



# The CHIMES

## MUHLENBERG: A WELLSPRING OF GRACE

*Muhlenberg Lutheran Church strives to be a Wellspring of God's Grace in Jesus Christ.*

*Open ✚ Authentic ✚ Relational ✚ Serving*

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281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 ✚ Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: [info@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org) ✚ Website: [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

Pastor Mark Radecke: [radecke@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:radecke@muhlenberglutheran.org) ✚ Pastor Paul Weber: [weber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:weber@muhlenberglutheran.org)

**March 18, 2018**

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

This week's issue of *The Chimes* is full of news, worship and service opportunities...

- ✚ The Call Committee is sharing important news - see p. 3.
- ✚ Holy Week & Easter – see p. 4 for the worship and activities schedule.
- ✚ Today is the deadline to sign up for Easter lilies and Alternative Giving – see p. 5 for details.
- ✚ We expect increased attendance for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Do you know where you can park? See p. 5 for details and check out the map in the Gathering Area today.

### THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

#### GO-GO GROUP BREAKFAST (55+)

Meet at the Thomas House in Dayton **THIS Tuesday, March 20, 8:30 am.** Contact Dan Werner at 433-3912 for more info.

#### ISSUES AT THE END OF LIFE

The class meets **Tuesdays through April 17, 5:30 - 6:25 pm** in the Nielsen Room. Members are asked to read these articles before the March 20 class: <https://goo.gl/hjeikj> "ELCA Statement on End of Life Decisions" and <https://goo.gl/ajVjWF> "The Porch Light Is On" (website requires free signup). New members are welcome.

#### MIDWEEK LENTEN PREACHING SERIES AND SUPPERS

This week concludes our preaching series. Join us in the Sanctuary **Wednesday at 6:30 pm when Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, will preach on** "The New Covenant and the Mark of Ministry."

**At 5:45 pm, a light supper sponsored by Congregation Council will be served in the Nielsen Room and Wayland Hall.** Join us for fellowship and worship!

### 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 visit us at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org) or scan this QR code to securely register online.*

## THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

### LENTEN MIDDAY RECITAL SERIES

We conclude our Lenten Recital Series this **Thursday at noon** with **Florence Jowers, Minister of Music at Christ Lutheran, Staunton**. The concert is free and open to all.



### PALM SUNDAY INFORMATION

Next Sunday our worship will begin in the Gathering Area with the Blessing of Palms and a procession into the sanctuary, reenacting Jesus' procession into the city of Jerusalem. The sound system will make it possible for those in the sanctuary to hear and participate.

As Palm Sunday is also the Sunday of the Passion, our liturgy includes a dramatic reading of our Lord's Passion According to St. Mark.

You are encouraged to make a commitment to attend Holy Week services. *See p. 4 for details.*

### THE AMAZING THREE DAYS

Attention parents of children ages 2 ½ to 10 years old, please pick up the information on the table in the Gathering Area explaining the *Amazing Three Days*. This information will help you prepare with your children for the services of Holy Week.

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	70	Wed. Noon	14
9:30 Worship	104	Wed. PM	65
11:00 Worship	<u>142</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>		

### MINISTRY OF THE WEEK:

#### STEWARDSHIP

*This space features one committee/ministry team each week. Highlights are provided so we become more familiar with their work.*

The members of the Stewardship Committee meet monthly, seeking ways to celebrate and inspire the gifts of Muhlenbergers' time, talent, and treasure in the service of God and all of God's people. If you have thoughts on how to help us all maintain a focus on joyful giving, please join us during Ministries Night (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month) in the Kairos Room. We always welcome new members!

