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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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March 3, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

PLAN FOR PASTOR ALEX'S PARENTAL LEAVE

We celebrate with Pastor Alex and his wife Renna as the birth of their first child approaches!

Baby Zuber is due to arrive the first week of March, but we know that babies arrive on their own schedule. This means Pastor Alex's parental leave could begin any time in the next few weeks! His leave begins on the day of the baby's birth and will continue for 12 weeks.

We are pleased to announce that during Pastor Alex's leave, **Kathy Thompson will be serving as our Interim Worship and Care Assistant.** This is a 10-hour a week position, focused on pastoral care and worship support. Kathy and Pastor Lauren will work closely together to ensure these areas of ministry remain strong.

Faithful, gifted volunteer leaders have stepped up to oversee other areas of Pastor Alex's responsibilities. Please don't hesitate to reach out to these coordinators if you have questions or would like to get more involved in these ministry areas, either on a temporary or long-term basis. The church office can help connect you with these leaders; simply call 540-434-3496 or email info@muhlenberglutheran.org.

Area of Ministry

Middle School Youth

Senior High Youth

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Young Adults

Congregation Coordinators

Rachel Peters

Gibsons, Moyers, Kolodinskys

Haley Tabor and Sarah Orem

Jenna Guenther

Staff Liaison

Pastor Lauren

Pastor Lauren

Ashley Saunders

Pastor Lauren

We pray for a safe delivery for Baby Zuber and many blessings on Pastor Alex's and Renna's growing family. And we look forward to welcoming Pastor Alex back in late May/early June!

~ What's the Buzz? continued on page 8 ~

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

OFFERTORY

8:30 *He Traded Glory* Words/Music M. Patterson

11:00 *Wondrous Love* Traditional Southern Folk Hymn
(arr. P. Christiansen)

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle

11:00 ~ Cheryl Hoak

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Linda Morrison

11:00 ~ Pam Bergey

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Kim Fawley

11:00 ~ Kathy Thompson

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Tom Pippert

11:00 ~ Todd Hedinger

USHERS

8:30 ~ Karen Thomsen, Susan Gallaher

11:00 ~ Sue Totty, Olivia Rishell

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Linda Morrison, Jim Doyle,
Kathy Thompson, Bill Whitmire

11:00 ~ Pam Bergey, John Mulder,
Cheryl Hoak, Greta Willis

MUSICIANS

Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister

Judith Ofcarcik, Organist

Celebration Singers (8:30)

Sanctuary Choir (11:00)

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG



HISTORY ON DISPLAY

Step back in time this morning in our Gathering Area! Visit our “Mini Museum” to encounter artifacts from our past. Muhlenberg built their first church building on the corner of North Main Street and Wolfe Street in 1851, across the street from Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. It was a small, wood-framed structure. During the Civil War, the building was used as a hospital and barracks for wounded troops.

The original wood-framed structure was replaced with a larger, brick structure in 1889. That building still stands and is used for retail. The steeple and front façade have been removed and replaced with a store front, but from the back and side along Wolfe Street, it is still recognizable as a church building.

We don't have many historic documents or relics to display from the first church building, but **TODAY** in the Gathering Area there is an exhibit of items from the brick structure that replaced the first wood-framed building.

The items on display include a model of the brick church building that was made by long-time member Bob Hart. There are also photos of the exterior and interior of that structure. Additionally on display is the lectern that was used in that building and a pulpit Bible from the 1920's. And on permanent display in the Gathering Area is the church bell from the brick structure.

In the first half of the 20th century, Muhlenberg experienced substantial growth, as

demonstrated by photos of the choir from 1928, the Fifth Annual Vacation Bible School from 1935 with seven teachers and 53 pupils, a Luther League (youth group) Easter Breakfast from 1946, and Vacation Bible School from 1947 and 1949.

Mark Byerly will be available to answer any questions about the display between services today. We give thanks to the 175th Anniversary Committee for all their work to provide historic information throughout the year.

The 175th Anniversary Committee: *David Barnes, Mark Byerly, Terry Caywood, Louise Layman, Christian Perritt, Tassie Pippert, Kim Shipe, Mary Elizabeth Skinner, Kelly Zuber, Pastor Lauren Eanes, Pastor Alex Zuber*

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 using texts from the Gospel of Mark (see below). 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!

TODAY Mark 12:1-17 From Power to Justice

3/10 Mark 12:28-44

From Cheap Honor to Costly Love

3/17 Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

From Stability to Transformation

YOUTH AT 7TH DAY

Five of Muhlenberg's 5th and 6th graders are attending the Virginia Synod youth event 7th Day at Eagle Eyrie today with Ashley Saunders and Erin Burke attending as adult leaders. Sixth grader Latham Copeland served on the planning group for the event. Please keep them in your prayers for a meaningful event this weekend and a safe return this afternoon.

