



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*

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**June 11, 2023**

## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **TODAY AT MUHLENBERG**

#### **WELCOME WORSHIP LEADERS!**



As our pastors are currently attending the Virginia Synod Assembly (see next column) and we are in-between Music Ministers (see more on page 3) we are delighted to welcome

Muhlenberg members who are leading our worship and music today!

Our guest preacher Kathy Thompson is a frequent participant and leader in worship, faith formation, welcome, care, and service ministries. Kathy was commissioned as a Lay Preacher through the Virginia Synod in 2022. Thank you, Kathy, for your faithful proclamation among us this day!

Our guest musicians Christian Perritt, Bill Wightman, Nathan Eanes, and Donovan Eanes all love to play the guitar, and they bring their passion and skill to lead our music today. They're joined by Jenny Gibson who will lead our singing. Thanks to each of them for helping us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

At the 11:00 am service, we also have the privilege of welcoming the staff of Caroline Furnace (see page 3) and enjoying their

leadership of our prelude and postlude. Many thanks to the faithful young people who will be serving as camp counselors this summer!

#### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Every other year, the 145 congregations of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA gather at Roanoke College for several days to experience and express what it means to be church together, caring for necessary items of business, participating in and experiencing corporate worship, and engaging in fellowship and faith formation. Representing Muhlenberg in various capacities at the Assembly this year are Pastor Lauren Eanes, Gus Kagey, Mycah McNett, John Mulder, Deacon Doug Price, Kristee Trumbo, Mark Warner, Greta Willis, and Pastor Alex Zuber. In addition, Kat Kolodinsky, Brendan Miller and Keira Miller are attending the Synod Youth Assembly.

The most exciting business of this year's assembly is electing a new bishop! The whole assembly, including worship services, will be livestreamed. Learn more and watch the assembly at <https://vasynod.org/2023-virginia-synod-assembly>. Please keep all participants in your prayers this weekend as they learn and discern together.

## 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 began last Sunday, we’ll take a look at a few common clichés and see just how useful (or useless!) they really are.

### 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](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

## MISSION MOMENT TODAY: VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION

**Meeting THIS Wednesday (6/14), 7:00 pm**



Did you know Muhlenberg is a member of Valley Interfaith Action (VIA)? Karen Thomsen will be sharing more about VIA and opportunities to get involved this morning in her Mission Moment.

VIA is a 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 & 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 LUTHERAN CAMP STAFF VISITING TODAY

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, five of Muhlenberg's youth will attend summer camp there. Today at 11:00 am, counselors and staff are with us to worship as they take a break from summer staff training. Be sure to welcome them, and learn more about Caroline Furnace from them, either before or after worship today.

### AND DON'T FORGET ...

#### 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](http://carolinefurnace.org) and register today. If cost is a concern, reach out to one of the pastors to learn how Muhlenberg can help.

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### MINISTRIES NIGHT

**Monday (6/12), 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### MUSIC MINISTRY IN TRANSITION

Two weeks ago, we bid farewell and Godspeed to our beloved Elizabeth Williams as she retired from her position as Music Minister. You may be wondering “What’s next?”

*What about worship?* We will continue to be blessed with beautiful music throughout the next 6 weeks. Our accompanist, Linlin Uta, will be playing organ and piano for us several Sundays, and JMU Music professor Dr. Judith Ofcarcik will be at the organ bench 2 Sundays. We'll also hear special music from talented folks in the congregation, such as our guitar quartet today.

*When's our new Music Minister starting?* Wade Meyers will begin his ministry among us Sunday, July 16. Be sure to attend the Meet and Greet at 9:45 am that day so you can get to know him. His official installation will be held Sunday, August 20 at both worship services, and he'll provide a special recital at Muhlenberg that afternoon (exact time TBD). Please keep Wade and his family in your prayers as they move to Harrisonburg and get settled in our community!

*Will we ever see Elizabeth again?* It's typical for a departing staff member, especially one with a long tenure, to take an extended break from the congregation where they served. This allows the congregation to adjust to the departure, and provides space for the new staff person to establish their ministry at the church. Elizabeth intends to step back for a season, and she appreciates your understanding of this (in other words: don't be offended by her absence! She'll join us for worship when the time is right.)

~~continued on page 4~

## MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

### MUSIC MINISTRY IN TRANSITION

*What about Jeff?* Many have conveyed their concern about whether Elizabeth's husband, Jeff, who serves as our Sexton, will continue in his role. Have no fear! He is quite committed to his job at Muhlenberg and has reported to all who ask, "I'm not going anywhere!" (Hurray!)

### A BIG THANK YOU!



I would like to thank members and friends of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church for what was a most memorable "send-off" as I ended my call to music ministry May 28, 2023.

As I continue to process my new life, please know that I am so unbelievably appreciative for all the gifts and cards that I received upon retirement.

The luncheon was beyond amazing! I cannot even imagine how much time and effort went into planning and preparing the MAC space for this event; it was so beautifully decorated, and the food was delicious!

Thank you pastors, staff, choirs, Miss Alice (and dad Bill... "Sunday not a fun day"). I love you all!! 🤪

*-Elizabeth Williams*

† † † † †

*Devotional booklets for  
July-September are  
available at the Connection Center  
and in the Connection Box outside.*

† † † † †

### CREATION CARE

Repair your leaky faucet. Leaky faucets can waste up to 20 gallons of water per day. Stop the dripping-and conserve water-by replacing the washer. It's a simple fix that will cost a few dollars. If you're not comfortable doing it yourself, call a professional.



