



ELCA

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

281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 † Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org † Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org

March 5, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN

As many of you know, I have been dealing with some unusual and frustrating symptoms following a significant viral illness in the summer of 2021. After lots of doctor visits and tests, we've gotten closer to some understanding of what's going on. I've been diagnosed with a relatively uncommon sleep disorder, and have been under treatment for that for almost a year. That's made a huge difference in my energy levels! I've also been diagnosed with an autonomic disorder that triggers my blood pressure to drop significantly when I am standing, which causes me to be lightheaded and dizzy. You may have noticed that I have been sitting more often during worship—now you know why! Unfortunately, my heart rate is also affected by this disorder. My heart has “paused” several times, causing me to pass out. As my cardiologist continues to determine what exactly is causing this, this Wednesday I will be receiving an implantable loop recorder (a small heart monitor that is placed just under the skin to continuously monitor the heart for up to three years). This is a minor procedure and I should only miss one day of work. Depending on the monitor results

over the coming weeks and months, I may end up needing a pacemaker. While this is frustrating, it is also encouraging news—this is something that can be managed and we all anticipate I'll be just fine. I am incredibly grateful for my medical team, family and friends, and all of you for your support as I've sought to be as healthy a leader I can be. Our bodies are marvelously resilient, and surprisingly fragile at the same time. The reality is we all face unwelcome health challenges at various points in our lives. I thank God for medical professionals, caring community, and the loving presence of God who journeys with us through it all!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL NEWS

Council went on a half-day retreat together at the church. We did a team building activity and 2-hour prayer walk of our entire campus (indoors and out). We learned about and prayed for all of the ministries and people who come in and out of those spaces.

In our February Council meeting we...

- Approved the new Personnel Policy Manual which had been a huge task of the Personnel Committee over the past several years.
- Began to form several task forces and planning teams to work together this year.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D)

Please pray for these groups, give them suggestions, or consider serving with them:

- Entrepreneurial Task Force - to find new ways of bringing money into the church to meet the \$20,000 aspirational line item in our 2023 budget beyond tithes and bequests. Recommendations can be sent to Vicki Curry, Emily Carneal, Russell Presnell, Chris Kyle, or Matt Wade.
- Constitutional Task Force - to create an updated draft of the Constitution for Council to consider and then bring to the congregation for a first of two votes for approval. Looking for a 4th member to round out the team of Cathy Copeland, Brad Moyers, and Pastor Lauren.
- Muhlenberg 175th Anniversary Celebration Planning Team - to plan the 2024 celebrations and sharing of our congregation's history. Consider joining the efforts of Tassie Pippert, Kim Shipe, Mark Byerly, Susan Lance, Louise Layman, Pastor Lauren, and others.

Additional areas for needed service include:

- Sound Techs on Sunday mornings - contact Mark Byerly (msbyerly@comcast.net or 540-271-1478).
- Streaming Ministry Techs on Sunday mornings – contact Christian Perritt (540-434-3496 or perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org).
- Volunteer Wedding Coordinator or Office Assistants - contact Linda Depoy (540-434-3496 or depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org).
- Property Committee - join John Mulder, Russell Presnell, Erin Burke, Steve Reich, and Jeff Williams on the Committee if you have interest/abilities in indoor or outdoor projects or researching service contract needs, or plan to come out on the next outside Property Work Day **Saturday, April 1.**

Meg Wightman, Congregation Council President

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

MUHLENBERG YOUTH AT 7TH DAY

Six of Muhlenberg's 5th and 6th graders are attending the Virginia Synod youth event 7th Day at Eagle Eyrie today with Pastor Alex, Ms. Ashley, and Lily Harmison attending as adult leaders. 7th Day is the first opportunity that our youth have to attend a Virginia Synod youth event, and Muhlenberg's very own Henry Perritt served on the planning group for the event. Our youth will have the opportunity to meet other youth from all over Virginia, grow in their faith, and come home renewed to share all they have learned. Please keep them in your prayers for a meaningful event this weekend and a safe return this afternoon.

CONFIRMATION CLASS CANCELLED TODAY (3/5)

While the 6th graders and Pastor Alex are out of town today (3/5) for 7th Day, Confirmation Class is cancelled. We look forward to being back together next week!

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER TODAY (3/5)

We will collect non-perishable food items for Patchwork Pantry in the Gathering Area. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all-purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting "Patchwork Pantry" on the memo line.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG CONT'D

LAY COMMUNION MINISTRY



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.

LET THE CHILDREN SING!

Cherub Choir and Tween/Teen Choir are back, rehearsing Sunday afternoons through April 2. **Both groups will sing in worship March 26 and April 9 (11:00 services only).** Contact Elizabeth Williams for details.