FOOD COLLECTION

TODAY in the Gathering Area we collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. Monetary donations are also appreciated.



LAY COMMUNION

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning. They bring communion to homebound members once a month. If you are interested in receiving home communion, or if you are interested in serving as a Lay Communion Minister, please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Morrison (540-383-5085 or lindamm778@gmail.com).

BAROQUE MUSIC AT MUHLENBERG TODAY (3/3) AT 7:00 PM

Muhlenberg welcomes **Madison Baroque: The JMU Ensemble for Early Music** as they return to Muhlenberg to present *Venice to London: Baroque Music by Purcell, Cavalli, Lupo, and Croce*, featuring vocal soloists, Baroque strings, brass, woodwind and keyboard instruments. This one-hour concert is free of charge. While Madison Baroque is mainly a JMU student ensemble, it also includes Muhlenbergers Jon Gibson and Judith Ofarcik.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY (LCM)

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm

We gather for dinner Tuesdays, in the Campus Room (downstairs). It's a free meal and time of fellowship and prayer for any college student. For details, contact Peer Minister Haley Tabor (haleyntabor@gmail.com). If you're interested in supporting LCM or helping to provide a meal, contact Sarah Orem (oremse@gmail.com).

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>

LENTEN RECITALS

Thursdays in Lent, 12:00 noon

Our Music Ministry is pleased to offer a series of half-hour recitals. These musical moments have been a spiritual blessing to listeners and performers alike. Recitals are free and open to all with an opportunity to offer a monetary donation to support our Music Ministry. They are also livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). We are excited to offer an array of varied talents this season:

- **THIS Thursday (3/7)**

Dr. Steven Brancaleone, pianist

Dr. Brancaleone, a recent graduate from JMU, 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 and DMA candidate at JMU will perform piano works from the Romantic period.

CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES

Next Sunday, March 10, 6:00 pm

All of God's people are called to gather around the Word and grow together into our vocation as Christ's disciples. To that end, everyone is invited to join us **next Sunday (3/10), 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Nielsen Room** for Confirmation Class. **Dinner is provided**, and you'll have the opportunity to learn and grow while supporting our youth in this valuable season of growth. A thorough study of the Bible will be the focus of our conversation each month, reviewing broad themes of scripture, coming to understand the narrative arc of God's Word, and seeking to find how God's Word meets us in our day-to-day life. The class will focus on **Paul's Letters: With an Epistle from Pastor Alex!** Join us for a lively conversation about Paul and the early church. If you have questions or plan to attend, contact Pastor Lauren (Eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK

Friday, March 29, 12 noon – 1:00 pm

The 37th annual Harrisonburg downtown ecumenical Good Friday prayer walk, based on the "Stations of the Cross," will be held **Friday, March 29, from 12 noon - 1:00 pm**. 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, the group stops at each station where a member of the Biblical Storytellers Guild will tell a passage from the Gospel of Mark and a local pastor responds with a prayer. 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 nearly four decades. Please join us! (Pastor Lauren and a number of Muhlenberg members will be praying/telling.) The walking route is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers.

EASTER BRUNCH

Sunday, March 31, 9:30 – 10:45 am



**EASTER
BRUNCH**

Join us in the Muhlenberg Activities Center (MAC) for an Easter Brunch! The Fellowship Committee will provide breakfast meats, coffee, juice and tea. Please bring food to share as suggested below, or feel free to bring your favorite signature dish:

Households with the last name:

A – K Breakfast Casserole

L – O Fruit

P – Z Breakfast Breads

Everyone is welcome, with or without something to share!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

The Children's Ministry team needs your help Easter Sunday. Volunteers are needed to set up the Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 30 after the Easter Vigil. The Easter Egg Hunt will be inside the MAC at 9:45 am, and extra adults will also be needed in the nursery at both services. If you are available to help, please contact Children's Minister Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).



LENTEN *WHY* GROUPS

Throughout each week, we gather in small groups to further explore how God is bringing about change in us. *See details about our Why Groups on page 6.*

Here's what member Terry Caywood shared about his experience with the Why Groups:

Everyone has a different reason for getting involved with various groups here at Muhlenberg. Having recently moved to Harrisonburg from Pennsylvania, I've been looking for different ways to meet new people and get better acquainted with the Shenandoah Valley community.

That's exactly what I found at the Thursday morning Why Group at Mr. J's: a great group of guys exploring a Bible passage through a Lenten lens and sharing our individual faith perspectives. The Thursday group is all men. We munch on bagels. The nature of the discussion is decidedly candid, frank, and personal.

