



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

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February 21, 2021 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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 believe 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.

CONNECTION BOX

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

TODAY 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.

See pages 4-6 for some of the ways you can engage in our Lenten Journey this year, with more information to be found on our website:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021

Ctrl + Click below for a video from the Pastors and staff about our Lenten schedule!



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 - 3rd Grade Class
 9:30 – 10:00 4th - 5th 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:

2/7	8:30 Communion	20
	11:00 Total Live Views	110
	Total Views this Week	354
	Hours Viewed this Week	121.3
2/14	8:30 Communion	20
	11:00 Total Live Views	105
	4:00 Parking Lot Service	27

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 2021			
	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
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$47,948)	(\$29,189)	(\$34,863)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 13,497.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 4,430.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 17,927.00

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.

THIS WEEK

See pages 4-6 for Lenten highlights, or visit our website for details:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021

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 **Wednesday, 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=QYY4dqELOjo>

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.

2/25 - 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

Because the world can change a lot in 40 days. Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year join with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God's Creation throughout this season. May we be more mindful of the ways our daily habits impact both our common home and all those with whom we share it. On behalf of future generations and all living in poverty — those most harmed by our damaged climate — may we answer God's call to be faithful stewards, speaking out for Creation care.

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

LENT AT MUHLENBERG



LENT 2021: *UNEXPECTED*

Below are some ways to engage in our Lenten Journey; more information can be found at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021. Click on the links provided for each activity, or see the next page for links to all our Lenten worship and activities.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Join your friends **beginning THIS Wednesday, 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.

Interested in both options? Join Prayer and Contemplative Practices first. You will be given the option to join the Book Study (already in progress) at 7:30.

~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. Join via [ZOOM](#) or use the phone-in option:

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.

LINKS FOR LENTEN WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES:

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)

Wednesday, 2/24 ~ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYY4dqELOjo>

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](#)

WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPERS AT HOME

Each week, we'll share favorite soup recipes from a fellow Muhlenberger that you can make at home. Recipes are available in *The Chimes*, from our [Facebook](#) page, or delivered to your inbox (make sure you're signed up for our email list — the form is on our [website](#)).

CORN AND CRAB CHOWDER

Submitted by Tassie Pippert

6 slices bacon, chopped
½ cup diced celery (approximately 2 ribs)
½ green bell pepper, diced
½ red bell pepper, diced
1 medium onion, diced
1 jalapeno, seeded and diced
¼ cup flour
1 quart strong chicken stock
10 ounces frozen corn, thawed
1 lb. freshly picked crab
1 cup heavy cream
½ to ¾ t. salt
½ teaspoon Old Bay seasoning, optional
Freshly ground black pepper
Fresh minced parsley



In a stock pot or Dutch oven sauté the bacon to render the fat. When bacon is crisp, remove the pieces from the pan and add the diced peppers and onions to the drippings. Sauté until the vegetables are beginning to soften. Add the flour and cook stirring frequently until the flour is cooked through. Slowly add the chicken stock. Blend well and simmer for 5 minutes. Add the corn to the pot. Cook for 5 to 10 minutes then add the crab, heavy cream, and salt. If desired, add the Old Bay seasoning. Add pepper and additional salt if needed. Warm through and serve. Garnish with bacon and minced parsley. Serves 4 to 6.

HERBED BUTTERNUT SQUASH-APPLE SOUP

Submitted by Bill Wightman

1 ½ quarts of chicken stock
2 lbs of butternut squash, peeled and seeded and cut into 2-inch pieces
2 granny smith apples, cored and cut into 2-inch pieces
1 large onion, finely chopped
2 shallots, finely chopped
1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary (or ½ teaspoon dry)
2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme (or 1 teaspoon dry)
½ cup of half-and-half
½ teaspoon of salt
¼ teaspoon of ground black pepper
Garnish: ½ cup of sour cream, fresh rosemary and thyme leaves

In a 6-quart enamel or stainless-steel casserole, heat chicken stock until simmering. Add squash, apples, onion, shallots, and herbs. Simmer, covered, for 30 mins or until vegetables are soft and tender. Puree in a food processor fitted with a steel blade or in a blender. Return mixture to pan and add half-and-half. Add salt and pepper and simmer for 5 minutes. Taste for seasoning. Ladle into soup bowls and garnish with spoonfuls of sour cream and rosemary and thyme leaves.



From Diane Rossen Worthington's The Cuisine of California

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

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

ADULT CHOIRS

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

March 2, 16 & 30 April 13 & 27

TWEENS AND TEENS

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

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.

REMINDERS

NEW NICHEs AVAILABLE

An additional 24 Columbarium niches have been added to the Caring Corner. The Property Committee has made upgrades to this room with new lighting, including eternal spotlights shining on the niches. If you are interested in a niche or want additional information, please contact Bill Compton (437-8933 or compton1080@gmail.com).

COMMUNICATING WITH MEMBERS WITHOUT ONLINE ACCESS

Members of the congregation who cannot read *The Chimes* online can request a copy be mailed to them weekly. If you know a member without online access, contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org).

CONTACT INFORMATION

With our ever-changing lifestyles, it's sometimes difficult to be sure everyone has your correct contact information. Have you recently ...



- **moved?**
- **cancelled your home phone?**
- **changed your cell phone number?**
- **changed your home/work email address?**

If so, please be sure we have your updated information by contacting Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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

STORIES & ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE PreK – 5th Grade Students

Check out Muhlenberg's website for stories and activities you can download and print.

7TH DAY

5th and 6th graders, mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 6, 9:00 – 1:00** to take part in *7th 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! *If you haven't registered and would like to attend, please contact Diane Bayer (804-363-8523).*

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

✚ With great sadness, we share the news of Eleanor Jean Snider's death (February 14). We keep in our prayers her husband Leo and daughters, Lisa and Janie. A private family burial took place this past Wednesday with Pastor Alex officiating.

✚ Thank you for the cards, calls and food in celebration of my 90th birthday. It was a really nice day! *Doris Sipe*

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

February 22-28

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
- Tue. 5:00 pm** Tweens and Teens
- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study
via [ZOOM](#)
12:15 pm Ecumenical Worship,
click [HERE](#)
- Wednesdays in Lent via ZOOM**
6:30 pm Fellowship
7:00 pm Classes
- Thu. 12:15 pm** Lenten Mini Recital
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun. Second 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 – 3rd Grade Class
9:30 am 4th - 5th 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:*

(depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).