Now we're spending a few weeks diving deeper and exploring what that means for our life of faith.

May 26, *Gifted from the Beginning:* Ephesians 1 invites us to recognize and celebrate God's great work to draw all things into the unity revealed by Jesus Christ. God is doing big things, and we get to be a part of it!

Today (6/2), *Gifted to Grow:* Ephesians 4 reminds us that the body of Christ is neither static nor uniform. We're called to continue practicing our gifts as we grow in faith and love.

June 9, *Gifted in Community:*

1 Corinthians 12 emphasizes the communal nature of our gifts. We need one another and our varied gifts together.

~ Gifted to Serve continues on page 2 ~

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

PRELUDE ~ *O, Mary, Don't You Weep*

Spiritual/arr. K. Wissinger

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

MELITA/arr. Jason Krug

COMMUNION

Kingsfold

KINGSFOLD/arr. Kathleen Wissinger

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Wylie Walton

11:00 ~ Kim Fawley

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Kathy Thompson

11:00 ~ Brett Tjaden

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle

11:00 ~ Sue Koch

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle, Crystl Whitmire,
Kathy Thompson, Gus Kagey

11:00 ~ Sue Koch, Brett Tjaden

USHERS

8:30 ~ Jeannette Norfleet, Margie Miller

11:00 ~ John Mulder, Jeff Williams

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

MUSICIANS

Judith Ofcarcik, Organist

Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Kath Wissinger, Director

**This piece was commissioned by Gloria Dei Ringers in 2015 in memory of Linda Morrison's father, John B. Hostetler, a naval weatherman in WWII who also loved to sing and listen to handbells.*

GIFTED TO SERVE SERMON SERIES (CONT'D)

June 16, *Gifted in Grace*: Ephesians 2 lifts up that everything we have, everything we are, everything we possess, is a gift from God. We aren't saved by good works, but we are created in Christ to live as members of God's household.

Throughout this series, we'll be providing opportunities to explore your spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities and how God may be calling you to make use of them in the world. Check out the G.I.F.T. Inventory below!

GIFTED TO SHARE

While our focus this season is on our spiritual gifts and abilities that God has given us, we also are called to think about our financial gifts. Though we like to think about our money and possessions as our own, we know that everything in this world belongs to God, and we are entrusted to be good stewards of the gifts we've been given.

Throughout the month of June, you'll hear stories of how God has worked through our congregation, and be invited to reflect on how your generosity strengthens and sustains ministry excellence in this place. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to contribute to the ongoing worship, faith formation, care, and outreach that happens through Muhlenberg, and then submit your intent card for the upcoming year using the offering plate or send it to the church office by Sunday, June 23. Thank you!

G.I.F.T. INVENTORY

Don't miss your chance to explore your God-given gifts through the G.I.F.T. (Growing In Faith Together) Inventory distributed this morning! In addition to being an interesting

personal exploration, it is also a useful tool for our community to help everyone find good places to make use of their gifts in meaningful ways. Please fill out the last page and return it by Sunday, June 30. If you prefer to complete it online, use this link:

<https://forms.gle/PVagAuQH4SAx7GHV7>

We invite you to grab a spot in the Gathering Area between 9:45 am – 11:00 am on the following two Sundays (June 9 and 16) for an informal conversation together about our gifts and an opportunity to work on the inventory together.

MISSION ENDOWMENT GRANTS

The Muhlenberg Congregation Council is seeking proposals for 2024 Mission Endowment grants! Our Mission Endowment Fund has seen significant growth through generous estate gifts over the past few years. The purpose of the Fund is to enhance the mission outreach of the congregation beyond that expected and supported through regular giving. This provides us with the support and resources to carry out plans, programs, ideas, and dreams as we are moved by the Spirit to live out our mission.

Each year, the Endowment Committee designates a portion of the Mission Endowment's earnings to be distributed in Mission Endowment grants. For several years, these funds have been used to continue to build out our Wellstream livestreaming infrastructure, so we may reach more people with the good news of Christ's love, wherever they are.

This year, Council has developed a Grant Proposal process to encourage ministries and individuals to innovate and think big about ministry revitalization. Do you have a big idea to try something new at Muhlenberg? Or maybe

a small idea that will make it easier for more people to serve in a ministry? Perhaps you have an idea for how our congregation could do outreach to the community, and just need some seed money to make that idea a reality. If so—the Mission Endowment Grant is for you!

Applications are available at the Connection Center and are due Sunday, June 30. Submit a paper copy, or fill out the online form linked on the application. We have \$25,000 that can be provided in grants, so dream big and apply today!

Questions? Contact a member of the Mission Endowment Grant team: Cathy Copeland (catherineblose@gmail.com or 317-670-1086), Sarah Orem (oremse@gmail.com or 540-578-1717), or Kristee Trumbo (kristeejo13@gmail.com or 540-246-1461).