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2018			
	Y-T-D <u>Actual</u>	Y-T-D <u>Budget</u>	Y-T-D <u>Last Year</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$104,253	\$120,415	\$115,702
Total Receipts	\$128,502	\$146,732	\$141,143
Expenses	\$143,400	\$169,402	\$150,725
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$14,898)</b>	<b>(\$22,670)</b>	<b>(\$9,582)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan:	\$	7,146.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds:	\$	<u>4,395.32</u>
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,541.32</b>

*See details in the notebook at the Connection Center.*

**Feb.** Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$15

To give online, scan here →



# UPDATE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Call Committee, I am very excited to share some important news with you. As you may recall from the overview provided by Pastor Price (former Assistant to the Bishop), there is the point in the Call process where a Primary Candidate is identified. At that point, the Primary Candidate no longer pursues other Pastoral Calls, nor does the congregation pursue other candidates. I am pleased to inform you that we have chosen not just one primary candidate, but two and are considering them as (Senior) Co-Pastors. Yes, we have a clergy couple who is interested in us, and we are interested in them.

The next step is for each of the Pastors to join us to preach and lead worship. Please mark your calendars. We will have one candidate preach and lead worship on April 8. We will have the other candidate preach and lead worship on April 15. During this time, we encourage feedback to the Call Committee and Council members. There will be an opportunity for members of the congregation to informally meet the couple at a potluck lunch Sunday, April 15 at 12:15 in the MAC.

There are still several critical steps in the process after these visits. We continue to work with the Executive Committee and Council and will keep you abreast of the process as we move forward. As you know, the final step is a congregational vote.

It is important for us throughout the process to protect the anonymity of the candidates. It is not healthy for a home congregation of a candidate if members know the pastor is exploring other opportunities. We ask you to help us protect that anonymity.

Thank you for your patience, prayers and partnership. This is truly a time of spiritual discernment for our faith community. We greatly appreciate your support.

*Mark Warner, Call Committee Chair*

## **ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT MLC'S MSP?**

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is the document that is shared with pastoral candidates being considered by the Call Committee. It includes information about the congregation, demographic information about the Harrisonburg area, and a summary of the Leadership Needs Profile completed by members last October. Those wishing to read our MSP can pick one up from the Connection Center.

You may be interested to know that the five top ministry tasks identified by members who completed the October survey were:

- Preaching & Worship Leadership
- Interpreting Theology
- Administration
- Ministry in Crisis
- Inter-personal Climate

# **HOLY WEEK & EASTER**



## **WORSHIP & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE**

### **WEDNESDAY NOON EUCHARIST – MARCH 28**

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29 – 7 PM**

Worship with foot/hand-washing and Holy Communion

### **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30 – 7 PM**

Dramatic procession with the cross and passion narrative

Ecumenical walk downtown, 12 noon

### **EASTER VIGIL, MARCH 31 – 8 PM.**

Begins in Woodbine Cemetery (next block)

This powerful service focuses on baptism and moves us from the stark Good Friday experience to the celebration of Easter.

### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1**

Festival Worship at all morning liturgies - **8:00, 9:30, 11:00**

Children's Activities – **9:30**

To allow children the opportunity to experience worship on this Holy day, the children's message has been moved further into the service. Following the children's message at the 9:30 service, Christian Formation leaders will take children ages 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade to the MAC for an Easter Egg Hunt, Story Time and Craft. If you or your child prefer, you can take them to the MAC and then rejoin the service in the Sanctuary.

### **EASTER CAROLING (VISITING HOMEBOUND MEMBERS), APRIL 8 – 12:15**

Begins with a light lunch in Wayland Hall

Join us – all are welcome!

## EASTER OPPORTUNITIES

### EASTER LILIES



Want to help beautify our church for Easter and remember/honor a loved one? Cost is **\$17 per plant**. **Sign-up deadline is TODAY.** To reserve your lily and have

information published on Easter Sunday, do the following:

1. **Sign up** in the notebook (*under the "Flowers" tab*) at the Connection Center.
2. **Pay** for lilies by placing your check in the offering plate (write "Easter Lilies" on the memo line/envelope).

**Payment will reserve the lilies.**

Lilies may be picked up after the 11:00 service on Easter Sunday. Remaining lilies will be distributed as needed on Thursday (April 5).



