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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 18, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

JOIN MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH DURING LENT FOR A R(EVOL)UTION!



LENT is a time of reflection and self-examination during the 40 days before Easter. We are invited to engage in faith practices like prayer, fasting, giving, and acts of love, as we walk through the mystery of Jesus' journey from death to life. This year, we'll be guided on that journey by the gospel of Mark. We'll see how God is on the loose, breaking into our world. Through Jesus, God is overthrowing the established order and bringing a fundamental change to the way we live and interact with one another, with the love of Christ at the center. It's a R(EVOL)UTION!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

SUNDAY MORNINGS, we'll examine a different way each week that God is bringing about change in our world. These texts will guide us:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| TODAY (2/18) | Mark 10:17-31 | From Getting to Giving |
| February 25 | Mark 10:32-52 | From Strength to Service |
| March 3 | Mark 12:1-17 | From Power to Justice |
| March 10 | Mark 12:28-44 | From Cheap Honor to Costly Love |
| March 17 | Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 | From Stability to Transformation |

~ continued on page 3~

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

OFFERING

8:30 *Agnus Dei Canon* D. Moore
Celebration Singers

11:00 *Jesus, in the Dying Woes* arr. L. Sateren
Sanctuary Choir

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle
11:00 ~ Meg Wightman

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Larry Blade
11:00 ~ Dave Barnes

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Tassie Pippert
11:00 ~

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Tom Pippert
11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

USHERS

8:30 ~ Karen Thomsen, Susan Gallaher
11:00 ~ Pam Bergey, Chelsea Aldrich

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle, Larry Blade,
Bill Whitmire, Gus Kagey
11:00 ~ Robert & Linda Alley, Dave Barnes,
Meg Wightman

MUSICIANS

Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister
Judith Ofcarcik, Organist
Celebration Singers (8:30)
Sanctuary Choir (11:00)

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Tuesdays, 5:30 pm

We will gather for dinner **THIS Tuesday**, here in the Campus Room (downstairs). For more information, contact Pastor Alex (540-309-2414 or zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org).

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Midday Lenten Recitals begin this week. See pages 1 and 3 - 6 for details about all our Lenten worship and activities. Copies of the Lenten newsletter are available at the Connection Center.

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10:30 am

Led by Pastor Lauren, this study gathers each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons. Meets via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>
Or by phone ...DIAL IN – **301-715-8592** and enter Meeting ID / Passcode: **200491556#**

COMFORT MAKERS

Thursdays, 8:00 am – 12 noon

Join us **Thursdays in Wayland Hall**. For more information, contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085).

LET'S LUNCH TOGETHER

Friday (2/23), 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 11:30 - 1:30 and serves a delicious 3-course meal for just \$12.50. **We will meet at OCP (17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg) at 11:30 am Friday (2/23)**. Questions or need a ride? Call or text Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431).

JOIN MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH DURING LENT FOR A R(EVOL)UTION! (CONTINUED)

WHY GROUPS BEGIN TODAY/THIS WEEK!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, we'll gather in small groups to further explore how God is bringing about change in us. Last year, we called our small groups *Why Groups*, and we'll continue to use that name this year. But instead of the primary question being *Why?* it will be *How?*. How is God at work in the world, and how is God calling each of us to be a part of it?

The planned groups are listed below. If you can't find one that works for your schedule, get in touch with Pastor Lauren and she'll help you organize a group at a time that works for you!

You can sign up for a Why Group at <http://tinyurl.com/mlclent2024>, or by calling the church office. This five-week small group experience might just revolutionize the way you think about your faith—join in the conversation!

| Time | Place | Convener | Notes | Dates |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 12:30 pm | Muhlenberg Gathering Area | Kelly Zuber | Bring a bag lunch with you | Feb 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17 |
| Sunday 4:00 pm | TBD | TBD | This one's in the works! Contact Pr. Lauren if you'd like to co-lead this group. | Feb 18, 25 March 3, 10, 17 |
| Wednesday 6:00 pm* | Muhlenberg Nielsen Room | Kathy Thompson | Light soup supper provided | Feb 21, 28 March 6, 13, 20 |
| Thursdays 9:00 am | Mr. J's – S. High Street | Mark Warner Dave Barnes | | Feb 22, 29 March 7, 14, 21 |
| Friday 12 Noon | 2/23 Clementine Café 3/1 Our Community Place 3/8 Indian American Café 3/15 Capitol Waffle Shop 3/22 Capital Ale House | Pastor Lauren Eanes | We'll visit a new restaurant each week (Everyone will buy their own lunch) | Feb 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22 |
| Saturday 10:30 am | Muhlenberg Nursery & Gathering Area | Lauren Fuller | For parents and their kids | Feb 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23 |

