



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

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June 18, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

Remember those red hymnals in the pews? We're about to get reacquainted! For the summer, we're trying out "seasonal bulletins," which we'll reuse for several weeks. You'll find all the parts of our worship that are specific to a particular Sunday — hymn numbers, Scripture readings, and worship participants — listed on the front page of *The Chimes*. See "Summer Bulletin" article on page 3.

GATHERING HYMN ~ *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!* we sing verses 1 – 4 ELW 619

FIRST READING ~ Isaiah 25:6-9 Pew Bible page 723

GOSPEL ~ John 11:1-4, 17-27, 23-44 Pew Bible N.T. page 108

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *In Deepest Night* ELW 699

SENDING HYMN ~ *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land* ELW 333

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

CRUCIFERS **8:30** ~ Bill Whitmire
 11:00 ~ Sue Koch

LECTORS **8:30** ~ Crystl Whitmire
 11:00 ~ Robert Alley

LAY ASSISTING **8:30** ~ Mary Elizabeth Skinner
MINISTERS **11:00** ~ Lori Reich

SOUND **8:30** ~ Mark Byerly
TECHS **11:00** ~ Mark Byerly

USHERS **8:30** ~ Susan Gallaher, Linda Morrison
 11:00 ~ Sue Totty, Pam Bergey

COMMUNION **8:30** ~ Bill & Crystl Whitmire, Gus Kagey, Pam Briehl
ASSISTANTS **11:00** ~ Sue Koch, Robert Alley, Philip Quoqui, Greta Willis

MUSICIANS Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT



Lutherans from all around the Virginia Synod gathered at Roanoke College June 9-11 for the 2023 Virginia Synod Assembly with the theme “The Way in the Wilderness,” based on Isaiah 40. Muhlenberg was well represented by voting members Pastor Lauren Eanes, Pastor Alex Zuber, Gus Kagey, John Mulder, Mark Warner, Greta Willis, Kristee Trumbo, and Deacon Doug Price. Mycah McNett also attended as an At-Large Voting Member, and Hawke Trumbo as a Visitor. Three youth attended the Youth Assembly, held concurrently with the Synod Assembly: Kat Kolodinsky, Keira Miller, and Brendan Miller. Lily Harmison was present in her role as the Synod Youth Ministry Intern, as well as a member of Synod Council. And of course, Bishop Bob and Barbra Humphrey were there too!



With the pending retirement of Bishop Bob Humphrey, the Assembly undertook the process of electing the next Bishop of the Virginia Synod. On the sixth ballot, the Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton,

Pastor at Holy Communion, Portsmouth, was elected with 175 votes to 172 votes for the Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod. Bishop-elect Milton will take office September 1. She will be installed as Bishop on Saturday, October 21 at First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro.

The Assembly elected Blythe Scott (First, Norfolk) to serve as the new Vice-President of the Virginia Synod and elected Judy Castele, (Good Shepherd, Lexington) to serve as the Secretary of the Virginia Synod.

In addition to the election of the Bishop, Vice-President, and Secretary of the Synod, the Assembly elected lay leaders to serve on the Synod Council, the Consultation Committee, and the Committee on Discipline. Lily Harmison was re-elected to serve on Synod Council. The Youth Assembly also elected new leaders, and Kat Kolodinsky, who served on the Lutheran Youth Organization Board this past year as the 9th grade representative, was elected to serve as the 10th grade representative next year.

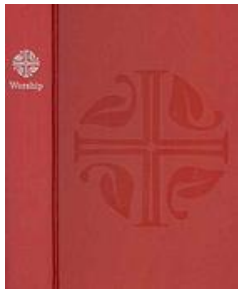
The Assembly approved the 2023 and 2024 Investment in Ministry Plans, the 2021 and 2022 Synod Audits, and the Compensation Guidelines for 2024. Bishop Humphrey and the Officers of the Synod shared their reports and the Assembly heard from a variety of mission partners through ministry moment videos. We also celebrated the Bishop’s leadership over the past six years.

We were blessed with many opportunities for worship, including a Festival Service of Holy Communion that included commissioning eleven lay preachers, including our own Kristee Trumbo. Judy Wilfong will also be commissioned as a lay preacher at the Synod’s Power in the Spirit event in July.

Overall, it was an eventful weekend filled with thoughtful discernment and discussion, meaningful relationship building, and fun celebration! Don’t hesitate to reach out to any of the attendees if you have questions or want to hear more about the Assembly.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SUMMER BULLETIN



Remember those red hymnals in the pews? We're about to get reacquainted!

For the summer, we're trying out "seasonal bulletins," which we'll reuse for several weeks. The basic framework for

each of our thematic series this summer will be consistent, so there's no need to print something new week after week. These reusable bulletins are more environmentally friendly, and will save the church time and money.

Since we'll not be printing the hymns for each Sunday in the bulletin, we'll need to use the hymnals for singing. You'll find all the parts of our worship that are specific to a particular Sunday--hymn numbers, Scripture readings, and worship participants--listed on the front page of *The Chimes*. When it's time to sing a hymn, check the number in *The Chimes*, grab a hymnal, and you're good to go! As you're leaving worship, be sure to drop your bulletin in the collection box for use next week.

We'd love to hear your feedback about how these reusable bulletins and return to using the hymnal work for you, so feel free to be in touch with the pastors to let them know what you think.

† † † † †

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

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 "every-

thing 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.



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.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

175TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING TEAM Meeting NEXT Sunday, June 25, 9:45 am

Did you know Muhlenberg will be celebrating our 175th anniversary in 2024? That's a lot to celebrate! We're forming an anniversary planning team that will develop events and resources for our congregation. If you like history (even if you're new to Muhlenberg and don't know much of the history), this is a great team for you! If you like compiling stories or scrapbooks, this is the perfect team for you! If you want to learn more about the art in our sanctuary and building, this is a wonderful team for you! And if you like planning parties, this is definitely the team for you!

