

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

June 25, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

For the summer, we're trying out "seasonal bulletins" that we'll reuse for several weeks. You'll find all the specific parts of our worship — hymn numbers, Scripture readings, and worship participants — listed on the front page of *The Chimes. See "Summer Bulletin" article on page 3.*

GATHERING HYMN ~ Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW 676

FIRST READING ~ Hebrews 4:12-13

Pew Bible N.T. page 236

GOSPEL ~ Mark 10:17-22

Pew Bible N.T. page 47

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ Word of God, Come Down on Earth

ELW 510

SENDING HYMN ~ Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS 8:30 ~ Gus Kagey

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Linda Morrison 11:00 ~ Malcolm Wilfong

LAY ASSISTING

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

SOUND

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Wylie Walton 11:00 ~ Linda Alley

TECHS

11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

USHERS

8:30 ~ Jeanette Norfleet, Bob Neumann

11:00 ~ Malcolm & Judy Wilfong

COMMUNION

8:30 ~ Judy Neumann, Linda Morrison, Gus Kagey, Crystl Whitmire

ASSISTANTS

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak, Nathan Leopard, Keira Miller, Greta Willis

MUSICIANS Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Karen Sullivan's birthday.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At our Congregation Council Meeting Monday, June 19, we discussed the following:

- Constitution Task Force (Cathy Copeland, Brad Moyers, and Lauren Eanes) led an hour overview discussion regarding the process being followed to update our out-of-date Constitution. The Task Force presented ELCA required and suggested revisions, as well as MLC specific task force revision recommendations. The Task Force and Council will work together over the next few months to prepare a draft constitution for a congregational vote at our November and January Congregational Meetings.
- <u>Intent Cards</u> can still be turned in. Completed Intent Cards enable Treasurer Sarah Sunde to work with our committees and Council early this fall to prepare a realistic budget for our November Congregational Meeting. If you have not turned in your card yet, please do so. They are available electronically <u>HERE</u> or on the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.
- <u>Fire Escape Paint Removal</u> estimated start date is July 3.
- EV charging possibilities and possible solar panel discount opportunities for the MAC roof are being explored by Property Committee and Entrepreneurial Task Force.
- The Mule-N-Burgers with Cheese co-ed kickball team has been registered with City Parks and Rec league for the fall season. Interested in playing? Contact RW Carneal (rearneal1@gmail.com or 540-338-6960).

Peace be with you,

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President mlccouncilpres@gmail.com

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME SANCTUARY CHURCH SOUTH SHORE

Today at our 8:30 service, we welcome members of Sanctuary Church who are on their way to Nora, VA to volunteer with the Appalachian Service Project for the week. Sanctuary Church is a new start church just south of Boston in a little beach town, and is a joint mission venture by the ELCA and United Methodist Church.

With Muhlenberg being conveniently located off Interstate 81, we often host groups who are traveling the east coast for mission and service trips over the summer. We wish Sanctuary Church safe travels today and a meaningful time together in service to the community of Nora, VA. Welcome to Muhlenberg!

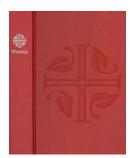
175TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING TEAM Meeting TODAY (6/25), 9:45 am

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 **TODAY** (6/25) 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!

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

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.

YOUTH AND LEADERS HEAD TO KAIROS TODAY!

We ask for your prayers for rising 9th to 12th graders from all across Virginia who are headed to



Roanoke College this afternoon for the annual Virginia Synod Youth Event, *Kairos*! Muhlenberg youth Will Fletchall, Annika Harmison, and Kat Kolodinsky will attend this year with Pastor Alex going as a small group leader.

Kairos is the New Testament Greek word for "special time." It is used whenever God's people want to talk about a time of change, of renewal, of God's special work in the believer and the community. 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. Our group will return Friday, and we're excited to share all we've learned and experienced together!

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

This Week

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



The last Friday of the COMMUNITY month is a time to gather for fellowship

and lunch at Our Community Place (OCP) Friday Restaurant. The Restaurant is open 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. Let's show our support for OCP while enjoying opportunity for fellowship. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Wanda Hamilton (540-405-3118).

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER Next Sunday, July 2

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 Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP Wednesday, July 5, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. experience necessary:



we'll teach you basic stitches! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace (e.g. recovering from an illness, grieving a loss), as well as in celebration and joy (e.g. birthday. wedding, graduation).

If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone, please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283 or jswells62@verizon.net). Donations of yarn are always appreciated. Call Jackie or any member of the group to arrange for pick up.

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 OR 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, wonderment, reciprocity, gratitude, kinship, participants will consider how to become co-sustainers and participants in the work of God's creation.

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, 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.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE

Remember to remove dust that collects on your central air conditioner vents over the winter. This prevents dust and other allergens from being blown throughout your hom



blown throughout your home when the air conditioning is turned on.

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.

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.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

AN UPDATE ON OUR COMMUNITY DIRECTORY



Thank you to all who participated in our directory photo shoots and information updating in May More than 110 members/member families

updated their photos and information! This is great progress, but it also means we still have a way to go before <u>everyone's</u> information and photo are current.

If you haven't yet updated your information and had a current photo taken, you will receive a mailing in the next few weeks. This mailing includes a copy of your current information to be reviewed and updated as needed, as well as a list of choices for how to update your photo. **PLEASE** return this information to the church by the date indicated, so that our new directory will be as current and thorough as possible! And for our members who are homebound, not to worry — we will be in touch soon about a personal visit to take your photo and update your information. Thank you for your time and cooperation!