Since the Wednesday Why Group meets here at the church immediately before choir rehearsal, it was convenient to also attend that Why Group as well. Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised, but even though we were exploring the same scripture passage through the very same study questions, the Wednesday group raised a few completely different perspectives. It was like getting an enhanced "3-D" view of the topic.

If this Lent you're looking for a way to enhance and enrich your Lenten experience, consider joining one of the six different Why Groups being offered throughout the week. It's not too late to join one (or two!).



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

WHY GROUPS

THROUGHOUT EACH WEEK, we 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	March 3, 10, 17
Wednesday 6:00 pm*	Muhlenberg Nielsen Room	Kathy Thompson	Light soup supper provided	March 6, 13, 20
Thursdays 9:00 am	Mr. J's – S. High Street	Mark Warner Dave Barnes		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)	March 8, 15, 22
Saturday 10:30 am	Muhlenberg Nursery & Gathering Area	Lauren Fuller	For parents and their kids	March 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.*

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. *See details on page 4.*

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.muhenbergglutheran.org/Lent2024

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At the Feb. meeting, Congregation Council...

1. Appointed Nathan Leopard and Chris Orem to the Mission Endowment Fund Committee, joining Pete Weaver, and Ex Officio members Pastor Lauren Eanes and President Meg Wightman.
2. Approved a Job Description for Interim Worship and Care Assistant position to work part time with Pastor Lauren during Pastor Alex's parental leave. Responsibilities include working with Pastor Lauren and the Care Committee providing a caring presence on Sundays and through visitation, assist with worship preparation, preach at least one Sunday, and lead a small group during Lent.
3. Voted to approve Kathy Thompson to serve in the role of Interim Worship and Care Assistant during Pastor Alex's 12-week parental leave. (Please thank Kathy for agreeing to serve our congregation in this way.)
4. Spent a significant portion of our time discussing the stewardship needs on our campus and how they might be addressed. Items for discussion include: the church organ, the MAC roof and utilities, and the Ott Street House.

Additionally, I want to let you know we have placed a **Resource Notebook** at the Connection Center that will house this year's approved Council and Congregational Meeting minutes (and related reports), the 2024 Spending Plan, the 2023 Annual Report, our newly Ratified Constitution, as well as weekly Funds Reports (*relocated from our current notebook — see article in next column*).

Peace be with you,
Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President
mlccouncilpres@gmail.org

MUHLENBERG NEWS

UPDATED NOTEBOOKS

Historically we have had a single notebook at the Connection Center. Its primary purpose is to provide sign-up sheets and Funds Reports that communicate details of our weekly offering/income. Last fall, we moved the notebook closer to the Sanctuary entrance hoping more people would see it and sign up to participate — it worked!

Congregation Council has decided to share minutes of their meetings and minutes of our Congregational Meetings to make more details available. It is also a good location for additional information so you have one resource to find most documents of interest.

So, we will now have two notebooks in the Gathering Area:

1. **Sign-Up Notebook** (located on a stand close to the Sanctuary entrance), containing sign-up sheets for the following...
 - Worship Assistants
 - Altar Flowers
 - Meals
 - Other Miscellaneous Events
2. **Resource Notebook** (located at the Connection Center), containing the following...
 - Weekly Funds Reports
 - Approved Council Minutes (**which includes committee minutes, Pastors' reports, financial reports, etc.**)
 - Approved Congregational Meeting Minutes
 - 2024 Standing Committees
 - 2024 Spending Plan
 - 2023 Annual Report
 - Ratified Constitution

If you have questions, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (540-434-3496 / depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org).

CHURCH ENTRY SYSTEM Outside Doors to be Rekeyed

All outside doors of the church building are scheduled to be rekeyed this week. As you may recall, installation of the keypad entry system on one of the east side Gathering Area doors has been completed in multiple phases. Phase 1 was the installation of the keypad itself. Phase 2 was to issue PINs to those who routinely need access to the church building so they can gain entry through the keypad.

This week we will complete Phase 3 by rekeying all outside doors to maximize security. “BCK” and all previous keys that unlocked outside doors will no longer work. If you need routine access to the church and have not applied for a PIN, contact Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496). *Please note this rekeying does not affect the MAC — you will gain access to it the same way you always have.*

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 are interested or have questions, contact Sarah Sunde (sunnysunde@gmail.com) or Matt Phillippi (matt.phillippi@virginiaheadwaters.org).