### ALTERNATIVE GIVING

If you wish to remember/honor a loved one in a different way, choose a local or global opportunity in **Patchwork Pantry** or **ELCA World Hunger**:



1. Sign up in the notebook (**blue forms in the front cover pocket**) at the Connection Center. **Sign up deadline is TODAY.**
2. **Make your contribution** by placing your check in the offering plate. Ensure correct credit/designation by indicating "**Patchwork Pantry Easter Gift**" or "**World Hunger Easter Gift**" on the memo line of your check/envelope.

*On Easter Sunday, we will publish the names of loved ones remembered with Easter lilies or alternative giving.*

## REMINDERS

### DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO PARK?

Parking for the next two Sundays will present a challenge. We ask for your patience! A map with all designated parking areas around the church is available in the Gathering Area. If possible, consider carpooling with family members and friends or attend the 8:00 am service. Consider parking away from the main building if you are able to walk a further distance.

**Be sure NOT to park in the lot on the corner of Ott & East Water Streets. These numbered spaces are rented to Urban Exchange residents, and they will tow!**



### THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Eligible Thrivent Financial members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable outreach funds using a vehicle called *Choice Dollars*<sup>®</sup>, part of the Thrivent Choice member-advised charitable grant program.

**Thrivent members have until March 30 to direct any remaining 2017 Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup>.** After that date, 2017 funds will expire.

If you haven't already, designate your Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> by calling Thrivent representative Sherry Ritenour at 540-325-4233 or visiting [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Remember, Muhlenberg is among your choices to consider.



*Devotional booklets for April-June are available at the Connection Center*

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### BASKETS OF PROMISE

The Christian Formation (through the JAMers elementary youth group) and Local & Global Mission ministry teams are sponsoring Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise appeal by collecting items for Personal Care Kits. **TODAY** we collect **NAIL CLIPPERS**.

**NEXT Sunday, March 25**, we conclude our collection with **BARS OF SOAP** (individually wrapped).

### OPEN DOORS UPDATE

Thanks to all who helped us host Open Doors. We put in about **330 hours** and **added \$235 to our Open Doors fund!** Without the assistance of ALL involved, the week would not have been a success in helping our area homeless.

### UNDERWEAR, VITAMINS AND CASH, OH MY!

The Nicaragua Mission Team gives MLC members and friends a thousand thanks (literally!) for the *hundreds* of gifts of children's underwear, *dozens* of containers of vitamins and cough & cold remedies, and **\$815 in cash donations** to underwrite the costs of the projects undertaken by the team last month. *¡Mil gracias, hermanas y hermanos!* (A thousand thanks, sisters and brothers!) Our friends at CICRIN, the Nicaraguan Christian Children's Center and School, join us in expressing thanks.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of all types of worship servants: lectors, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants/stewards, greeters, sound techs, etc.

**Sign up for the month of April** in the notebook at the Connection Center! One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson* ([thompskb@jmu.edu](mailto:thompskb@jmu.edu) or 578-4830).

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Community > Worship: What to Expect > Worship + Music Leadership

### INTERESTED IN SERVING AS WEDDING COORDINATOR?

We are looking for someone to coordinate weddings at the church. This includes meeting with couples, scheduling the Sanctuary, and appointing Wedding Liaisons to oversee the details and be present the day of events. If you have interest, *please contact one of the Pastors* ([radecke@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:radecke@muhlenberglutheran.org); [weber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:weber@muhlenberglutheran.org)) or *Council President Tim Peifer* ([dseries4@gmail.com](mailto:dseries4@gmail.com)).

### GIVING YOUR OFFERING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Those who give their tithes and offerings by bank draft or via Simply Giving may wish to pick up one of the laminated cards at the Connection Center before the service. Place the card in the offering plate as part of worship.

## YOUTH & CAMPUS NEWS

### CAMPUS MINISTRY

The second half of spring semester grinding your gears? **NEXT Sunday, March 25** LCM is going to Gap View Ranch & Kennel to visit the Golden Retriever puppies after the 11:00 am service. Text Mycah McNett at 703-336-7278 if you plan to come.