SPECIAL FOOD COLLECTION

BEGINS TODAY (6/2)

In **June and July** we will collect seasonal items that are not typically available at Patchwork pantry.

Ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard

and **relish** will help families prepare warm weather meals. No glass jars please. The bin will be in the Gathering Area each Sunday through July 7. Please check the [Giving Page](#) on our website if you would like to make an online donation.



LAY COMMUNION MINISTRY

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning. They bring communion to homebound members once a month. If you are interested in receiving home communion, or if you are interested in serving as a Lay Communion Minister, please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Morrison.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

WELCOME BACK, PASTOR ALEX!



He's baaa—aaack! After an important and worthwhile 12 weeks of caring for and bonding with his newborn daughter, Pastor Alex returned to his role as Associate Pastor last Sunday.

He may appear a bit sleep deprived, but he's ready to go and excited to be back!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, May 20, our Congregation Council:

- **Appointed Jocelyn Shinseki to Council** to fill out the remainder of Rachel Peters' term due to the Peters family's move to PA. Council also voted to appoint Jocelyn to serve as **Council Secretary**. Please join us in thanking Rachel for her hard work and Jocelyn for agreeing to step in to serve.
- Reviewed **Campus Safety and Security improvement** recommendations with task force chair Bruce Hamilton and liaison Jacob Dunlap.
- This year the **Endowment Committee has determined that up to \$25,000** from the Muhlenberg Endowment would be made available for Council to administer grants to those who apply with a vision to expand Muhlenberg's ministry. Council approved the process for awarding Muhlenberg Endowment Grants. Council determined that **2024 grants can be awarded for projects directly relating to Muhlenberg ministry revitalization.** *(See page 3 for details.)*
- Approved \$600 of Seminary Endowment Funds to cover the cost to send Kathy Thompson to attend the School for Lay Ministry Learning Community.

- Discussed the need to **close the monthly gap between what is budgeted and what is coming in.** Council agreed to lead the way in pledging to increase our monthly giving through the end of the year, and to invite the congregation to join us in increased support of the ministries we so value.
- Expressed appreciation for the excellent interim work of three members: Linlin Uta, Kathy Thompson, and Pam Briehl.

Peace be with us all,

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President

mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

MEET OUR NEW CONGREGATION COUNCIL SECRETARY

Hello! I am Jocelyn Shinseki. I was born and raised in Magnolia, New Jersey before moving to Harrisonburg to attend college at JMU. While working on my Bachelor's in English and Master's in Secondary Education, I regularly attended Muhlenberg, was a member of our campus ministry, and assisted with Sunday School.



After graduating, I officially became a member of Muhlenberg in September 2023 and now continue to help with Sunday School. I am currently wrapping up my first year as an 8th Grade English teacher at Wilbur S. Pence Middle School where I get to teach and observe growth in life-long skills such as critical thinking, analyzing, and creativity! When I am not teaching, you can find me playing tennis, taking care of my countless amount of plants, or cooking.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible study is on hiatus for the summer. We'll gather Wednesday, August 14 at 11:00 am (location TBD) for a picnic to kick off the new fall study. More details to come!

THURSDAY MEN'S GROUP

This Thursday (6/6), 9:00 am

All are welcome to our monthly men's group which meets the **first Thursday of each month** at Mr. J's Bagels (1731 S. High St.), 9:00 am for fellowship and Bible study. For more information, contact Mark Warner (mjwcarpediem@gmail.com) or Dave Barnes (barnesda09@gmail.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

LOCAL AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

Meeting June 10, 4:30 pm at Vito's

Our name says it all! We are a ministry team at Muhlenberg that focuses on reaching out to help meet the needs of our neighbors, locally and globally. We invite you to join us Monday, June 10, 4:30 pm at Vito's Italian Kitchen (1047 Port Republic Road, Harrisonburg) to learn more about our ministry team. We will enjoy drinks and good food while we reflect on our mission and explore opportunities that exist for us to serve those in need. If you feel that you have been "gifted" with the desire to serve your neighbor, come find out more about the Local & Global Outreach team. All are welcome! For more information, contact Vicki Heitsch (540-478-3567) or Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

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

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

CREATION CARE

This week we discuss the practice of composting. Composting breaks down organic matter which includes anything that was once living. Keep a small sealed container in your kitchen or in an outdoor compost bin to collect food waste for compost. One benefit of composting is that you divert organic matter from landfills, helping reduce methane and carbon emissions. Composting increases carbon in the soil, keeping carbon out of the atmosphere. Recycled nutrients improve soil quality. There will be less need to purchase fertilizer for your soil, and composting also makes you more aware of how much food you waste.



