



The CHIMES

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH



Equipping All People to Live Out Christ's Love

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

June 23, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME MATT THOMAS!



TODAY we are excited to welcome our new Music Minister, Matt Thomas! Matt's first day was this past Monday (6/17). He moved here from the Berkshires in western Massachusetts and is

settling into his new place here in Harrisonburg. He's a southerner at heart though, after spending his childhood in Tennessee. Matt brings education and experience in piano and organ performance, musical theater, music composition, choral directing, and church music ministry. He's also full of energy and creativity, and we are thrilled to have him join our community.

We'll welcome Matt with a special reception between services **TODAY**. If you'd like to send your greetings, feel free to email him at thomas@muhlenberglutheran.org.

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR SERMON

SERIES BEGINS TODAY (6/23)

From way back in Isaiah 9, the Messiah is proclaimed to be a "Wonderful Counselor," but even Jesus knows that He's not trying to replace the valuable work of mental health professionals! Mental health can be such a tricky subject to discuss, and even more so in the life of the church. Where is God in the midst of a mental health crisis? Does my depression mean that I lack faith and self-control? Am I a bad Christian if I go to therapy?



We'll explore these questions and more throughout our *Wonderful Counselor* series, and create space to reflect deeply as a community on how we understand mental health and build a culture that promotes healing and understanding within our community. Our four-week lectionary will approach the following themes: *~ continued on page 3 ~*

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

PRELUDE ~ *Prelude in C major, BWV 545*
JS Bach (1685-1750)

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING

Variations on Nettleton arr. Bob Curry

COMMUNION ~ *I Need Thee Every Hour*
arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

POSTLUDE ~ *Prelude in Classic Style*
Gordon Young (1919-1998)

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Tassie Pippert

11:00 ~ Kathy Thompson

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Mark Warner

11:00 ~ Malcolm Wilfong

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Mark Warner, Jim Doyle,
Bill & Crystl Whitmire

11:00 ~ Sue Koch, Cheryl Hoak,
Malcolm Wilfong

USHERS

8:30 ~ Karen Thomsen, Susan Gallaher

11:00 ~ Russell Presnell, Matt Wade

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Tom Pippert

11:00 ~ Bazil Gibson

MUSICIANS

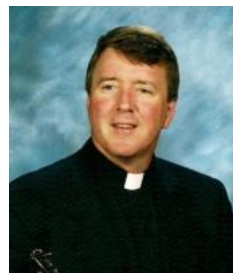
Matthew O. Thomas, Organist
Bob Curry, Trombone

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

WELCOME PASTORS JOE VOUGHT AND DAVID BYERLY

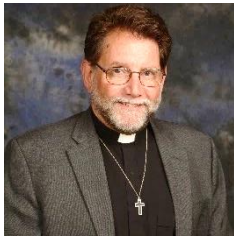
Today we welcome Pastor Joseph Vought and Pastor David Byerly to help us celebrate Muhlenberg's 175th Anniversary.

Pastor Vought served as Senior Pastor to Muhlenberg 1997 - 2003 and Co-Pastor along with Pastor David Nelson 2003 - 2008. Joe attended seminary at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA and was



ordained June 10, 1983. Prior to serving Muhlenberg, he served Second English Lutheran Church in Baltimore 1983 - 1987 and Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Richmond, 1987 - 1997. After his tenure at Muhlenberg, Pastor Vought served as Senior Pastor at Community Lutheran Church in Sterling, VA 2008 - 2019, as Teaching Pastor at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke, VA 2019 - 2021 and as Nave Chaplain at Washington National Cathedral 2017 - 2023. Joe retired in 2023 and he and his wife Debra live in Gettysburg.

During his ministry at Muhlenberg, in addition to his called duties, he was instrumental in bringing Stephen Ministry to Muhlenberg and started a Men's Bible Study, the Mary/Martha Women's Group, a Children's Choir, the Muhlenberg Softball Team, WAM (Wednesdays at Muhlenberg community meal), a Theatrical/Drama Troupe, and Faith at Work group. Additionally, he brought the Refugee Resettlement Program here, was instrumental in the development of Second Home, and worked with numerous other agencies.



We also welcome back to Muhlenberg today a “Son of the Congregation,” Pastor David Byerly. David was confirmed at Muhlenberg by Pastor C. J. Martin in 1970. After serving in the U.S.

Army and graduating from JMU, he entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA as a “second career pastor” candidate in 1997. He was ordained June 9, 2001 and served Grace Lutheran Church in Jersey Shore, PA 2001 - 2002, Liberty Lutheran Parish in Liberty, PA 2002 - 2008, Grace Lutheran Church in Shamokin, PA 2009 - 2017 and Lycoming Lutheran Trinity Parish in Williamsport, PA 2017 - 2020. Pastor Byerly retired in 2020 with some subsequent interim pastor work. David said that “synod events like synod assembly and youth leadership at Roanoke College, along with a strong Luther League program at Muhlenberg were all very important aspects of my formation. It goes without saying that weekly attendance at church and Sunday School with family defined our whole world view and life of faith.” David and his wife Marylou have retired to Williamsport, PA. (Pastor David is also Mark Byerly’s brother.)