**If you'd prefer to meet in a slightly larger group, or you're unable to make a 5-week commitment, consider attending the Wednesday evening group! This group will be for any and all who are available to come, whether you come one week or all five. The nursery will be available Wednesday nights until 8 pm for Why Group conversation and those that may want to fellowship further after the meal.*

MUSIC DURING LENT

A “joyful noise” will be heard throughout the Lenten season with these wonderful musical programs for children and adults alike. For more information about these events during Lent, contact Interim Music Minister Linlin Uta (uta@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

LENTEN MIDDAY RECITALS BEGIN THIS THURSDAY – Thursdays in Lent, 12:00 noon

Our Music Ministry is pleased to offer a series of five half-hour recitals each Thursday at 12:00 noon during the Lenten season. Now in its 15th year, these 30-minute musical moments have been a spiritual blessing to all, both to the listener and performer. We are excited to offer an array of varied talents this season:

- **THIS Thursday (2/22), Dr. W. Bryce Hayes** ~ Dr. Hayes maintains an active career as a conductor, teacher, church musician, pianist, accompanist, and singer. He will perform a wide variety of Broadway and contemporary vocal and piano music.
- **February 29, Michael Richardson, Baritone** ~ A DMA candidate at JMU will perform classical and sacred vocal music.
- **March 7, Dr. Steven Brancalone, pianist** ~ Recent graduate from JMU, Dr. Brancalone will perform classical piano works.
- **March 14, Elizabeth Williams, organist** ~ Our beloved former Music Minister will perform organ music.
- **March 21, Linlin Uta, pianist** ~ Our interim Music Minister, DMA candidate at JMU, will perform piano works from the Romantic period.

These amazing mid-day recitals have always been performed free of charge and open to all. We will continue to do so, however, there will be an opportunity to offer a monetary donation at each recital to help support the Music Ministry here at Muhlenberg. Recitals will also be live-streamed via Facebook and YouTube.

CHERUB CHOIR AND YOUTH ENSEMBLE

Cherub Choir and Youth Ensemble will **begin rehearsing TODAY (2/18)**, immediately following the 11:00 am service, and continuing each Sunday through March 24. Both groups will sing and play in worship on Sunday, March 17 (11:00 am service only) and on Easter Sunday, March 31 (11:00 am service only). Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

- Rachel Peters will lead the **Cherub Choir** rehearsals (ages 4 - grade 2) held in the choir chancel in the Sanctuary. They will rehearse from 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm.
- Linlin Uta will lead the **Youth Ensemble** (grade 3 and above) and will meet in the Music Room. They will rehearse from 12:15 pm – 1:10 pm. Youth will not rehearse February 25.



LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH 2024 LENTEN PROJECT

During Lent, Local & Global Outreach is coordinating a hands-on project for our congregation on behalf of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). They are holding a drive to supply Personal Care Kits, one of their most requested items, to those in need. You are invited to share your LOVE (EVOL) with our neighbors around the world.

Starting **TODAY (2/18)**, we will ask for their suggested items during these Lenten five weeks in order to make as many complete kits as we can at wrap-up. There will be a donation box in the Gathering Area where you may donate each week or all at once if that's easier for you. The following items, weeks 1 -5, make one complete kit.

- **Week 1 – Today (2/18):** One new light-weight (not fluffy as thin dry quicker in the sun), dark-colored towel (between 20"x40" and 27"x52").
- **Week 2 – Sunday, Feb. 25:** Two or three bath-sized bars of soap (in original wrapping).
- **Week 3 – Sunday, Mar. 3:** One adult toothbrush (in original packaging).
- **Week 4 – Sunday, Mar. 10:** One sturdy comb (remove packaging).
- **Week 5 – Sunday, Mar. 17:** One metal nail clippers (remove packaging).

LWR is asking for these new, undecorated items specifically as they want to ensure that all the kits are identical for all.

We participated in a similar project for LWR in 2020 with great success; let's see if we can gather even more this year! If you have any questions, you can email Vicki Heitsch (vaah@earthlink.net).

