



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 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

YOUTH MINISTRY AT MUHLENBERG

As you have heard in recent weeks, Congregation Council has been working diligently to update and implement our Strategic Plan. As part of that plan, Council has examined the staffing needs to accomplish our spiritual development goals. One very important component of the plan is to uplift our focus and attention on youth ministry.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hiring a part-time Youth Minister. This person will provide dynamic leadership and oversight for youth ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Youth Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in young people grades 6 - 12 and their families.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

Please lift up our search in your prayers.

We are also looking for a Finance Manager.

See page 3 for details.

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:

2/14	8:30 Communion	20
	11:00 Total Live Views	105
	Total Views this Week	405
	Hours Viewed this Week	147.2
2/17	7:30 am Ash Wednesday	12
	7:00 pm Ash Wednesday	52
2/21	8:30 Communion	20
	11:00 Total Live Views	108

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 \$ 9,847.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 13,450.00
Total Giving for the Week \$ 23,297.00

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

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets TOMORROW (3/1), 7:00 pm via [ZOOM](#). Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us! For details, contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88053197319?pwd=UFVVeVAzdXhTSDgxUXFBV3gzemhUZz09>

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 and available for viewing later. 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=j05PQnqmQe0>

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.

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

FINANCE MANAGER NEEDED

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, may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions on our website 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.

LENT ACTIVITY BAGS

For All Ages

If you weren't able to attend the parking lot service to pick up a Lent bag, it isn't too late to get one for use in your Lenten journey. Contact Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 804-363-8523) and she will put one in the Connection Box for you to pick up.

CREATION CARE TIP

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: (rsanders97@verizon.net or 433-1165)



We can see through the biodiversity of all God's creation that God loves diversity. God loves diversity among people, too. Virtually connect with someone who differs from your usual social bubble. Read Ephesians 2:11-22.

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 each **Wednesday through March 24** for connection and formation. We invite you to make a 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.

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)

3/3 ~ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j05PQnqmQe0>

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](#)).

CHICKEN CORN TORTILLA SOUP

Submitted by Kristy Peifer

1 ½ lbs. of boneless, skinless chicken breasts
4 cups of water
½ cup chopped onion
2 cloves minced garlic
1 tablespoon. canola oil
4 cups of chicken broth
2 cups or 16 oz. white corn (fresh, canned or frozen)
1 (10 oz.) can diced tomatoes with green chilies
Corn tortilla chips (I like to use blue corn chips)
1 (8 oz) package of jalapeno cheddar cheese or pepper jack cheese – shredded

In saucepan, combine whole chicken breasts and water. Bring to a gentle simmer and cook until chicken is done (approx. 20 – 25 minutes).

In medium skillet over medium heat, combine onion, garlic, and oil. Sauté until onions are tender. Set mixture aside. Transfer cooked chicken to a plate to cool.

Strain the cooking liquids into another saucepan. Add chicken broth to the cooking liquid and bring to a simmer. Add corn and cook for 5 minutes. Add tomatoes and reserved onion mixture and cook until heated through.

Shred cooked chicken. Place portion of chicken into a serving bowl. Top the chicken with broken tortilla chips. Ladle hot soup mixture over the chicken and tortillas. Garnish with shredded cheese. Additional optional toppings: sour cream, avocado, cilantro. Makes 8 servings.

POTATO SOUP

Submitted by Margie Miller

1 tablespoon chopped onion
2 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon celery salt
⅛ teaspoon pepper
1 cup mashed or cubed boiled potatoes
2 cups milk (heated)

Sauté onion gently in butter. Add salt, celery salt, pepper, and potatoes. Stir in hot milk. Simmer slowly for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

HABITAT FAITH BUILD

Meet Our Partner Families

The Tomelso Family: Gubsa and Rahawa have five children—the 3 oldest are girls and the two youngest are boys. The children range in age from 17 to 6 months old. They came to the United States from Eritrea and Ethiopia. Gubsa works at George's in Harrisonburg.

Ngeleka Kapiamba Family: Charly and Nina came to the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and they both work at George's in Harrisonburg. They have three girls and one boy ages 15 to 4.

Both families have been diligently working to earn the sweat equity hours required by Habitat for Humanity. This includes attending classes, taking part in other groundbreaking and dedications, and doing physical work on their own lot preparation and other construction sites.

Faith Build Blessing, afternoon of March 21

At this event we will have an opportunity to write blessings on framing boards of the new home. These messages can be written directly on the boards or on paper that will be stapled to them. There will also be an opportunity to write messages on cards or paper to give to the families the day the homes are dedicated. Due to Covid restrictions, we need to know how many members would like to attend the Blessing in person so time slots can be allotted. Please contact me by March 7 if you want to represent Muhlenberg in person on March 21. Blessing messages can be written and dropped off at the Parking Lot service on March 14 or placed in the envelope in the Connection Box.

Karen Thomsen

kethomsen25@gmail.com or 540-421-4431

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE (LDR)

Beginning February 14, a polar vortex descended over the United States. Subfreezing temperatures and heavy snow swept across the country, impacting millions of people. The harsh conditions severely impacted Southern states, such as Texas, which lack the infrastructure to handle freezing temperatures and record-setting snow and ice. This has led to power, food and water shortages throughout the region. At its peak, 4.5 million homes and businesses in Texas were without power. With bursting pipes and broken water systems, around 10 million Texans are facing water disruptions. As temperatures rise, melting ice and snow are expected to cause more water damage.

100% of your gifts given to LDR go directly to aid in disaster relief. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** www.elca.org.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time).
- **Mail:** make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response, designate *US Severe Storms* and send to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering:** make checks payable to Muhlenberg; designate *Lutheran Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent Financial members can direct their Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com Disaster Response for details.

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.

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).*

CONNECTION BOX

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 1 - 7

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Eldercare Support Group via [ZOOM](#)
- Tue. 5:00 pm** Tweens and Teens
7:00 pm Adult Choirs
- 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. Third 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:*

(depay@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

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