



# 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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**February 14, 2021**

## TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ

#### EXCITING NEWS!

We are creating a paid part-time Finance Manager position. Historically, we have been so blessed to have had faithful volunteers stewarding our finances. However, as we have grown as a congregation, we no longer feel that our current model is sustainable.

We need a staff member who can truly manage our financial affairs, while also working with our Parish Administrator and volunteers. If you, or someone you know, are interested in exploring this opportunity, you may find the job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#).

We hope to fill this position quickly; however, we will take the time needed to find the best person for the position. Please lift up our search in your prayers.

### TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

#### TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Today's festival of the Transfiguration of our Lord is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem.

This week we turn to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Additionally, we sing "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" and say goodbye to saying Alleluia during the penitential season of Lent.

*See p. 7 for Congregation Council news.*

### PARKING LOT SERVICE ~ TODAY, 4:00 PM

Each second Sunday, we gather in the Muhlenberg parking lot for worship. Audio is broadcast through a radio transmitter, allowing participants to stay in their vehicles. We'll share communion and have bread available or bring your own if you're more comfortable.

Christian Formation will hand out Lent craft/activity bags with a devotional and other activities to help you and your family journey through Lent together.

In case of inclement weather, we will hold the service next Sunday, February 21, 4:00 pm. Check our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) for the latest cancellation information.

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each **Sunday from 8:30 – 11:00** using this link:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

**8:30 – 9:00** Communion Service via Zoom  
**9:00 – 11:00** “Coffee Hour” Fellowship  
**9:30 – 10:00** K - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class  
**9:30 – 10:00** 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class  
**9:30 – 10:30** Adult Faith Lens Class  
**9:30 – 10:30** Adult 40-Day Journey Class  
**10:15– 10:30** Pre-K Story Time  
**11:00** Worship on [Facebook](#),  
[YouTube](#), [Wellstream Phone](#)

- **Pastoral Care** ~ If you would like a private word with the pastor on call, we will provide a breakout room for you.
- **Small Group Fellowship** ~ Want to catch up with a small group of friends? We have private breakout rooms for that!

If you don't have a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

### WELLSTREAM PHONE

We want all members to have the opportunity to “participate” in worship and hear The Word. **Wellstream Phone is a service that works from your home or cell phone — no internet required. Simply call the number below and select an option. Information will be available by 11 am each Sunday.** Contact Linda Depoy (434-3496) with any questions.

**Wellstream Phone Number:**

**1-434-205-8777**

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

1/31	8:30 Communion	17
	11:00 Total Live Views	116
	Total Views this Week	415
	Hours Viewed this Week	122.7
2/7	8:30 Communion	20
	11:00 Total Live Views	110

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through <b>January 2021</b>			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$45,077	\$69,243	\$49,917
Total Receipts	\$48,851	\$75,172	\$55,592
Expenses	\$96,799	\$104,361	\$90,815
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$47,948)</b>	<b>(\$29,189)</b>	<b>(\$34,863)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 14,872.04
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 17,113.00
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 31,985.04</b>

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg is not suspending its ministry through this unprecedented time, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to maintaining our ministries, even if they are in a different form for now. We also want to be able to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

You can make a one-time or recurring donation through the [donation page](#) on our website, or mail your check to the church:  
281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL INSTALLATION

Our 2021 Congregation Council members will be installed this morning! They have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in our parish family. Please keep them in your prayers and joyfully work with them as you are called upon and able.

**Sandra Blade**  
**Bill Compton**  
**Cathy Copeland**  
**Elizabeth Fletchall**  
**Jenny Gibson** *Secretary*  
**Joe Grandstaff**  
**Bruce Hamilton**  
**Russell Presnell**  
**Kevin Stees**  
**Sarah Sunde**  
**Karen Thomsen** *President*  
**Bill Vance** *Treasurer*  
**Greta Willis** *Vice President*

### CONNECTION BOX

We have renamed our pick-up/drop-off box outside the Gathering Area. It's now called the "Connection Box."

### THIS WEEK

See pages 4-5 for Lenten highlights, or visit our website for details:

[www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021)

### ASH WEDNESDAY

We begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we embark on this unexpected journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world. In preparation for Ash Wednesday, we invite you to gather several items for worship:



***Dirt or ashes:*** We will impose dirt or ashes on ourselves, or on the foreheads of those in the room with us during worship, as a communal act led by the pastor. You may use a small amount of dirt from the ground or a potted plant. If you have ashes from a fireplace or firepit, you can use those **CAREFULLY. DO NOT ADD WATER** as this creates a caustic mix that could burn your skin.

***Bread and wine for communion:*** We will share communion at this service. Please have a small piece of bread and wine or juice on hand.

Join us at **7:30 am or 7:00 pm** via **ZOOM:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>  
Meeting ID: 847 3141 6878  
Phone: 301-715-8592

## LENT AT MUHLENBERG



### LENT 2021: *UNEXPECTED*

Throughout the season of Lent, the texts from the gospel of Luke appointed by the Narrative Lectionary point us to unexpected situations, unexpected stories, and unexpected results as Jesus is journeying toward Jerusalem. We will explore how the gospel subverts our expectations and calls us to unexpected discipleship and unexpected grace. Some of the ways you can engage in our Lenten Journey this year are detailed below, with more information to be found at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021).

#### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Join your friends **Wednesdays beginning February 24** for connection and formation. We invite you to make a five-week commitment to learn and grow together in faith by participating in the following opportunities via [ZOOM](#) or use the phone-in option:

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 812 2682 5160 Passcode: 212430

1 **Book Study of *Stamped from the Beginning* with Pastor Alex ~ 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Repentance is central to the season of Lent and racism is a sin. As we seek to repent from the sin of racism that manifests in personal and systemic ways throughout our nation and lives, we must learn how we got here. *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi will serve as our guide to these conversations. We will bring the lens of faith and repentance to conversation around racism in our history and our present. The book is divided into 5 sections which we will cover each week.

2. **Prayer and Contemplative Practices with Linda Alley ~ 7:00 – 7:30 pm**

Would you like something fresher and deeper for your prayer time? Learn about five types of contemplative prayer and practice them during this 5-week workshop. Most types encourage more listening than speaking and more spacious rest than effort. Led weekly by Linda Alley, each half-hour session will include teaching, practice and feedback, beginning with Breath Prayers on week one.

~continued on next page~

## LENT 2021: *UNEXPECTED* (CONT'D)

### 3. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Lauren ~ 10:30 – 11:45 am**

Explore the parables Jesus tells on his journey to Jerusalem. Pastor Lauren leads this discussion-based group in a deep dive into the gospel of Luke. (This Bible Study is available using via **ZOOM** using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 200 491 556 No passcode required

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP ~ 6:30 – 7:00 PM**

Sign on to the same **ZOOM** link and phone-in option as our Wednesday classes **for conversation and fellowship**, with classes beginning at 7:00 pm. *There will be no Holden Evening Prayer during Lent.*

### **DAILY DEVOTIONS**

Lent is a 40-day season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus. Throughout the season, our Daily Digital Devotionals will focus on Lenten Micropractices. Through our *Muhlenberg Digital Devotionals Facebook Group* or **in your email inbox**, you'll find a new practice to guide you each day on your journey of preparation. Some practices can be done on the spot, some during the day, and others will take some time and/or prep work. Traditionally, there are three pillars of Lent: praying, fasting, and alms giving, which come to us from Matthew 6:1-18. Our micropractices rotate through these themes, along with additional practices that don't fit neatly in one of those categories ("more"). You're encouraged to share photos or reflections in our Facebook Group or on Social Media using #UnexpectedLent with how these Lenten Micropractices revealed *Unexpected* grace. Printed devotionals are available from the Connection Box or contact Linda Depoy to have a copy mailed to you.

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### **LINKS FOR LENTEN WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES:**

**Ash Wednesday via ZOOM:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 847 3141 6878

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study via ZOOM:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 200 491 556 No passcode required

**Wednesday Mid-Day Worship via YouTube:** (link changes weekly)

Ash Wednesday, 2/17 ~ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilRueByG7mE>

**Wednesday Night Fellowship/Classes via ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81226825160?pwd=RnRVdXJ4Rm9kNDIvTnAxemRKVHBFUT09>

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 812 2682 5160 Passcode: 212430

**Thursday Mini Recitals:** **Facebook** and **YouTube**

## THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

### SHROVE TUESDAY



This Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday. The word “shrove,” derived from shrive, refers to the confession of sins as a preparation for Lent, a usual practice in Europe in the Middle Ages. You may know this day as Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, or Pancake Day. The tradition of eating pancakes started when Pope St. Gregory prohibited Christians from eating all forms of meat and animal products during Lent around A.D. 600. He told St. Augustine of Canterbury, a founder of the Christian church in southern England, to enforce those same fasting rules in England. So Christians made pancakes to use up their supply of eggs, milk and butter in preparation for Lent. The practice spread and various cultures developed their own traditions, such as packzki in Poland and king cake in New Orleans. Celebrate this day in your own home by making pancakes for dinner or indulging in other sweet treats!

### WEDNESDAY MID-DAY WORSHIP

As a sign of our unity in Christ, Ecumenical leaders from around the Valley are leading a mid-day Lenten Worship each week beginning **THIS Wednesday, February 17, 12:15 pm**. Services will be about 20 minutes long, shared live on our [YouTube](#) page. These services will reflect the diversity of voices and traditions in our community that all call us to find strength in our unity in Christ. Please click [HERE](#) or use the link below to access this week’s service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLRueByG7mE>

## MINI RECITALS

Every **Thursday at 12:15 pm**, a live-streamed, 15-20 minute concert will be hosted by Elizabeth Williams. Eat your lunch to the sounds of beautiful music, live on Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

**2/18** - Elizabeth Williams, organ & piano: instrumental arrangements of spirituals honoring Black History Month, part 1

**2/25** - Cynthia Page, soprano; Elizabeth Williams, piano: vocal arrangements of spirituals honoring Black History Month, part 2