Welcome back Pastors Vought and Byerly! Please greet Joe & Debra and David & Marylou in the Gathering Area today between services and after the 11:00 service.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

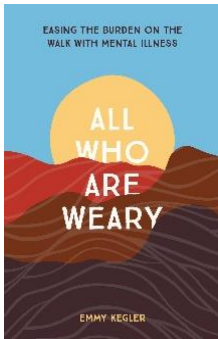
Wonderful Counselor Sermon Series (cont'd)

- **Week 1 (6/23): Romans 8:5-11, 26-28; Set Your Minds on Things of the Spirit** This foundational conversation for the series explores how mental health is about more than “self-control,” even as we discuss that as a facet of faith. God's grace and spirit intervene, sometimes in the form of mental health professionals.
- **Week 2 (6/30): Psalm 139:7-14; More than Diagnoses... Fearfully and Wonderfully Made** What if we framed conversations around mental health by seeing people as beloved children of God before seeing them as a condition?
- **Week 3 (7/7): Psalm 23; The Darkest Valley** We discuss depression, anxiety, despair, and disorder in light of a God who comforts and does not abandon.
- **Week 4 (7/14): Luke 8:26-39; Return to Your Home** Our concluding conversation explores the role of community in caring for one another through the ups and downs of mental health, and how we as a church might embody that care.

Jesus is a Wonderful Counselor, but He's not a licensed therapist... Join us for a series exploring the intersections of faith in Christ, the blessing of a compassionate community, and the reality of mental health, beginning **TODAY (6/23)!**

~ continued on page 4 ~

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR RESOURCE FOR WEEK 1: SUMMER READING!



Each week of our series, we'll offer resources and opportunities for deeper engagement with our themes. As we consider what it means to **Set Your Mind on Things of the Spirit** and realize that mental health care is about more than just shifting a mindset, we are encour-

aged to challenge ourselves to deconstruct our preconceptions surrounding mental health. For deeper reflection on this topic from a faithful perspective, we encourage you to check out the book [*All Who Are Weary*](#) by Pastor Emmy Kegler.

From the Publisher: We live in an age uniquely attentive to the problem of mental illness. More than half of us will be diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder at some point in our lifetime. It has been easy, for centuries, to relegate persistent emotional and mental struggles entirely to the realm of a failed personal work ethic (“Just don't worry so much!”), not enough faith (“Just pray harder!”), or, in recent years, a chemical imbalance in our brains (“Just take this pill!”). Yet, for those of us who live with mental illness, none of these suggestions provides the quick relief it promises, and the continued struggle takes its toll on our already burdened hearts and minds.

In *All Who Are Weary*, Emmy Kegler joins the reader on the long walk of reflection, understanding, and compassion, calling followers of Jesus back to ancient practices of lament, vulnerability, honesty, community, and

hope. This book is not a map to a cure, nor a perfectly restorative prayer. Written with a wide community in mind — patients, but also parents and partners, coworkers and friends, pastors and therapists, and the whole church — *All Who Are Weary* points to the embodied grace known in Jesus, trusting in the promise of a lighter load for all.



GIFTED TO SERVE/ GIFTED TO SHARE

As we wrap up our *Gifted* series, you're encouraged to continue to explore spiritual and financial gifts! The G.I.F.T. Inventory helps us consider how we've been gifted with abilities, talents, experiences, and passion, and how God may be calling us to make use of those gifts. The Annual Fund Intent Card is a tangible way to commit to generosity that sustains ministry excellence at Muhlenberg.

Visit muhlenberglutheran.org/gifts for much more information, as well as the opportunity to submit both forms online. Paper copies of the G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Inventory and the Annual Fund Intent Card can also be found at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.

Please submit both by June 30!

MISSION ENDOWMENT GRANTS

Congregation Council is seeking proposals for 2024 Mission Endowment Grants focused on *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 or muhlenberglutheran.org/gifts 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: Sarah Orem (oremse@gmail.com or 540-578-1717), Kristee Trumbo (kristeejo13@gmail.com or 540-246-1461), or Cathy Copeland (catherineblouse@gmail.com or 317-670-1086).

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FARMERS MARKET COFFEE AVAILABLE TODAY

Each Sunday in our own Gathering Area, you can enjoy delicious and ethically sourced coffee that benefits the work of Lutheran World Relief (LWR)! Decaf and regular coffee is available in the coffee pots by the Nursery.

We'll have more information this fall about placing orders through our congregation so you can support our Coffee Hour between services and grab a bag of coffee for home! Learn more at wr.org/coffee.

PATCHWORK PANTRY

Donations collected through June 16 totaled 150 pounds, including 17 jars of **mayonnaise**, 25 bottles of **mustard**, 24 bottles of **ketchup**, and 7 bottles of **relish**. Our goal is to offer these seasonal condiments to each family during Patchwork Pantry's July 10 distribution. The condiment collection bin will be in the Gathering Area **each Sunday through July 7**.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

At our June 17 Congregation Council meeting, our Council ...