EASTER FLOWERS ~ LILIES, HYDRANGEAS & HYACINTHS

The tradition of Easter Lilies in the church are a beautiful way to remember and honor loved ones. We have added some additional, seasonal color to the mix by offering **Easter Lilies, Hydrangeas, and Hyacinths**. The cost per plant is \$25, with a limited number of plants available. To reserve your Easter flowers, do the following:

- Sign up online (<https://forms.gle/toT2dg8xtn8ab9HGA>), at the Connection Center, or call Louise Layman (540-442-1524).
- Pay for Easter Flowers (*write your flower preference on the memo line*). Place your check in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office (281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg 22801). Payments reserve flowers.



Flowers may be picked up Easter Sunday after the 11:00 am service. **Sign up deadline is Sunday, March 17** (no additional flowers will be ordered after that date).

HOLY WEEK

The Triduum (The Three Days) is the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with him to resurrection life. The Three Days is one liturgy, extending from Thursday evening through the Easter Vigil. You are invited to conform your life to the worship rhythms of the church on these three days:

Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Palm Sunday is focused on Jesus' willingness to upset the status quo of the empire's kingdom, and subvert the powers and principalities with a new revolution. This r(evol)ution of love transforms the world!

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00 pm

We heed Christ's commandment to love one another as we wash each other's feet and share the meal he instituted.

Good Friday, March 29, Ecumenical Walk, 12 noon and Worship, 7:00 pm

Annual Harrisonburg downtown ecumenical prayer walk, 12 noon – 1:00 pm. We hear the passion of Christ from the Shenandoah Valley Biblical Storytellers, the narrative of Jesus crucified and reigning from the cross.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30, 8:00 pm

This is the high point of the church's year, the night, the very night, the Passover of Christ from death to life. This year's Vigil will be a simplified version of the traditional liturgy. We'll begin with the lighting of the new fire, and process into the sanctuary for the reading of the Word. 16 readers will share with us the entirety of the Gospel of Mark, for a truly epic experience of the Gospel story. We'll then gather around the communion table to celebrate the first resurrection meal. Following the service, we'll extend the celebration of Easter with food and fellowship.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

The ultimate r(evol)ution of love came about through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! On Easter Sunday, in word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love.

Join us for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** inside the MAC at 9:45. In addition to the hunt there will be an opportunity to have a family picture taken and printed, games, and activities for kids of all ages.

Visit our Lenten Webpage for links and our Holy Week schedule:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2024

MUHLENBERG NEWS

THE WELLSPRING PODCAST



All six episodes of our recent **Wellspring Podcast**, which broke down the book [Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others](#) by Laura van

Dernoot Lipsky, are available at muhlenberglutheran.org/wellspringpodcast or wherever you access Podcasts! The series will remain available online so you can access these great conversations whenever you'd like. Many thanks to our amazing guest hosts: Ashley Saunders, Kristee Trumbo, Pastor Micah Krey, Karen Barnes, and Mark Warner.

CREATION CARE TIP

You can have a huge impact on the environment by recycling. If everyone in the US took a few minutes a week to separate their plastic, paper, and aluminum products from the regular trash, the amount of waste sent to the landfills would be reduced by 75%.



MUHLENBERG CUB SCOUT PACK

Muhlenberg is considering chartering a Cub Scout pack in our community and needs volunteers to be a part of that effort, especially someone to be a dedicated Chartered Organization Representative (COR). This position is the link between the pack and the church. They are a part of the unit's key-3 leadership team that includes the COR, the pack committee chair and the Cubmaster. The COR works with the unit to help them succeed and ensure the pack has adult volunteers that uphold the values of both organizations.

The position also serves as the voice of Muhlenberg within the local council. Chartered organizations make up the body of Virginia Headwaters Council, and the COR is the voting representative.

If you have any questions about the role or are interested in taking it on (or any other leadership role in the pack), please reach out to Sarah Sunde (sunnysunde@gmail.com) or Matt Phillippi (matt.phillippi@virginiaheadwaters.org).

QUILT: COLLECTING SIGNATURES

Don't Miss the Chance to Sign A Square for the Anniversary Quilt

We have more than 200 quilt squares signed by Muhlenberg members and staff. Our goal is 284 squares for our 175th anniversary quilt, and we're excited to be close to filling it up. We want to make sure all our members, regular visitors, digital worshipers, and staff are represented on this very special "signature" quilt. We have signatures from some of our most senior homebound members all the way to our youngest worshipers just learning to write their names. Kelly Zuber will be in the Gathering Area during the Faith Formation hour and after the 11:00 service with all the quilt signing supplies, so be sure to stop by so every member of your family can sign a square.

PATCHWORK PANTRY



The Patchwork Pantry collection total for February is 60 pounds. Thank you for your continued generosity to support those in need.