Our first meeting is **NEXT Sunday, June 25 at 9:45 am in the Augsburg Room**. If you're not sure you want to officially join the team, but you're curious or have some ideas to share, stop by and check it out!

MUSIC MINISTRY IN TRANSITION

On May 28, 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.)

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

CREATION CARE



Drink filtered water instead of bottled water. More than 38 billion water bottles end up in landfills every year where they take an average of 700 years before they even begin to decompose. It takes over 1.5 million barrels of oil - enough to fuel 10,000 cars - to manufacture the number of plastic water bottles that Americans drink from on an annual basis. Switching to tap water will conserve valuable resources and significantly reduce waste.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

VBS IS JUST ON THE HORIZON

August 7 – 11, 5:45 – 8:00 pm

Registration for Compassion Camp VBS is now open for ages birth-11.

Email Ashley Saunders

(saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org) or

scan this QR code.



This year we are learning through *Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs*. Participants will explore what all living things need to live—*shelter, food, water, air, and community*—and how we can have compassion for the living earth, especially in their local

ecosystems. Through awareness, gratitude, wonderment, reciprocity, and kinship, participants will consider how to become co-sustainers and participants in the work of God’s creation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

POWER IN THE SPIRIT:

SEEKING & FINDING ~ July 13 - 15

This inspirational conference occurs each year on the campus of Roanoke College 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.



At Power in the Spirit, you’ll join in workshops with friends from around the Synod on a variety of topics, including the minor prophets of scripture, faith and public policy, faithful art, racial division in the church, conflict management, religious freedom, History, and more! Muhlenberg’s own **Kathy Thompson** and **Judy Wilfong** will be teaching a course on Biblical Storytelling, and **Ashley Saunders** will be providing programming for children ages 3 to 10 who would like to attend with their parents. Worship services will include a “Jazz Mass” on Friday evening, where **Judy Wilfong** will be officially commissioned as a Virginia Synod Lay Preacher! It’s going to be an exciting week, and all are encouraged to attend. Registration is now open — click [HERE](#) to register and for more information.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

NURSERY COORDINATOR POSITION SEARCH

We have been so blessed over this last year by the work of Shayla Forrest, our Nursery Coordinator. Shayla has graduated from JMU with her Masters' of Art in Teaching, and will be leaving the Harrisonburg area this summer. We'll take time to celebrate Shayla's ministry among us in July, and in the meantime, we are beginning a search for our next Nursery Coordinator. With many new families in our community, it is a wonderful opportunity to care for our members and offer welcome to all who enter our doors to have someone on hand to care for our youngest members each week. Our new Nursery Coordinator will support the mission of the congregation by providing a faithful, safe, nurturing, clean and loving environment.

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.

LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION (VIA) CORE TEAM ASSEMBLY

Meeting Thurs., June 22, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Muhlenberg needs a team of 10 people to attend the VIA Core Team Assembly June 22, 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Massanutten Presbyterian Church. Help VIA keep the momentum going as proposals for transportation and updates on affordable childcare are shared publicly. As an attendee all you will be asked to do is listen to

the proposals and discuss as a Muhlenberg group if we are in support. Help us make our goal of having 10 Muhlenberg members in attendance! Please contact Karen Thomsen 540-421-4431 or Tammy Lewellen 540-421-4410 if you can attend.

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).

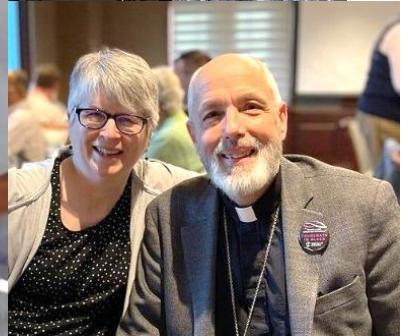
LET'S LUNCH TOGETHER Friday, June 30, 11:30 am

The last Friday of the month is a time to gather for fellowship and lunch at Our Community Place (OCP) Friday Restaurant. The Restaurant is open from 11:30 - 1:30 and serves a delicious 3-course meal for just \$10. The Restaurant provides work for OCP's Kitchen industries employees, meaningful training for OCP community members, support for OCP programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.

We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) at 11:30 am Friday, June 30. Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Wanda Hamilton (540-405-3118).

VIRGINIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Last weekend was quite exciting at the Virginia Synod Assembly, where our new Bishop was elected. If you were able to follow along with us, it was quite a close race, with the 5th vote ending in a 170 tie resulting in several people whom had not previously voted requesting ballots and the 6th vote of a simple majority ending in the election of Rev. Phyllis Milton. This makes our Bishop-Elect the first woman and the first BIPOC Bishop in the ELCA's Virginia Synod history. We also gave thanks to Bishop Bob Humphrey for his service to the Virginia Synod these past 6 years. Kristee Trumbo was Commissioned as a Lay Preacher and the 9th grade voting Youth Representative at Assembly was Kat Kolodinsky!



Bishop-Elect The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

6/4	8:30 Holy Communion	68
	11:00 Holy Communion	85
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	25
	Total Views this Week	146
	Hours Viewed this Week	51.5
6/11	8:30 Holy Communion	60
	11:00 Holy Communion	73
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	32

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	\$ 17,477.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,230.00
Total Giving	\$ 18,707.50

May Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$9



To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 19 - 25, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Sun	Fourth 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:

*Daniel, Amanda, Fenwick and Charlie Sawyer
Howie and Diane Scheidt
Kathe Scripture
John and Faye Sellers
Katie Sensabaugh, Ryan, Lily, and Andy Wolz*

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 **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 /540-434-3496) Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).