1. Affirmed the work of the Endowment Committee and deliberated the Committee's suggested changes to the Endowment Fund Guidelines;
2. Assigned a subcommittee to explore options for policy, procedure, and meeting note storage to provide continuity for those serving in leadership in the future;
3. Considered updated building usage and fee agreements for Day Care and Second Home;
4. Heard updates and identified upcoming tasks regarding the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan, the development of a Cub Scout Troop at Muhlenberg, the exploratory work being done around future capital improvements, and the search for a new Administrative Assistant.

Peace be with us all,
Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President
mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

OUR COMMUNITY PLACE LUNCH THIS Friday (6/28), 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 \$12.50. The Restaurant provides work for OCP's programs and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food with a fresh, creative weekly menu.

We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg). Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying this opportunity for fellowship. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS IN JULY COOKOUT Thursday, July 25, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Mark your calendar for an evening of fun and celebration this summer with your Muhlenberg family! The gift of the Incarnation is not just something for one cold, dark week in December. We'll celebrate Christmas in July with a community cookout Thursday, July 25, 5:30 - 8:00 pm! Look for more details in *The Chimes* soon.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

SUPPORT GROUP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AT MUHLENBERG!

Here's a message from one of our support groups ...

The Harrisonburg Fellowship Group of Alcoholics Anonymous is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this month and would like to thank Muhlenberg Lutheran Church for five decades of support. The group formed June 3, 1974, breaking off from another Harrisonburg AA group. They met at Muhlenberg which continues to graciously provide meeting space.

At one time, it was the largest attended AA meeting in Harrisonburg and still meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 in the Augsburg Room. Meetings are open to visitors.

AA is a fellowship of people who work together to stay sober and carry their message to other alcoholics. They are self-supporting and do not accept outside contributions.

Harrisonburg Fellowship Group

We are grateful for this group's 50 years. It is one of seven recovery/support groups offered throughout the week at Muhlenberg. We embrace being able to share and utilize our space for ministry in seen and unseen ways. We also appreciate these partnerships with groups that serve our wider community.



UPDATING *THE CHIMES*

This summer, our staff is engaging in conversations about updating and renewing our approach to *The Chimes* you receive each week. (*You'll notice a new banner on page 1 that reflects this work already!*) This means of communication has served our community well for nearly 60 years, but we know we can always do more to ensure information and celebrations are shared more efficiently among our Muhlenberg community.

If you have thoughts about *The Chimes* and what is important to you, what you look for each week, or what could be done better, we welcome your feedback! Please send your thoughts to info@muhlenberglutheran.org by **July 8**.

CREATION CARE



Here's a clarification about **recycling teabags**: 20 to 30% of tea bags may be composed of polypropylene, which will not decompose. These types of tea bags may be slippery to the touch and have a heat-sealed edge. If this is the case, slit open the bag and discard in the trash and reserve the damp tea leaves for composting. Moist tea leaves added to the compost bin increase the speed with which your pile decomposes. When using tea bags as fertilizer, either in the compost bin or directly around plants, first attempt to identify if the bag itself is compostable. Tea bags made of **paper, silk or muslin are suitable** for composting.

Do not compost meat, fish, poultry, rice, coal ash, cat litter, pet feces or disposable diapers.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

We are seeking an 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 visiting:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs.

Please lift up our search in your prayers. For details, questions, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depay@muhlenberglutheran.org).

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

COMMITTEE RE-ESTABLISHED

The Finance Committee re-established and met in April and May. During our meetings, we discussed roles and responsibilities for those in financial roles in the congregation, brainstormed additional prospective committee member names, identified the purpose of this group is to serve in an advisory capacity to the congregation, and prioritized goals for our work to advise the congregation in financial matters. We will meet again in July. Current Committee members are Treasurer Sarah Sunde, Finance Manager Jane Eanes, Financial Secretary Alison Raines, Assistant Financial Secretary Pete Weaver and Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (ex-officio member).

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

6/9	8:30 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	37
	Total Views this Week.....	121
	Hours Viewed this Week.....	55.2
6/16	8:30 Holy Communion	53
	11:00 Holy Communion	68
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	31

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Compared to May 2023, gifts and offerings are up slightly and expenses are down slightly. This is a great sign! Thank you for your generosity and willingness to support the ministry programs.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through May 2024

	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$210,192	\$314,583	\$205,296
Total Income	\$263,290	\$368,657	\$317,099
Total Expenses	\$314,893	\$371,875	\$319,315
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(51,603)	\$(3,218)	(\$2,216)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 6,860.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 20.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,880.00

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 24 - 30, 2024

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

- Mon **Second Home Summer School begins**
1:00 pm **Weekly Staff Meeting**
- Fri 11:30 am **Our Community Place Lunch**
- Sun **Sixth 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:

Christian, Melissa, Billy and Henry Perritt

Bud & Pat Perry

Chris, Rachel and Henry Peters

Joann Petonke

Tom & Daille Pettit

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 **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: (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)