COMFORT MAKERS NEWS

MUHLENBERG COMFORT MAKERS RECOGNIZED

The American Red Cross recognized our Comfort Makers this week for “donating beautiful quilts for patients at Veterans’ Hospitals and Care Centers in Virginia.” (see note and certificate below) Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Comfort Makers!

*Thank You for the
Warmth and Comfort
you provided for
our active and retired
Service members*

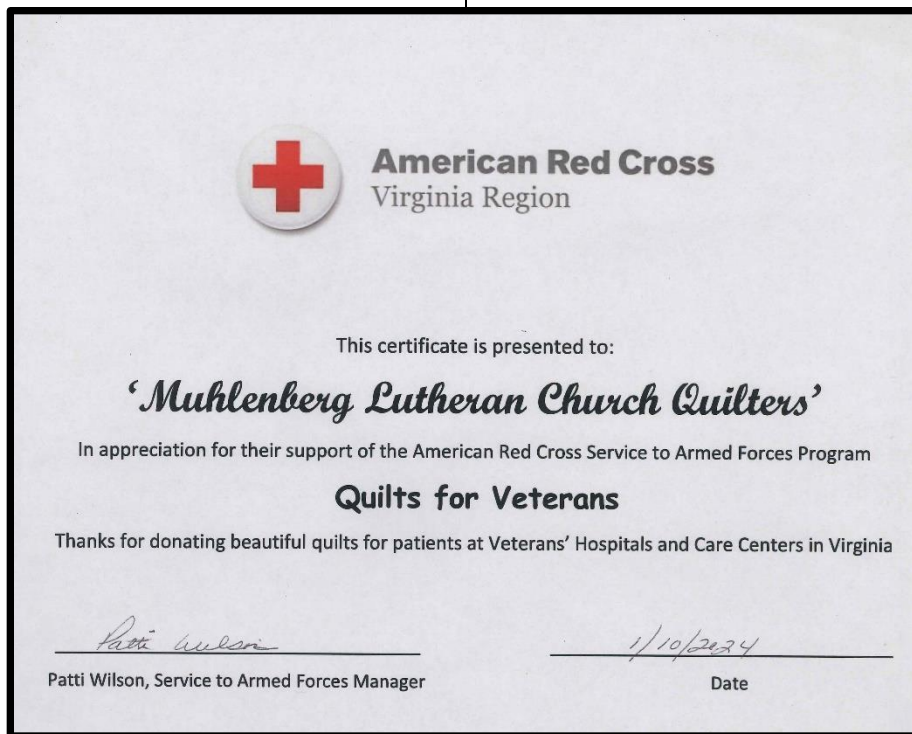
FAITH FORMATION NEWS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

August 5 - 9

Our kids can be menders of the universe! But, you think, they’re just kids!



How can they be menders of the whole universe? At Operation Restoration, they will practice being universe menders, because that’s exactly how God made all of us. Your kids have been given the power to feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest—essential tools to help repair all that has gone wrong in the world. They’ll learn more about their mending powers! Mark your calendar to join us August 5 – 9 for this great adventure!



VICPP News

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY MEETING



On January 17, Ramona Sanders and Laura Douglass attended the 2024 *Day for All People* and shared this report...

We gathered for discussion and advocacy on behalf of Virginia's people, its institutions and the environment. We came as people from many traditions: Humanist, Jew, Christian, Muslim, Bahai, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh. We advocated for people on the margins of our community, on issues like living wages, access to paid sick days, affordable housing, unconscious bias training, and incarceration, as well as other issues of social and environmental justice. Some legislators agreed with us; others may not have. We shared from our hearts what we believe is best for our brothers and sisters and for the Commonwealth. We prayed for all our legislators and thanked them for their service with thank you notes. As we return home to our houses of worship, schools, and communities, we pledge to encourage others to join our efforts in continuing our advocacy. We realize that our work is not finished. The work of changing hearts and minds never ends, and it will always be the right time to do the right thing. We realize that the issues on which we are working may not be resolved this legislative session; still, we know that our work here matters. May our words and work reflect the highest aspirations of our faiths and resonate in the hearts of our legislators who we met, that they may pass good and just laws for all Virginians.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BACH AROUND THE CLOCK

March 16, Christ Lutheran Church

Bach Around the Clock, a twelve-hour extravaganza of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach will be held March 16, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church (2807 N. Augusta Street, Staunton).