If you have any questions, please email Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) or Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenbergluthran.org) or reach either of them at the church office (540-434-3496).

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 welcome all who enter our doors by having someone on hand each week to care for our youngest members. 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 <u>HERE</u>. Please lift up our search in your prayers.

ENTERING THE CHURCH

Jesus was able to walk through locked doors (see John 20) but entering Muhlenberg's building is sometimes a little harder for those who come to the church on a weekday! For the safety of all who use our space during the week, all doors remain locked at all times. When you arrive at the church, we ask you to call the church's main phone number, located on a sign on the Gathering Area doors, and a staff person will come to open the Gathering Area door for you.

Local & Global Mission News

OPEN DOORS SUMMER OUTREACH MEAL Sunday, July 16



Muhlenberg will provide the meal for Open Doors Summer Outreach Meal Sunday evening, July 16. Open Doors brings water

& tables to a parking lot downtown. The main dish is already provided. If you would be able to provide **an easy to serve side dish** (coleslaw, macaroni/potato salad, applesauce/fruit cups, etc.) **or a dessert** (brownies, cookies, etc.) for 10, 20 or 40 people, that would be wonderful! Food can be dropped off at church that Sunday morning, July 16 or pick-up that afternoon may be possible. To sign-up or if you have any questions, please contact Amy Burke (540-574-2589 or aburkert42@gmail.com).

TRINITY CLOTHES CLOSET

We help support the Trinity Presbyterian Clothes Closet by volunteering the fourth Wednesday each month from 6:15 - 7:30 pm to assist community members



community members selecting clothing. Clothing is available in all sizes without any charge. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sandy Randolph (540-820-9654 or cerprek@gmail.com). If you are not able to commit monthly but would be willing to help on an as needed basis (maybe once or twice a year), your time would be greatly appreciated!

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@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

Thank you for the prayers, cards, concern and food as I recover from recent knee surgery. Your kindness has been very much appreciated.

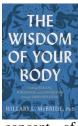
Pat Perry

This Just In ...

BIBLE STUDY GATHERING Saturday, August 19, 11:00 am -1:00 pm Hillandale Park, shelter 10 (handicapped accessible)

Salad Potluck: bring a salad (fruit, pasta, bean, greens--any kind you'd like!) Drinks, plates, utensils, napkins provided

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study group (which typically meets via Zoom) is hosting this in-person gathering for all who have attended the Bible study AND those who are interested in learning what the group is all about. We will explore the



about. We will explore the concept of embodiment and a biblical view of bodies as we discuss the book *The Wisdom of Your Body* by Hillary McBride. The entire book is good but if you run out of time, read chapters 1, 2 and 9.

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will resume its regular weekly meeting Wednesday, September 6.

Virginia Synod Assembly

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 Casteele, (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.







UPDATE FROM SECOND HOME



During the 2022 - 2023 academic year, Second Home Learning Center served 98 K - 7th grade students from Harrisonburg City Public Schools. Children at Second Home were safe and cared for before and after school. Children were engaged learners through hands-on enrichment activities, and academic help. Several students participated in small group social emotional

skill building

activities. As part of our interestbased club activities, students could participate in the performance of an annual Spring musical. This year's performance, *Annie Jr.*, in May was a big success. Once again, the kids surprised us with their talent and enthusiasm. We had several first

timers in the cast.



and everyone did an amazing job. We so very much appreciated you showing up for the performances and supporting our students' and teachers' hard work! If you missed the performance,

We hope you will come and see our production next

Spring.



We are excited to be able to offer full day care for 30 children this June and July. Our activities will include literacy, science, art, and several field trips. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details.



As a community partner of Muhlenberg, we aspire to serve the mission of Muhlenberg's Local and Global Mission. Second Home offers grace and understanding to families affected by income constraints and poverty, language and cultural barriers, who often face a lack of affordable services and understanding of their needs. We aim to protect children from the risks of being home alone and getting into unsafe behavior and exploitation while their parents are working.



Our team would like to thank all congregation members for their financial and in-kind support, and those who have volunteered with our program or served on our Board of Directors. Your donations ensure that even the lowest income families are able to access child care, able to hold jobs and work with a peace of mind. Financial donations supplement fees, grants, and fundraising income, and are used to provide scholarships to our neediest families, pay our staff to assure that we have well qualified and consistent staff members, pay for staff training required by licensing regulations and enable us to best serve our students' needs, as well as help with food and other supply needs. Donations may be tax deductible and may be made payable directly to Second Home or to MLC via the offering plate or made online at secondhomeva.com/support-our-program.









TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent inperson and online viewership:

6/11	8:30 Holy Communion	60
	11:00 Holy Communion	
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers	
	Total Views this Week	188
	Hours Viewed this Week	47.0
6/18	8:30 Holy Communion	39
	11:00 Holy Communion	93
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers	27

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	2023YTD	2022YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
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 Giving to Other Designated Funds **Total Giving**

To give online, scan here



8.801.06

9,546,06

745.00

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 26 — July 2, 2023

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

Mon 1:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting

Fri 11:30 am Lunch at OCP

Sun. Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Food Pantry / Lay Communion Sunday
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:

Patty and Fred Sensabaugh Kimberly Shipe Alan and Amy Simmers Lannie and Helen Simmons Ed and Zizi Sipe

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:*

(<u>depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org</u> /540-434-3496) Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.