### 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](mailto:dmstone99@gmail.com)).

## RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Last Sunday we celebrated with our high school graduates. Here's more information about them.

### Caleb Dove



Caleb is graduating from Central High School in Woodstock. While in high school, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, completing a service project at Seven Bends State Park. He also played baseball and assisted with coaching rec league basketball. In the fall, he'll begin general studies with an interest in business at Laurel Ridge Community College.

### William Kyle



William was a star tennis player at Blue Ridge School in St. George. He also played soccer and basketball, won the award for Best Artist at his school, and volunteers with Hope Distributed. He is looking forward to becoming a JMU Duke this fall, where he plans to study Industrial Design.

### Lola Saunders



While at Broadway High School, Lola enjoyed lively conversations in government class, making closer connections with friends, and breakfast for lunch day. She also discovered her love for movies! Lola plans to get an apprenticeship to become a body piercer.

### Owen Wells



At Harrisonburg High School, Owen enjoyed his science and STEM classes. He loved participating in all the musicals over his 4 years and especially liked dancing—so much so that he participated in dancing activities outside of the musicals too! Pickleball has become his favorite thing lately. He will be attending UVA in the fall, majoring in Biology.

### Liam Wightman



Liam is graduating from Harrisonburg High School, where he was involved in marching and symphonic band as a percussionist and drum captain his senior year. He enjoys BMX biking, weight lifting, and running cross country. He's also served as a sound tech and a member of the Music Minister Search Committee at Muhlenberg. Liam is headed to the University of Utah this fall and intends to major in Exercise Science/Kinesiology.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

### MUHLENBERG MERCH ON THE WAY!



If you ordered a Muhlenberg T-shirt or hat, these items will be arriving at the church around **June 27**. We'll contact you once they're in, so you know when you can come pick them up. A limited number of extra shirts and hats have been ordered and will be available first-come, first-serve in early July.

### 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.



Many thanks to all who participated in and attended the Celebration of Life for Juanita Propst. The service was very beautiful and meaningful and the luncheon was awesome. It was a great way to honor her and we truly appreciate it. *The Propst Family*

## 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](mailto: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

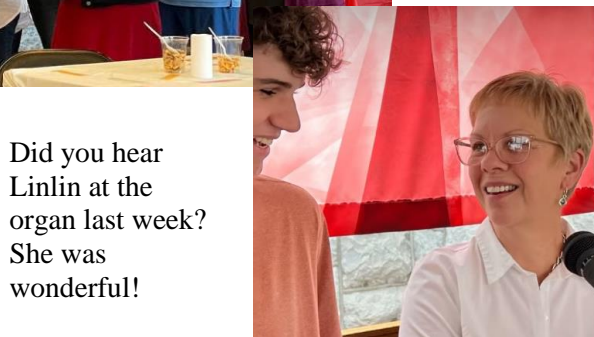
The Local and Global Mission Ministry Team is providing Muhlenberg members an opportunity to "Live Out Christ's Love" by helping with a construction project for a Habitat for Humanity home being built. It is projected that we will either be painting or laying flooring. The home is in Harrisonburg, most likely on Virginia Avenue. Please save the date and commit to this project as soon as possible by contacting Karen Thomsen ([kethomsen25@gmail.com](mailto:kethomsen25@gmail.com) or 540-421-4431).



## DIGITAL MINISTRY

To help share information from our social media with those who don't have access or may have missed it, we are including recent posts in *The Chimes*. Posts may come from Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages.

The show of talent at the "Coffee House" concert was amazing - featuring musical solos, group arrangements, and poetry. Our youth chose the theme of addressing gun violence. Thank you to Elizabeth for creating this event, and to our Choirs and teens for knocking it out of the park!!



Did you hear  
Linlin at the  
organ last week?  
She was  
wonderful!

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

5/28	8:30 Holy Communion .....	78
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	127
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	32
	Total Views this Week .....	204
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	67.4
6/4	8:30 Holy Communion .....	68
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	85
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	25

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

*In reviewing the numbers, I noticed that the 2023 year to date budget and 2022 actual numbers are the same in May as I presented in April. My apologies for running a report with the May information earlier than needed. Expenses were on par with previous months and gifts and offerings are still lagging a bit behind. Again, we are showing a small deficit.*

*Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through May 2023			
	2023YTD Actual	2023YTD Budget	2022YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$205,296	\$264,167	\$207,745
Total Income	\$317,099	\$320,323	\$256,542
Total Expenses	\$321,231	\$365,138	\$275,497
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(4,132)	\$(44,815)	\$(18,955)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 12,604.06
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 979.23
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 13,583.29</b>

**May Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$9**



To give online, scan here →

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**June 12 – June 18, 2023**

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

<b>Mon</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b> Weekly Staff Meeting
	<b>6:00 pm</b> Executive Committee Meeting
	<b>7:00 pm</b> Ministries Night via <a href="#">ZOOM</a>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Pentecost</b>
	<b>8:30 am</b> Holy Communion in person
	<b>11:00 am</b> Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>



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

*Richard Ryman*

*Diane Sacco*

*Carlton Sampson and Denise Hill*

*Ramona Sanders*

*Grover, Ashley, Cody, Lola and Penny Saunders*

*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](mailto:depoym@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: ([depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org) /540-434-3496) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).