



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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March 25, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

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

- † Holy Week & Easter – see p. 3 for the worship and activities schedule.
- † In case you missed it last week, the Call Committee has shared important news - see p. 4.
- † We expect increased attendance today 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.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION PALM SUNDAY

Worship today begins in the Gathering Area with the Blessing of Palms and a procession to reenact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. After glorious and uplifting anthems of praise from the choirs, the tone shifts quickly to the story of Jesus' suffering and death as recorded in the Gospel of Mark and told by Pastor Mark.



Today begins the holiest week of the year for Christians as we enter into the story of Jesus' passion. On Thursday, we will commune with him and our First Communion class at the Last Supper. On Good Friday we will watch him die on the tree of the cross, and on Saturday at the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate his rising and our rising with him in baptism. The Great Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday will deepen your faith and your life and make Easter Sunday's worship an even greater gift. Of course, it doesn't stop there. The Easter season stretches on for seven weeks of joyful celebration!

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 or scan this QR code to securely register online.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT')

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.

DID YOU PURCHASE A COMFORT?

If you purchased a comfort, please pick it up from the back pews **TODAY** and place your check in the offering plate, designating *Comfort Makers*. Thank you for supporting the Comfort Making project!

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ISSUES AT THE END OF LIFE

Will **not meet this week**, but resume Tuesday April 3, 5:30 - 6:25 pm in the Nielsen Room.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE!

The following children will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday or during the Easter season.



Nathaniel Pierce Bergey

Ryan Andrew Bothel

Ainsley Rene Hargens

Paige Allyn Hargens

Ansley Grace McConnell

Chase Michael Slowinski

NO NAME BADGES THIS MONTH

We will not wear name badges next Sunday due to the Easter holiday. We will resume wearing them May 6.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	79
9:30 Worship	107
11:00 Worship	<u>141</u>
Total	327

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK:

YOUTH

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

Our youth are looking forward to a busy spring and summer! We meet regularly every other Sunday for lunch and fellowship activities. In addition, we are visiting the Escape Room at Massanutten Resort today for a fun event. We have turned our attention to planning for the National Youth Gathering in Houston, June 27 - July 1! Nine youth and two adults will make the journey to join 35,000 other Lutherans in ministry and worship! More information and ways to support our trip will be coming soon!

For more information, contact Senior High Youth Leader Clay Arthur (clay@muhlenberg.lutheran.org).

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
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$14,898)	(\$22,670)	(\$9,582)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan:	\$	6,098.55
Giving to Other Designated Funds:	\$	<u>2,950.34</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	9,048.89

See details in the notebook at the Connection Center.

To give online, scan here →



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 2-5th 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 the MAC.

Join us – all are welcome!

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 their 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 (CONT'D)

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO PARK?

Parking for today and next Sunday will present a challenge. We ask for your patience! To help with the parking challenge consider these ideas:

- carpool with family members and friends.
- attend the 8:00 am service.
- park further away from the main building if you are able to walk a little distance.

A map of designated parking for the church is available in the Gathering Area.



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!

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL WALK

The 31st annual Harrisonburg downtown ecumenical Good Friday prayer walk, based on the "Stations of the Cross," will be held **Friday, March 30, noon to 1:00.**

The walk begins at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and ends at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, stopping at a total of 10 downtown churches and public buildings. Led by someone carrying a large cross, we will stop at each station where a member of the local "Biblical Storytellers Guild" will tell the passage from the Gospel of Matthew and a local church leader will lead is in prayer. We then move on to the next station.

This is a contemplative, communal, and spiritual practice of shared ecumenical worship and witness that has been going on every year in downtown Harrisonburg for 30 years. If you haven't joined us before, this would be a good year to do so! The walking route is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

RUTH SIGMON CIRCLE

Meets **Easter Monday, April 2 at 6:30 pm** in the Augsburg Room for a Bible study from the *Gather* magazine. Sandy Randolph will lead the study and all ladies of Muhlenberg are invited to join us. *For more info, contact Louise Johnson (433-1047).*

EASTER CAROLING/VISITING

Save the date! **April 8 at 12:15**, plan to meet in the MAC, have lunch, and then go out in small groups to bring Easter cheer to our homebound members. It is fun and so much appreciated!