This daylong free program is presented in partnership with the Heifetz International Music Institute. Superb performers will play and sing the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, who wrote intricate string compositions, hundreds of organ and keyboard works, and over 300 cantatas. The hourly schedule as well as a digital program will be posted at www.heifetzinstitute.org/event/bach-around-the-clock-2024-free/.

Donations are encouraged at the event, or potential patrons may contribute until March 9 by contacting Dr. Paul Weber at paul.weber49@gmail.com. For further information call (828) 244-5264. Come and enjoy the elegant music of Bach in Christ Lutheran Church's acoustically vibrant space!

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

YOUTH NEWS

WINTER CELEBRATION

Our high school youth and adults had an amazing time at Winter Celebration with friends from all over the Virginia Synod! It was a powerful and joyful weekend, gathered around the theme - "Weights of the World." We give thanks to our own Annika Harmison who served on the event Planning Group! Visit our [Facebook](#) page for more photos and details.



CONFIRMATION CORNER

Confirmation isn't just for middle schoolers! All the baptized who have been confirmed are called to grow in faith and affirm God's promises in their life. You can support the hard work of our middle school students by reflecting on these Confirmation Corner thoughts each week. Here's a confirmation prompt for this week:

From What Should We Expect When We Read the Bible? by Dr. Darrell Jodock:

We should also not expect to have every question about God answered. For Luther, God remains hidden even as God's will for us is revealed. What God has revealed to us in Jesus the Christ is surprising enough and troubling enough so that we need to be cautious about our expectations. From the Bible we learn about God's grace and mercy and God's will for a restored world, but we do not have all our questions answered. Even with Christ and even with the Bible, we still see through a glass dimly (see 1 Cor. 13:12).

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We need worship servants: lectors, ushers, communion assistants, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center **for March, including Holy Week services.** Signing up really helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or **contact Kathy Thompson** (thompskb@jmu.edu or 540-578-4830). If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Sermons > Serve in Worship

CELEBRATION CORNER

We had a great time at our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee, volunteers, and staff who worked hard to serve up delicious meals for Second Home and Muhlenberg.



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent in-person and online viewership:

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 2/4 | 8:30 Holy Communion | 55 |
| | 11:00 Holy Communion | 93 |
| | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 35 |
| | Total Views this Week | 180 |
| | Hours Viewed this Week | 53.7 |
| 2/11 | 8:30 Holy Communion | 49 |
| | 11:00 Holy Communion | 102 |
| | 11:00 Wellstream Worshippers..... | 49 |

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

All income and expenses have been tallied and accounted for in 2023. In closing the books, there was a significant increase in gifts and offerings compared to 2022. Thank you for believing in God's mission at Muhlenberg and generously sharing your financial resources. Expenses also increased and outpaced income. Despite all of our efforts in the final days of December, we are ending the year with a large deficit and will need to look to our reserve funds. *Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 2023

| | 2023 YTD Actual | 2023 YTD Budgeted | 2022 YTD Actual |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Gifts & Offerings | \$585,477 | \$634,000 | \$516,235 |
| Total Income | \$774,951 | \$824,976 | \$658,115 |
| Total Expenses | \$811,286 | \$825,590 | \$655,300 |
| Excess Income/(Deficit) | \$(36,335) | \$(614) | \$2,815 |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Giving in support of our Spending Plan | \$ 7,953.38 |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds | \$ 920.00 |
| Total Giving | \$ 8,873.38 |

January Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$456

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

February 19 - 25, 2024

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

| | | |
|------|------------------------------|--|
| Mon | 7:00 pm | Congregation Council Meeting |
| Tues | 6:00 pm | Celebration Singers |
| | 7:00 pm | Gloria Dei Ringers |
| Wed | 10:30 am | Bible Study via Zoom |
| | 6:00 pm | Sanctuary Choir |
| Thu | 8:00 am | Comfort Makers |
| | 12 noon | Lenten Midday Recital |
| Fri | 11:30 am | Our Community Place Lunch |
| Sun | Second Sunday in Lent | |
| | 8:30 am | Holy Communion in person |
| | 9:45 am | Christian Formation in person & via Zoom |
| | 11:00 am | Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube |
| | 12:15 pm | Cherub Choir Rehearsal |



Each week, we will lift up in prayer five households from our congregation. Our prayer families for this week are:

*Tom, Kristina, Jefferson, James
and Bryson Gladin*

Kelly, David, Kylie Jo and Parker Good

John and Sharon Graham

Joe and Kay Grandstaff

Oris Griffin

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)