BAROQUE MUSIC AT MUHLENBERG

TODAY Sunday, March 5, 7:00 pm

Muhlenberg welcomes Madison Baroque, JMU's ensemble for early music, as they return to Muhlenberg to present *Where's Monteverdi: Early Italian Baroque Music from the World of Claudio Monteverdi*. This roughly one-hour concert is free of charge and will feature works for vocal soloists, Baroque strings, early brass and woodwinds, organ, and harpsichord. Two members of the Muhlenberg community are part of this group: Jon Gibson and Judith Ofcarcik.

Please wear a nametag to help others learn your name. Supplies are in the Gathering Area.



THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10:30 am

We gather each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons. Led by Pastor Lauren, we meet via **ZOOM:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

COMFORT MAKERS

Thursdays, 8:00 am - noon

Meet weekly in Wayland Hall. Contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085).

LENTEN RECITALS

Thursdays at 12 noon

Join us as **Soprano Bryanna (Bry) Toll** performs sacred music for flute and voice. See page 7 for details.

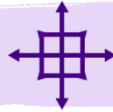
MEMBERSHIP AT MUHLENBERG

If you've been worshipping at Muhlenberg, we invite you to become a member! You're already a part of our community and official membership doesn't change that, but it does make it easier for us to communicate with you and help you get more connected. You also have a say in congregational life as a member, since only members can vote in congregational meetings. Membership requires simply a willingness to keep journeying with this faith community to see where God leads us!

We will receive new members at both services **NEXT Sunday, March 12**. If you'd like to join, please fill out the information at <https://forms.gle/m5vmdEXbRgH7FAtv6> no later than **Wednesday, March 8**, and plan to join us for a welcome event at 9:45 am in Wayland Hall (downstairs in the main church building). Welcome to Muhlenberg!



Lent With Muhlenberg
Lutheran Church, 2023



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Why? This is perhaps one of the most fundamental questions we have to offer. As children learn new things, they pepper their families with “whys” as they seek deeper meaning and purpose in this wide world. As children of God, we are inclined to do the same with our Holy Parent. Followers of Christ are always learning new ways of following Jesus and what it means to be disciples, and the season of Lent is an opportunity to slow down with intentionality and get back to the “why” of our faith. This simple question will guide our worship, conversations, and reflections throughout this 40-day season, as together we seek a clearer articulation of our “whys” for worshiping, forgiving, laboring, welcoming, investing, and caring. The approach will be simple, as we aren’t trying to overclutter this season with activity, but rather to provide opportunity for reflection that meets you where you are. So bring your hearts, minds, and faithful questions, knowing that the cross of Christ lies behind all of those questions as God meets us in our discernment of purpose and naming our deepest longings. We hope you’ll join us in worship, service, and fellowship as we grow closer to God and one another in this season of offering up a faithful...Why?



THE “WHY CROSS”

Throughout the season of Lent, an interactive opportunity for prayerful reflection will be available each week in the Gathering Area. The “Why Cross” is a large free-standing cross in the Gathering Area where you will be invited to write out either your “why” questions or your “why” statements on paper that can be attached to the cross. The “Why Cross” stands as a reminder that our questions and our purposeful callings are faithful in this sacred season. Throughout Lent, our pastors will reflect upon and try answering questions that are offered.



JOIN A “WHY GROUP” TODAY!

This March, you’re invited to an experience that just might change your life. OK, that might be overstating it a bit... but you never know what might happen when you open yourself up to the Holy Spirit’s presence in community! As we explore the theme of “Why” this Lent, we’d like everyone in our Muhlenberg community to join a four-week small group, called a “Why Group.” Four weeks, one hour a week... that’s it. You can make that work in your schedule! Especially since you can pick a time and location that works best for you—we have groups gathering all over the area, as well as online. Want to meet on Tuesday mornings at a coffee shop? Wednesday nights with a light meal? Sunday afternoons at church? Thursday mornings at Mr. J’s before work? Midday Monday or Thursday evening on Zoom? Saturday mornings at the playground? All of these and more are options! In a *Why Group*, you’ll gather with 6-8 others to get to know each other, explore Scripture together, and wonder about the “Whys” in our own lives. At the end of the four weeks, our goal is that you’ll feel more connected to your community and your faith. It’s a short term commitment that will lead to long term relationships and a deeper understanding of God’s work in your life. A full list of groups is available at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/whygroup, which is also where you can go to sign up. Each group is limited to a maximum of 10 people, so sign up today!

LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



This Lenten season, Local & Global Mission invites you to support the mission of Church World Service (CWS). CWS works to resettle and support refugee families coming to the Valley. Each week during Lent, we will collect items

needed by these families. We have broken the list up by the week, but you are welcome to bring any of the items at any time. Items may be brought to the church and placed in the bin in the Gathering Area or placed in the Connection Box during the week. You may also designate a financial gift by placing a check in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office with a notation that it is for Church World Service. Let’s join together with our new neighbors, as God’s people, woven together in grace! Items being collected are:

- **Today (3/5)** - Baby wipes and diapers
- **March 12** - Band-aids, first aid supplies, thermometers
- **March 19** - Soap, shampoo, deodorant
- **March 26** - Cleaning items
- **April 2** - Pillows and sheets (twin and full size)
- Past Items include Toothbrushes and toothpaste

For more information, contact Sue Totty (svtotty@gmail.com or 540-478-3073).

LENT FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

A lot is happening in Lent this year for families and kids of all ages! For more information about the following information and activities, contact Children's Minister Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

LENTEN MATERIALS FOR FAMILIES

This year, we are offering the *Faithful Families for Lent* booklet for families. Traci Smith, the author of the *Faithful Families* series, has created a resource for families during the Lenten season. The resource starts Ash Wednesday and goes through Pentecost. This booklet provides a scripture focus, a weekly meditation, and a faith practice. This resource is adaptable for all ages. Booklets are available at the Connection Center.



WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Pastor Lauren and Ms. Ashley invite all children in grades 2-5 to join them in a *Welcome to the Table* class to learn about the gift of Holy Communion and how it weaves together the whole church on earth and in heaven. As we go through the lessons of *A Place for You* by Daniel Erlander, children and their families will be guided to a deeper understanding of their call to faith and community through the welcome table and the sacraments. Children in grades 2-5 are welcome to attend, whether you're waiting for your First Communion or you've been joining in the feast and want to learn more. Classes will be held at 9:45 am March 19 and 26, during the Christian Formation hour. We will have our final class at the church Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 am to have breakfast, continue the conversation, and bake communion bread together.



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 Music Minister Elizabeth Williams (williams@muehlenberglutheran.org or 540-434-3496).

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

Our Music Ministry is pleased to offer a series of six half-hour recitals each Thursday at 12:00 noon during the Lenten season. Now in its 14th 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:

- **March 9, Soprano Bryanna (Bry) Toll** – JMU Senior Vocal Performance Major. She will perform classical works by Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Schubert & Mozart.
- **March 16, Linlin Uta, Pianist** - Muhlenberg’s Music Ministry Accompanist and DMA candidate at JMU will perform classical piano works.
- **March 23, Elizabeth Williams, Pianist** - Our Music Minister will perform various sacred and secular works for piano and voice.
- **March 30, Soprano Alexandria Hunter** – JMU Junior Vocal Performance Major. She will perform African-American Spirituals and classical works by Mozart & Ravel.

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.

CHILDREN’S CHOIRS ARE BACK

Cherub Choir and Tween/Teen Choir are back, and rehearse immediately following the 11:00 am service each Sunday through April 2. Both groups will sing in worship Sunday, March 26 (11:00 am service only) and Easter Sunday, April 9 (11:00 am service only). So come, children! Let’s make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

- Rachel Peters will lead the **Cherub Choir** rehearsals (ages 4 - grade 2) held downstairs in the music room. They will rehearse from 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm.
- Elizabeth Williams will lead the **Tween/Teens** (grades 3 - 8). They will rehearse from 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm in the choir chancel in the sanctuary.



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Lent calls us to a time of more intentional spiritual disciplines, like prayer and study. If you're looking for a resource to guide you through the season, we have two options available in the Gathering Area:

- ***The Desert of Compassion***: Devotions for the Lenten Journey by Presbyterian minister and Benedictine oblate Rachel Srubas invites us into our own desert places where Christ meets us with a love that will transform our hearts. (*suggested donation: \$15*)
- ***Because Grace***: A Lenten Devotional by ELCA pastor John W. Stevens combines Scripture, poetry, and reflection to help us reflect on and live into God's boundless grace. (*suggested donation: \$10*)

To contribute to devotionals, place your check (made payable to MLC, designating *Lenten Devotional*) in the offering plate or the wooden box located next to the devotionals.

EASTER FLOWERS ~ LILIES, HYDRANGEAS & HYACINTHS

The tradition of Easter Lilies in the church is a beautiful way to remember and honor loved ones. This year, we would like to add some additional seasonal color to the mix, so we are offering **Easter Lilies, Hydrangeas and Hyacinths**. The cost per plant is \$25. To reserve your Easter flowers, do the following:

- Sign up online (by clicking [HERE](#) or visiting our *Lenten webpage*), 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 26** (*no additional flowers will be ordered after that date*).

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

www.muhenbergutheran.org/Lent2023

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP



The average American uses 2,200 two-ply paper napkins per year. Switch to cloth napkins and you'll help keep more than 662 billion paper napkins out of the trash. Choose cloth napkins made from organic cotton, which is grown without harmful pesticides. You can be even more eco-friendly by washing your cloth napkins in cold water and hanging them to dry. If you must use paper napkins, make sure they're made from 100% recycled paper content.