**3/4** - Alice Wightman and Elizabeth Williams: piano solos & duets of familiar hymn tunes

**3/11** - Linlin Uta, piano: classical masterpieces for solo piano

**3/18** - Elizabeth Williams, piano: "All Bach" program celebrating the birthday of J.S. Bach

**3/25** - Catherine Creasy, French horn; Elizabeth Williams, piano: sacred greats for horn and piano

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CREATION CARE TIP

Try to avoid unnecessary use of toxic household cleaners. Your household cleaning needs can largely be met with five simple ingredients: vinegar, soap, baking soda, borax, and ammonia. Various combinations of these simple substances can accomplish most household cleaning jobs cheaply and safely. Try the following recipe for an all purpose cleaner: 1 gallon hot water, 1/4 cup sudsy ammonia, 1/4 cup vinegar, 1 tablespoon baking soda. The solution is safe for all surfaces and can be rinsed away with water. Never mix ammonia and bleach; doing so produces an extremely toxic gas.

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL NEWS

Dear Muhlenberg,

Your Congregation Council met Saturday, February 6 for a Zoom retreat. Our retreat began with sharing where we see abundance in our lives and how the story of God's abundance will be told at Muhlenberg. Much time was spent in small groups reviewing the strategic plan developed last year just before the pandemic hit. In addition to making revisions to the Strategic Plan, we began to consider the staffing that will be needed to implement our goals.

Council members are full of energy and excitement and look forward to sharing the Strategic Plan with you in the months to come. We trust that the Holy Spirit is working among all of us to fulfill our mission: *Equipping all people to live out Christ's love.*

Blessings,

*Karen Thomsen*

Congregation Council President

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### COVID-19 VACCINE

#### Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen time and time again that avoiding in-person gatherings and wearing a mask are currently the best ways to "love your neighbor" as Christ commanded. Over the coming months, many of us will have the opportunity to heed Christ's call to "love yourself" by receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Visit the website below to sign up online for information about when a vaccine will be available to you, and also receive an email when it's time to register:

<https://vdh.jebbit.com/amkwk6m1?L=Owned+Web&JC=Vaccine>

If you qualify as a Category 1a or 1b vaccine recipient but don't have reliable internet access, contact Pastor Alex (540-309-2414) for assistance registering online.

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

### HABITAT FAITH BUILD

As you know, Muhlenberg, along with Community Mennonite, Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, and Shalom Mennonite are participating in the Faith Build of a Habitat for Humanity duplex on 658 and 660 Virginia Avenue. The foundation work is underway and it is exciting to see the progress as you drive past the site.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed monetarily to our Habitat Faith Build. \$740.00 was raised during the Advent alternative giving in December. Along with funds from two other Muhlenberg ministries, we have raised \$7,840.00 toward our \$10,000 faith promise for this build.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to contribute, you may do so by clicking [HERE](#) to visit our website. Tim Wessel has set up a tab on the giving page specifically for our Habitat Faith Build. You may also send your check to the church, designating *Habitat Faith Build*. Please feel free to contact Karen Thomsen ([kethomsen25@gmail.com](mailto:kethomsen25@gmail.com) or 540-421-4431) if you have any questions.

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

For details, contact Music Minister Elizabeth Williams ([williams@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:williams@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496).

### ADULT CHOIRS

Celebration Singers & Sanctuary Choir meet via Zoom every other **Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:00 pm:**

**February 16**

**March 2, 16 & 30 April 13 & 27**

### TWEENS AND TEENS

Meets **Tuesdays, 5:00 – 5:30 pm** via Zoom.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

For details, contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer (434-3496 or [bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org))

### JAMERS

Meet **TODAY (2/14), 12:30-1:30, Westover Park at Pavilion #2** on the hill. We will make blankets for our homeless brothers and sisters. Masks must be worn, and we will be social distancing.

**Please note: check the temperature, if it is below 40 degrees, we will not meet.**

### 7<sup>th</sup> DAY

All those in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 6, 9:00 – 1:00** so you can take part in 7<sup>th</sup> Day, the Virginia Synod Youth event for YOU. We will gather online for a one-day event featuring large group experiences with lots of singing and fun and Shepherd Group experiences with lots of new friends, games, conversation, storytelling, and faith sharing! To register, click [HERE](#). **Deadline for regular registration is Tuesday, February 16; the cost is \$25 per person.**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**February 15-21**

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting  
**6:30 pm** Congregation Council Mtg.
- Tue. Shrove Tuesday**
- Wed. Ash Wednesday**  
**7:30 am** Worship via [ZOOM](#)  
**10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study via [ZOOM](#)  
**12:15 pm** Ecumenical Worship, click [HERE](#)  
**7:00 pm** Worship via [ZOOM](#)
- Thu. 12:15 pm** Lenten Mini Recital via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun. First Sunday in Lent**  
[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)  
**8:30 am** Communion Service  
**9:00 am** “Coffee Hour” begins  
**8:30 am** Communion Service  
**9:00 am** “Coffee Hour” begins  
**9:30 am** K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class  
**9:30 am** 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class  
**9:30 am** Faith Lens Class  
**9:30 am** 40-Day Journey Class  
**11:00 am** Service Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

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 Parish Administrator Linda Depoy:*

[depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496](mailto:depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496)

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