



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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June 5, 2022

DAY OF PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW INTENT SUNDAY

Today's the day! Over the past month, we've been hearing from Muhlenberg members who have shared with us the impact of our ministries in their lives, and the generosity that has allowed these ministries to take place. We've reflected on what God is doing in our midst, and we've been energized by the vision to join together and see God's mission here grow. Today, we invite everyone to make a commitment to our *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign. Intent cards and a "Frequently Asked Questions" handout are available at the Connection Center. (Additional information can also be found on pages 4-5.) Let's prayerfully consider how each of us can be a part of this exciting time at Muhlenberg!

PASTOR LAUREN ON VACATION

Pastor Lauren and her family will be on vacation **June 10 - 17**. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy.

MASKING OPTIONAL

Thank you to our Pastors, staff, volunteers, and especially our congregation for following increased precautions the past two Sundays. As has been our policy, we've followed the recommendations of the Gathering Together Task Force to make masking optional when the surrounding area is in CDC "Green" status, and when there are no / low infection and exposure rates among our Muhlenberg family. There had been multiple exposures involving Muhlenberg staff and volunteers, so we went back to masking and social distancing. Again, thank you for doing your part in keeping everyone safe when in worship during this time.

This week, we return to having masks optional (but always welcome!) in worship, as we are still in CDC "Green" status, and exposures have declined among our staff and Muhlenberg family. As always, we will continue to monitor the local status and follow the recommendations of our Gathering Together Task Force. We will keep you informed on any status updates!

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!

WELCOME CAROLINE FURNACE COUNSELORS AND STAFF

Welcome to the counselors and staff of Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp! Caroline Furnace is located in Fort Valley, VA and has been an important ministry partner with Muhlenberg for many years. This summer, six of Muhlenberg's youth will be attending summer camp there. Today, counselors and staff are with us to worship as they take a break from summer staff training. We're glad you're here!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

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

High School Graduates

Emily Eppard

Jenna Gabb

Schuyler Harmison

Oscar Rodriguez

LCM graduates

Bo Boisen (JMU)

Ryan McGinness (JMU)

Jocelyn Shinseki (JMU)

GREAT OAK ACADEMY ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

This morning in the Gathering Area, we have a special display from students at Great Oak Academy in Harrisonburg. 7th and 8th grade students



curated presentations using art and poetry from the Harlem Renaissance and created collages inspired by Romare Bearden, a dynamic 20th century African American artist. Muhlenberg hosted a gallery of the students' work in our Activities Center this past week for parents and friends to enjoy, and we are grateful for the opportunity to see a sampling of their work this morning. To learn more about Great Oak Academy, click [HERE](#).

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

LEARN ABOUT 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.

TODAY (6/5) and next Sunday, June 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

FOOD COLLECTION

TODAY in the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. 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 hygiene products.

LAY COMMUNION MINISTRY

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Tomorrow (6/6), 7:00 pm via [ZOOM](#)

Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us by clicking [HERE!](#) For details, contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

If you are new to the Muhlenberg community, or would simply like to learn more about the congregation, please join us for a *Welcome to Muhlenberg* experience **Sunday, June 19 at 9:45 am**. Meet leaders, hear about ways to get involved, and take a tour of our campus. We'll also share information about membership at Muhlenberg. Bring your kids — our Children's Minister, Ms. Ashley, will share fun activities with them while the adults are meeting. If you are interested but unable to attend, contact Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) so you can receive an invitation to our next event in September.

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!

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

Mark Byerly, a lifelong and dedicated Muhlenberg member and volunteer, recently spoke about the culture of generosity he has witnessed over the years, and the importance of supporting the "Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow" Campaign.



"Muhlenberg has been a part of my life from the beginning. I was baptized here in 1959, and I've seen a lot of changes since then. Muhlenberg was formed in 1849 as a mission congregation, which meant we needed financial support from the Virginia Synod at first. But Muhlenberg began to grow and, in 1949, they purchased this property and broke ground. They couldn't afford to build everything at once, so they did it in phases. We had capital campaigns over the years to pay for certain things – the stained glass windows in

the 70's, the organ in the 80's, the Gathering Area and the MAC in the 90's and 2000's, etc. Through all of these changes, the congregation has always come through with generous giving. Now, we're looking ahead at staff and programming changes for youth, adults, families, and seniors. A lot of those people I grew up with that made large contributions are gone now. We are the church now; we are the new guard, and it's up to us to raise the funds to continue the programming at Muhlenberg. One thing that has not changed in my lifetime is the main stained-glass window. What it depicts, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, remains front and center in this congregation. He is risen!"

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!

CREATION CARE TIP

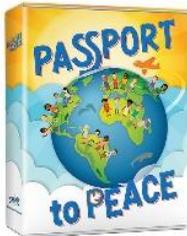


Replace your plastic shower curtain liner. Most shower curtain liners are made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a material that emits harmful gases that can cause cancer and diabetes. You may be breathing in toxins every time you take a shower. Choose a nylon shower curtain instead. Nylon is waterproof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

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

IN PERSON VBS IS BACK THIS SUMMER WITH PASSPORT TO PEACE August 8-12, 5:45 -7:45 pm.

At Passport to Peace VBS, children discover that there are many ways to life as peacemakers in our world. Kids are invited to see every person as part of God's family, and every interaction as an opportunity to make peace. Come and enjoy music, games, art, drama, small group times, and fellowship as we all learn to be peacemakers.



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.

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP BULLETIN COVER ARTISTS!

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

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Virginia Synod Youth Assembly will be held online **THIS 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](#).

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](#).

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:

5/22	8:30 Holy Communion	47
	11:00 Holy Communion	70
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	42
	Total Views this Week	248
	Hours Viewed this Week	65.7
5/29	8:30 Holy Communion	60
	11:00 Holy Communion	78
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	28

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	\$ 4,848.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,800.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,648.50

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 6 - 12

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

Mon	7:00 pm	Eldercare Support Group via ZOOM
Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Sun	The Holy Trinity	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation in person & via ZOOM
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Thursday at 8:00 am**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy:

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

Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CLASS LOCATIONS

Pre-K – 5th Grade meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (behind the church)

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

Grades 6 -12 ~ Campus Room

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)

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