### JCREW OUTING

Let's escape together! **NEXT Sunday, March 25** we will head to the Escape Room at Massanutten for a fun afternoon of problem solving! Please sign up in advance on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Campus Room. Bring \$10 for the event plus money for lunch!

### BISHOP'S DAY

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to Bishop's Day **THIS Saturday, March 24, 1:00-3:30 pm** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Charlottesville. This is an opportunity to talk with Bishop Bob Humphrey and other leaders about discerning one's vocation, including learning what it means to be in public ministry in the church. *Contact Diane Bayer for more info.*

### THANK YOU, JAMERS

Thank you to the JAMers and two high school helpers who attended last Sunday's meeting. With your hard work, we made two huge pots of vegetable soup that will warm the tummies of our friends at Second Home! It is a pleasure to spend time together as you continue to grow in faith and caring for each other and your congregation and community. You are learning to use your hands to do God's work. Way to go, JAMers!

*Miss Diane*

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer  
(434-3496 or [bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org))  
for more information.

### SHARING GOD'S WORD

Classes **begin in designated locations Sundays at 9:30. Children should be picked up immediately** following the 9:30 liturgy.

Children's Church is held during the 11:00 service for children 3-7 years old. After Children's Time with the pastors, children are escorted downstairs to the Nielsen Room. Children return to their parents in the sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace.

*Pick up a green Christian Formation brochure from the Connection Center. It contains more information about classes for children and adults.*

### FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

First Communion Sunday classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> graders and higher will conclude **TODAY, 12:15-1:00 pm** in the Augsburg Room.

There will be a final session **THIS Saturday, March 24, 9:30 am** when the class will make communion bread in the MAC, learn about the church's communion vessels, and review the service for their First Communion.

Those attending the classes will receive First Communion with their families on Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm.

### CHILDREN'S BUSY BAGS

Special *busy bags* for children are available from ushers.

## 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 at 434-3496 or [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the editor and pastors.

# Happy Birthday!

✚ Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!

**Norwood Beery**, March 21 (1020 Star Circle, Harrisonburg 22801)

**Phyllis Sonner**, March 24 (811 Sandtrap Lane, Harrisonburg 22802)

**Bus Sipe**, March 29 (525 West Wolfe Street, Harrisonburg 22802)

## CREATION CARE TIP



Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or [rsanders9@verizon.net](mailto:rsanders9@verizon.net).

You can minimize the amount of energy you use to cook a meal by using the right burner for the size of the pan. If the circumference of the burner is larger than the size of the pan, you're leaking unused heat into the air. Also avoid using a pot that is too big; it takes a lot of extra energy to heat the contents.

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

### PRAYING OUR FAITH TOGETHER!

For individual and family use. Scripture citations taken from ELW's 3-Year Daily Lectionary, p. 1132-1143, (Year B).

**Mon.** 2 Cor. 3:4-11    **Thu.** Phil. 2:1-11  
**Tue.** Acts 2:14-24    **Fri.** Phil. 2:12-18  
**Wed.** John 12:34-50    **Sat.** Mark 10:32-34; 46-52  
**Sun.** Mark 14:1—15:47

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

### March 19-25

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Congregation Council Meeting</b>
<b>Tue.</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Go-Go Group Breakfast</b>
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Issues at the End of Life</b>
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Celebration Singers</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Gloria Dei Ringers</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>4:45 pm</b>	<b>Cherub Choir</b>
	<b>5:15 pm</b>	<b>SonShine Singers</b>
	<b>5:45 pm</b>	<b>Lenten Supper</b>
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Lenten Preaching Series</b>
	<b>7:15 pm</b>	<b>Sanctuary Choir</b>
<b>Thu.</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Comfort Makers</b>
	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Lenten Recital Series</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>First Communion Class</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</b>	
	<b>8:00, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Campus Ministry</b>
	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>JCrew</b>

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is Thursday at 8 am. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit information to Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)).

Additionally, requests to utilize space in the Gathering Area on Sunday or post information at the Connection Center should be made to Linda as soon as planned, but no later than Thursdays at 8 am.

Check bulletin boards for community information.  
Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).