



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

Published Weekly by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church

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 4, 2023

THE HOLY TRINITY

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

THE HOLY TRINITY



Holy Trinity Sunday is a day the church meditates on the mystery of our God, one divine unity of three distinct persons. Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, our reading today from Romans 8 gives us a glimpse into the interwoven relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — and the ways in which God invites us into that relationship.

More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

A NEW WORSHIP SERIES:

LOVE THE SINNER, HATE THE CLICHÉ

As Christians, we want to say the “right” thing when we express God’s love and faithfulness to others. But often it can be easy to fall into using clichés that are ultimately less than helpful. We insist that “everything happens

for a reason,” and hope that God “won’t give us more than we can handle.” When we don’t know how to comfort a grieving friend, we resort to “God must have needed another angel in heaven.” In our struggle for certainty, we claim that “the Bible says it, I believe it, and that settles it.” We embrace phrases like “God helps those who help themselves,” and “love the sinner, hate the sin.” But while these phrases make good bumper stickers, do they accurately express what we believe to be true about God and discipleship? In this 6-week series which begins today, we’ll take a look at a few common clichés and see just how useful (or useless!) they really are.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

GEORGIA ANN BOLLINGER Baptized, A New Child of God



Welcome Georgia Ann Bollinger, daughter of Chelsea & Matthew Bollinger into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family at the 8:30 am service! Georgia's sponsors are Whitney & Gary Herndon, Shirley & Ronald Thompson, and Margaret & Steve Bahlmann. Welcome to the Lord's family, Georgia!

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

This morning we celebrate with our high school graduates and pray for God's blessings on them in the next chapter of their lives! As they move on to their next big adventures, we give thanks for the ways God has worked through them, and the ways we have been blessed by their presence among us.



Caleb Dove (Central High School)
William Kyle (Blue Ridge School)
Lola Saunders (Broadway High School)
Owen Wells (Harrisonburg High School)
Liam Wightman (Harrisonburg High School)

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.

ICE CREAM FELLOWSHIP

TODAY (6/4)

June is Dairy Month! Come join us at the Fellowship table **TODAY (6/4)** 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

TODAY (6/4)



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.

LAY COMMUNION

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.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

MUHLENBERG MERCH Order Deadline is Today (6/4)



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 TODAY (6/4). 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.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP THIS Wednesday (6/7), 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary! 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).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

MUHLENBERG ENDOWMENT

Most of us actively plan for our family's future. We take care of the present day and dream and invest in what is ahead. The same can be done with our Muhlenberg family. Through our gifts of time, talent and treasures, we take care of the present. The Muhlenberg endowment funds are ways to invest in the future. The Seminary Scholarship Endowment fund may provide assistance someday to that child sitting in the pew in front of you. The Mission Endowment Fund will ensure that Muhlenberg can continue to support local and global programs and fund items outside the church budget. Your participation in growing these funds through regular designated offerings and memorials or through estate planning, can be an integral part of the continued assistance Muhlenberg Lutheran Church can offer in the future. For more information about this plan for the future of Muhlenberg, contact Endowment Committee Chair Doris Stone (540-289-5520 or dmstone99@gmail.com).



MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

THANK YOU: WALKING IN NEWNESS OF LIFE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



First, thank you for *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 used this time to hear about the

ways 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" May 21! 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!

CREATION CARE



Replace your plastic shower curtain liner. Most are made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a material that emits harmful gases that can cause cancer and diabetes. You may be breathing in toxins every time you take a shower. Choose a nylon shower curtain instead. Nylon is waterproof and contains no PVC. It is also washable so when soap scum builds up, just toss it in the washing machine.

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.



MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

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 last Sunday, we celebrated 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.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

Please note: Christian Formation classes are on summer break. Please join us again in the fall.

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 at the Connection Center.

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).

LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION (CONT'D)

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.

VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 pm

Did you know that Muhlenberg is a member institution of Valley Interfaith Action (VIA)? VIA is a



VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION
broad based, non-partisan, volunteer leader-led organization consisting of 23 dues-paying groups in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County including faith-based congregations, childcare centers, and immigrant and other neighborhood associations. The goal of VIA is to work together, uniting around shared values, to take action on our common interests and

improve the lives of families in our community. For 2023, VIA has identified transportation and high-quality affordable childcare, as its top priorities.