CALLING ALL THESPIANS!

Our Palm Sunday worship will include a dramatic telling of the passion story. We are looking for four people who will serve as readers in this participatory drama. Readers will have one rehearsal **Saturday, April 1**, and participate in both services Palm Sunday, April 2. Contact Pastor Lauren by **NEXT Sunday, March 12** if you are interested.

TIME CHANGE THIS WEEK

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour **THIS Saturday** night before you go to bed. You don't want to be late for church on Sunday morning (3/12)!



CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

SUNDAY CLASS LOCATIONS

Pre-K – 5th Grade meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (behind the church)

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

Grades 6 - 8 ~ Augsburg Room

Devotional Classics Adult Class* ~

Nielsen Room

Faith Lens High School & Adult Class ~

Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:

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

*Starting **TODAY**, this class will resume it's name of *40 Day Journey*. Our first book will be Madeleine L'engle. Contact Tilton Weaver (pfweaver@gmail.com or 540-434-3655).

CAROLINE FURNACE NEWS

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp in Fort Valley, VA is a place to encounter God in God's creation and through an intentional Christian community. Week-long summer camp experiences are available for kids and youth, as well as families and adults! Check out the summer schedule at carolinefurnace.org and register today. If cost is a concern, don't hesitate to reach out to one of the pastors because Muhlenberg has a fund available to any family who wants to make sure their kid gets to camp this summer.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

BRIDGE OF HOPE NEWS

Urgent need! Bridge of Hope needs neighboring groups of 4 - 8 people to serve as a social support system for a mother and her children that have recently entered the program. The program has resources to expand and hope by the end of the year to be serving 10 - 15 families facing homelessness. It is a three-way partnership that includes the family, case manager who connects the family with resources to reach their goals, and Neighboring Volunteers who serve as a social support system. All training and materials are provided. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Wanda Hamilton (whamilton48@gmail.com or 450 405 3118).

VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION (VIA)

Faith in Action is now Valley Interfaith Action (VIA)! This broad-based, non-partisan, volunteer leader-led power organization is made up of faith-based congregations, non-profits, and immigrant, neighborhood, and other associations who work together to take action on our common interests and improve the lives of families in our community. Valley Interfaith Action is currently working hard to address issues of childcare and transportation in the Harrisonburg/Rockingham area.

Tuesday, March 21, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, join members of Muhlenberg and hundreds of VIA participants at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren for an introduction to the Valley Interfaith Action and an official kick off to the childcare and transportation campaigns. Childcare will be available, as well as Spanish and Arabic interpretation (by request). Learn more at www.viavirginia.org and sign up for VIA's March 21 Refounding Action by emailing Pastor Lauren.

REMINDERS

ACCESS SERMONS ONLINE

Following the Narrative Lectionary allows us to tell a continuous story of faith week after week. If you missed or would like to revisit a particular sermon, you can find a [playlist on YouTube](#) that is updated weekly! Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) to see the sermons posted, and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)!

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).

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

DIGITAL MINISTRY

To help share information from our social media with those who don't have access or may have missed it, we are starting this new column in *The Chimes*. Here is some recent information from Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) page.

WHY GROUPS

- 4-week commitment
- 1 hour a week
- Gather together, get to know each other, invite God into the conversation
- Make new friends!



We posted an introduction to “Why Group” this week from Pastor Lauren on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). It's a great way to interact with members and reestablish connections in a post-pandemic world.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!



Ash Wednesday Services

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

2/19	8:30 Holy Communion	62
	11:00 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	32
	Total Views this Week	123
	Hours Viewed this Week	71.9
2/22	Ash Wednesday	
	12:00 Holy Communion	70
	7:00 Holy Communion	42
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	29
2/26	8:30 Holy Communion	62
	11:00 Holy Communion	107
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	29

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Happy New Fiscal Year! Gifts and offerings are trending similar to last year with total receipts ahead a little and expenses lower than the previous year. It is early in the year to see trends for the year. Based on the past year's budget we are tracking similar for the month of January and at this point in the year. Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 2023		
	2023 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$35,374	\$35,620
Total Receipts	\$42,9841	\$41,249
Total Expenses	\$58,699	\$65,448
Excess Income/(Expenses)	\$(15,718)	\$(24,199)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 4,594.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 13,409.23
Total Giving	\$ 18,003.05

January Thrivent Choice Dollars ~ \$299

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 6 – March 12, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tues	6:30 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
	12:00 noon	Lenten Recital
Sat.	DST begins – turn clocks ahead 1 hour	
Sun	Third Sunday in Lent	
	New Members Received	
	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	Tween/Teen Choir Rehearsal



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

*Knute and Betty Leidal
Tammy, Samantha, and Kristen Lewellen
Ruby Lineweaver
Bart Long
Don and Mona Long*

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).