MUHLENBERG NEWS

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; weber@muhlenberglutheran.org) or Council President *Tim Peifer* (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.

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 conclude our collection with **BARS OF SOAP** (individually wrapped).

OPEN DOORS THANK YOU!

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.



REMINDERS

PARKING COURTESY

From young families juggling little ones to older members and all those in between, there are many folks whose lives could be made a little easier or safer by parking closer to the church entrances. While we have a few designated handicapped parking spots, at times on Sunday morning those can be full.

Let's be hospitable to each other and visitors who might simply be helped by a closer space. If you usually park closer, maybe take a spot a little further back so that others may have a safer parking space. Thank you for your consideration.

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*®, part of the Thrivent Choice member-advised charitable grant program.

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

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

† † † † †

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

YOUTH & CAMPUS NEWS

CAMPUS MINISTRY

The second half of spring semester grinding your gears? **TODAY at 12:15**, LCM is going to Gap View Ranch & Kennel to visit Golden Retriever puppies. *Text Mycah McNett at 703-336-7278 if you plan to come.*

JCREW OUTING

Let's escape together! **TODAY at 12:15**, we will head to the Escape Room at Massanutten for a fun afternoon of problem solving! Bring \$10 for the event plus money for lunch!

JAMERS

Meet **Sunday, April 8, 4:00 – 5:30 pm** in the MAC for some fun activities. We will also put together the kits for Baskets of Promise. We hope to see all 2nd – 5th graders there for fun and fellowship with your church friends. *Contact Diane Bayer at 434-396 for more information.*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer (434-3496 or 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.

NO SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES EASTER SUNDAY

Due to the special Easter activities, there will be no regular classes **NEXT Sunday, April 1**. Instead, we invite children to take part in the events planned. *See p. 4 for details.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

JESUS, THE STORYTELLER

Come and join the fun at VBS 2018.

Place: The MAC

Date: June 24-28

Time: Dinner at 5:30 and VBS from 6:00-8:00

Who: Children 3 years old to 5th grade (6th – 12th graders are asked to be helpers). We will also have a class for adults of all ages.

Mark your calendars and get ready for a week of fun. Registration forms will be available in the Gathering Area soon. *Contact Diane Bayer if you are interested in helping with this fun faith-forming event.*



Jesus, The Storyteller

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

✦ Mary Margaret and Hunter Hollar are pleased to welcome their third grandchild and the first daughter for Maureen and son-in-law Danny. Fitzpatrick Kellen McKenna was born Tuesday, March 20 and weighed in at 8 pounds, 10 ounces.

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.

Snip the plastic rings that are used to package six-packs of beer and soda. We've all heard horror stories about the plastic rings suffocating fish and getting tangled around the beaks of birds and other wildlife. Remember to snip the rings before tossing them in the trash. Better yet, eliminate them altogether by buying single sodas or cases that come in cardboard packaging.

CHILDREN'S BUSY BAGS
Special *busy bags* for children are available from ushers

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. John 12:1-11 Thu. John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Tue. John 12:20-36 Fri. John 18:1—19:42
Wed. John 13:21-32 Sat. John 20:1-18
Sun. Mark 16:1-8

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 26—April 1

Mon.	2:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tue.	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed.	12 noon	Holy Communion
	4:45 pm	Cherub Choir
	5:15 pm	SonShine Singers
	7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thu.	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri.	12 noon	Ecumenical Walk Downtown
	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service
Sat.	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil Service
Sun.	Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday	
	8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Children's Easter Activities

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).

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://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).