Do you, like me, find yourself overwhelmed by the needs of those around you and wonder how, as one person, you can possibly make a difference? VIA could be the answer. If you have a passion for social justice or are just curious to learn more about VIA, please plan to join us **Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 pm** by Zoom to learn more about how you can support the VIA leadership team at Muhlenberg. The meeting should last about 30-40 minutes. Below is the link for the Zoom meeting. If you have questions, call or text me (Karen Thomsen, 540-421-4431) or Tammy Lewellen (540-421-4410).

*Karen Thomsen, Council Liaison
Local & Global Mission Ministry Team*

Zoom Meeting Link:
<https://shorturl.at/YZ038>
Meeting ID: 760 6335 3210
Passcode: 6R2PFr

CAROLINE FURNACE NEWS

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP!



Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp is a place to encounter God in God's creation. Week-long summer camp experiences are available for kids and youth, as well as families and adults! Check out the schedule at carolinefurnace.org and register today. If cost is a concern, reach out to one of the pastors to learn how Muhlenberg can help.

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS



POWER IN THE SPIRIT:

SEEKING & FINDING ~ July 13 - 15

This inspirational conference occurs each year for people of all ages who wish to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, games, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders — teachers, music directors, choir members, council and committee members, family life consultants, deacons, pastors, and others—will find Power in the Spirit nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry. Registration is now open — click [HERE](#) to register and for more information.



WEAVE US TOGETHER

VIRGINIA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (VSWO)

July 21-22 at Roanoke College



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

RESERVING ALTAR FLOWERS



We offer the opportunity to reserve your special dates to remember or honor a loved one by providing funding for altar flowers! We ask you to sign up for both flower vases at **\$60 per week**. You are welcome to partner with another family to share the cost and worship booklet designation. **Please sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center or online by clicking [HERE](#).** If you have questions, please contact Louise Layman (louiselayman@yahoo.com or 540-442-1524) to sign up. **Note: Sign-ups close on Sundays for the upcoming week.**

We request payment at the time of signup. Please make checks payable to Muhlenberg with *Altar Flowers* on the memo line. Place your check in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the church office.

REMINDERS

COMMUNION IN THE PEWS

For those who wish to receive Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, communion is served in the pews. **Please raise your hand as the Lay Assisting Minister comes into the sanctuary with the elements.** In addition to bread and wine, **grape juice and gluten-free bread** are also available. Please indicate your preference to the Lay Assisting Minister.



PRAYER CARDS

You can find prayer request cards in the back inside cover of the worship book in your pew or at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area.

On the form, you will see that one option is to share the prayer request with the “prayer chain.” Our prayer chain is an email group that receives and covenants to pray for these requests, as well as holding them confidential. To receive these emails (average of 3 per week), email Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org) with your request.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.), contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.



With great sadness, we share the news of Juanita Propst's death (May 30). Juanita had been in declining health and just celebrated her 98th birthday May 1. We keep in our prayers her children Terry Propst, Karen McGrath, and Marilynn Jarrells, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her extended family. A funeral was held Saturday (6/3) at Muhlenberg.



A GRAND CELEBRATION

Last Sunday we celebrated The Day of Pentecost and Elizabeth Williams' retirement from 39+ years of service in music ministry, the last 15 of those spent here at Muhlenberg! Thank you to all the volunteers who made the celebration of Elizabeth so special. And thank you to Elizabeth for 15 years of music, education, teamwork, professionalism, and friendship!! Following are some photos of the grand celebration and joyful day...







TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/21	8:30 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Holy Communion	98
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	32
5/28	8:30 Holy Communion	78
	11:00 Holy Communion	127

Additional attendance information available next week

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	\$	9,568.89
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	989.32
Total Giving	\$	10,558.21

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 5 – June 11, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Wed	6:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle
Fri – Sun		Virginia Synod Assembly
Sun		Second Sunday of 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 five households from our congregation in prayer. Our prayer families for this week are:

Janice Rosenow

Sue Rotzin

*Andrew, Kacey, Tanner, Garrett
and Mason Runion*

Bob Runion

*Kristin Runion Linn, Kevin, Connor
and Camryn Linn*

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