CREATION CARE TIP

Plastic pollution is a global issue that poses threats to the health and productivity of our environment. Plastic bottles and bags can take hundreds of years to break down, or potentially thousands of years when compressed in landfills. Plastic items never truly completely decompose. Chemicals and microplastics will linger in the environment for centuries. Chemical leaching and the accumulation of microplastics through the food chain has been linked to disease, cancers, and the disruption of reproductive and immune systems in both humans and wildlife.



Refuse, Reduce, Re-use, Re-purpose and Recycle. Refusing single use plastic items is the best way to reduce plastic pollution. Gift a friend or colleague a reusable item like a metal straw, reusable grocery bags or a to-go coffee mug.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

A few copies of *Journeying Through Lent with Mark* are still available at the Connection Center, with a suggested donation of \$8 each. Place your check (made payable to MLC, designating *Lenten Devotional*) in the offering plate or the wooden box located next to the devotionals.



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 LWR's most requested items, to those in need. You are invited to share your LOVE (EVOL) with our neighbors around the world.

We are asking for their suggested items during these Lenten five weeks in order to make as many complete kits as we can at wrap-up. There is 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 – Sunday, Feb.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 – Today (3/3):** 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).

NEW NAME, SAME MISSION

The Local & Global Mission Committee has changed its name to **Local & Global Outreach!** Our committee requested the name change to put our mission in our name. Local & Global Outreach works to provide the congregation with opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving those in need locally in our community and globally around the world.

If serving others is also your passion, please join us. For more information, speak with any committee member: Karen Thomsen, Vicki Heitsch, Sue Totty, Susan Lawrence, or Wanda or Bruce Hamilton.

EASTER FLOWERS ~ LILIES, HYDRANGEAS & HYACINTHS

The tradition of Easter Lilies in the church is 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 at the Connection Center, online (<https://forms.gle/toT2dg8xtn8ab9HGA>), 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).

YOUTH NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERINGS

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 23, 10 am – 12:30 pm** for a High School youth gathering at the Kolodinskys' house! Join us for brunch, fun and fellowship, open to all 9th - 12th graders. Additional gatherings are planned for April 27 at the Gibsons' house, and in May TBD at the Moyers' house. Let the host families or Pastor Lauren know if you're interested in attending or have any questions!

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 expect to be left with tensions. God is described in many ways in the Bible--as Creator, as righteous judge, as ruler, as shepherd, as tender father or mother, as Savior. God is both this and that. God's people display great faith, and they display great evil. The Christian life is both this and that. The Bible does not resolve all these tensions. It reveals life's beauty and life's messiness. The purpose of the Bible is to invite us into a living relationship that is more than can be captured in a single proposition. There is more to God than any single portrait can convey. Human beings cannot be captured in a single description either. Tensions remind us of the inadequacy of labels when dealing with God or when dealing with human beings.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

PROPERTY WORKDAY

March 16, 8:00 am – 12 Noon

The Property Committee has scheduled a church workday. With your help we can accomplish indoor and outdoor projects. Outdoors we will seal the cross, rake, mulch and trim areas throughout the campus. Indoor activities include prep work on the Gathering Area Fountain and purging/cataloging items in the Ott St. House basement and church attic. We will have tools available; however, you are welcome to bring your favorite tools and join us for all or part of this awesome day of volunteering to serve Muhlenberg. Coffee and donuts will be provided. For more information, contact Jeff Williams (804-931-2274 or Sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org) or John Mulder (540-421-9377 or mulderjf@comcast.net).

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).

The 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.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

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

2/18	8:30 Holy Communion	60
	11:00 Holy Communion	96
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	37
	Total Views this Week	165
	Hours Viewed this Week	63.1
2/25	8:30 Holy Communion	51
	11:00 Holy Communion	88
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

The 2024 fiscal year is upon us with an ambitious ministry spending plan to support God's work in our community. We all need to work together to ensure our gifts and offerings are covering monthly expenses for our ministry programs, staff, property upkeep, and care. As Treasurer, it is my hope that through the generosity of the community the deficit decreases to balance the budget.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 2024		
	2024 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$28,837	\$35,374
Total Receipts	\$36,360	\$42,981
Total Expenses	\$68,295	\$57,513
Excess Income/(Expenses)	\$(31,935)	\$(14,532)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 5,868.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 686.25
Total Giving	\$ 6,557.75

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 4 — 10, 2024

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tues	6:00 pm	LCM Dinner
	6:00 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via Zoom
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thu	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
	12 noon	Lenten Midday Recital
Sun	Fourth 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
	12:15 pm	Youth Ensemble Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Confirmation for All Ages



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

Todd Hedinger

Lola Heffner

Paul and Vicki Heitsch

Jean Helmick

David and Peggy Hill

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 depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org)