We give thanks to two amazing women who have faithfully served in interim roles.

THANK YOU, KATHY!



Kathy Thompson has faithfully served as our Interim Worship and Care Assistant during Pastor Alex's parental leave. This was a true "other duties as assigned" role, as she graciously and joyfully took on a wide variety of tasks as needed throughout the twelve weeks. From funeral planning to preaching to hospital visits to administrative and planning work, Kathy has embraced her role with great skill and a servant heart. Her genuine love of God and love of the church has enriched us all. It's been a great joy to watch her grow in her calling to lay ministry, and we're thrilled that she's continuing her training this year through the School for Lay Ministry through Luther Seminary. Thank you, Kathy!

THANK YOU, LINLIN!

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



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Both of our adult classes (*40-Day Journey and Faith and Civic Life*) have been well attended and full of excellent conversation! Thanks to Jennie and Mark Warner, Karen Thomsen, and Brad Moyers for their leadership of the two groups. The last day of Adult Sunday School is **TODAY (6/2)**.

Note: Children's Faith Formation classes finished the season Sunday, May 19.

REMINDERS

HELLO
My name is



Today and the first Sunday of each month we ask you to be intentional about wearing a nametag to help others learn your name. Supplies are in the Gathering Area.

CLOTHES CLOSET

Muhlenberg supports the Trinity Presbyterian Clothes Closet by providing volunteers on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Clothes are available at no charge for anybody in the community. We are currently in need of clothing donations to help support Trinity's mission. If you have clothing of any size to donate, we would greatly appreciate your support. You may take your clothes to Trinity during business hours, Monday – Friday, 10:00 - 3:00 or contact Sandy Randolph (540-820-9654) to arrange a time to meet her at Muhlenberg with your donations.



INFORMATION ABOUT TEXT SCAMS

Recently there was a wide-spread text scam that caused a lot of confusion. The scammer used individual names in the text, which made it seem even more like the message was from Pastor Lauren. **Neither our pastors nor staff will ever email or text you asking for favors or gift cards!** If you get a message that says it's from a pastor or staff member, double check to be sure it's coming from their actual cell number.

When we learn of a wide-spread scam, we immediately send a congregational email and often do a social post like the one below. Once this notice goes out, you can rest assured we are aware of the scam, and you can simply delete the text if you have received it. If you want to do something more, you can report the scam text to ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

SAMPLE ALERT REGARDING A SCAM TEXT

**NEW TEXT
SCAM ALERT!**

If you're receiving
messages like this
one...



It's a SCAM!
Please take the
recommended
steps to avoid
scams like these!



**MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Good evening
[REDACTED]! This is
Pastor Lauren Eanes
I urgently need a
favor from you,
kindly text me back
as soon as you
receive this
message

In Christ

Recently we've received a number of messages from members about a wide-spread text scam involving text messages that pretend to be from Pastor Lauren and ask for a favor. The messages address the recipient by first name, claim to come from "Pastor Lauren Eanes" or "Pastor Lauren", and reference "a favor" that is "urgent". Some messages are signed with "in Christ", making the text seem all that more genuine. PLEASE READ these tips below, as scammers are persistent and will continue to try and take advantage of communities like ours:

1.) Please note that Muhlenberg Pastors and staff will never reach out to you directly in a text, email, or social media direct message (like Facebook Messenger) asking for favors, money, gift cards, etc.

- 2.) If you receive a suspicious message, we remind you that it's best not to respond, to block the email / account, report as spam (if possible), and to delete the message.
- 3.) Authentic emails from Muhlenberg Pastors and staff will come from addresses that end in "muhlenberglutheran.org".
- 4.) Authentic texts from Pastors will only come from their cell phone numbers.
- 5.) Finally, if you have any questions or concerns about a suspicious message, please feel free to email Christian Perritt, Communication Minister, at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org, or you can email the church directly at info@muhlenberglutheran.org.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/19	8:30 Holy Communion	77
	11:00 Holy Communion	133
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	39
	Total Views this Week	155
	Hours Viewed this Week	50.3
5/26	8:30 Holy Communion	63
	11:00 Holy Communion	94
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	36

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

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

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2024			
	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$168,572	\$251,667	\$165,281
Total Income	\$212,295	\$294,925	\$267,791
Total Expenses	\$255,936	\$298,540	\$259,341
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(43,641)	\$(3,615)	\$8,450

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 5,594.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 116.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,030.50

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 3 - 9, 2024

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Thu	9:00 am	Thursday Men's Group
Sun		Third Sunday after Pentecost
	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 in prayer five households from our congregation. Our prayer families for this week are:

Bill and June Nabers

Darryl and Diane Nash

Gustaf Nelson

Dianne Neumann

Sue Nicoll

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 **Wednesday at 12 noon**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy: (depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)