



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



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March 10, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

WELCOME, NADIA ZUBER!

Join us in lifting prayers of thanksgiving and joy for Pastor Alex and Renna, as their daughter *Nadia Lee Nouwairi Zuber* was born on **March 5!** Nadia was born happy and healthy at 9 lbs. 2 oz. Both Nadia and her mom are doing well! Here's a note from Pastor Alex as his parental leave begins:



Dear Muhlenberg Family,

We give God thanks for each of you, and for the abundant prayers and well-wishes that have been offered on our behalf throughout the entire journey of pregnancy, and especially over these last weeks. We address you as family, because as our family grows you have truly loved us like family! This next chapter of our lives will be full of adventures, challenges, and joys, and we continue to treasure your prayers for us. For now, we're doing our best to settle in at home as a new family of three, and adjusting to our unconventional Lenten discipline of giving up sleep!

We can't wait to introduce Nadia to her Muhlenberg family, but we are profoundly grateful for the 12 weeks of parental leave we have been granted, during which

we will be able to bond with one another and cherish these first months of Nadia's life. Family Leave like this, particularly for fathers, has not always been available to everyone. But we are grateful for the ways that Muhlenberg is modeling for our wider community what it looks like to love one another, and embrace the multiple vocations of a person, as I am called not just to be a pastor, but also a husband and father. So thank you for your grace, your care, and for the value shown to me as a whole person.

I also want to offer my deepest thanks to those who have stepped up to coordinate and facilitate the ministries I hold dear while I am away. You're making it possible for me to devote my full heart and mind to my daughter, and boldly living into the mission we share of *Equipping all people to live out Christ's love*. I'm humbled by your willingness to serve, and encourage everyone to support their efforts in maintaining our vibrant Confirmation, Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministry by volunteering and building deeper connections among our community. I also offer my deepest thanks to Pastor Lauren and all of the wonderful staff who are making this time possible. I truly work with the most amazing team, and this season has revealed that in countless ways. *In love, Pastor Alex, Renna, and Nadia*

~ See the Plan for Pastor Alex's Parental Leave on page 9 ~

TODAY'S WORSHIP INFORMATION

PRELUDE

Gethsemane to Calvary arr. Wissinger

OFFERTORY

Echoes of the Past Wissinger

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

My Jesus I Love Thee arr. Peninger

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Judy Wilfong,
Lay Preaching Minister

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

CRUCIFERS

8:30 ~ Jim Doyle

11:00 ~ Sue Koch

LECTORS

8:30 ~ Susan Gallaher

11:00 ~ Nathan Leopard

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:30 ~ Wylie Walton

11:00 ~ Kristee Trumbo

SOUND TECHS

8:30 ~ Bill Wightman

11:00 ~ Mark Byerly

USHERS

8:30 ~ Bob Neumann, Jeannette Norfleet

11:00 ~ Sue Totty, John Mulder

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:30 ~ Susan Gallaher, Jim Doyle,
Crystl Whitmire, Gus Kagey

11:00 ~ Nathan Leopard, Dave Barnes,
Sue Koch, Malcolm Wilfong

MUSICIANS

Judith Ofcarcik, Organist

Gloria Dei Ringers ~ Kath Wissinger, Director

Cantors ~ Eddie Rader (8:30)

Greta Willis (11:00)

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME GUEST PREACHER

Welcome Judy Wilfong, our Lay Preacher this morning! Judy is a native of Rockingham County; member of Muhlenberg since 1976; mother of three adult children and grandmother to nine grandchildren. She's been married for almost 48 years to Malcolm. After a career in education, Judy has served as a Biblical Storyteller and was commissioned as a Virginia Synod Lay Preacher in July 2023. Thank you, Judy, for sharing God's Word with us!



HISTORY ON DISPLAY

Last week our exhibit featured relics and photos from Muhlenberg through its first 100 years, up through 1949, the last year the congregation occupied the brick building on North Main Street (for those who remember, it was the previous location for the Glen's Fair Price Store). Today, we have a window from the old church on display! Special thanks to Richard Early who lent us the window for display this morning.

In the 1940's during World War II, the congregation continued to grow and began planning for a new building. Additional property was purchased on East Market Street adjacent to the parsonage at the time. During the 100th anniversary of the congregation, on June 26, 1949, ground was broken for the current church building.

The new church building was designed as a Neo-Gothic structure, with a narrow nave and a high ceiling. This shape provides a space where music is lively because it can reverberate

for an extended period before dying out. However, as part of a national post-war trend, the church was also designed to have acoustics more like a home living room with acoustical ceiling tiles and carpet to dampen the sound. Both of those finishes have been replaced.

The building was designed with pipe chambers on each side of the chancel with the intent of installing a pipe organ. But with limited funds and rising costs, the congregation was not able to complete the church as planned. Instead, plans were made to “phase” the construction. The first phase consisted of the construction of the basement. Worship services were held there while the sanctuary was built above. The first two units were dedicated in 1952.

The sanctuary did not originally contain a pipe organ or stained-glass windows. They were to be added later when they could be afforded.

In 1956 a new parsonage was purchased on Dixie Avenue, and in 1958 construction of the education wing of the church was begun. It was completed in 1960.

During the 1960’s, East Market Street was widened, eliminating much of the parking for the church. Additional property was purchased behind the church for parking. A lot that was purchased on East Water Street included a duplex that was used by the church as an annex for Christian education and Boy Scouts. It was named “The Dovel Building.” During the 1970’s funds were raised and six stained-glass windows were installed in the sanctuary.

By 1985, the church debt was retired and plans were begun to install a pipe organ to complete the design of the new worship space. A committee was formed and a capital campaign was introduced to the congregation for a new pipe organ. A contract was awarded to the

M. P. Möller company. The current pipe organ was installed and dedicated in 1991.

Today’s exhibit features photos, news articles and programs from the ground breaking, through the construction and dedication of the current church building.

Mark Byerly will be available to answer 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!

Using texts from the Gospel of Mark (see below), we continue our Lenten journey. 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 12:28-44

From Cheap Honor to Costly Love

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

From Stability to Transformation

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING TODAY, 12:15 pm

Please bring your own lunch/snack and join us for fellowship and Bible Study in the Campus Room following the 11:00 service. For details, contact Jenna Guenther (jguenth5@yahoo.com).

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES

TODAY (3/10) at 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 **TODAY (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. Each month, a thorough study of the Bible will be the focus of our conversation, 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. Today we 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.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY (LCM)

No Meeting This Week (3/12)

Due to spring break, we will not meet this week. Join us next Tuesday (3/19) for dinner in the Campus Room (downstairs) at 6:00. 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](#).

- **THIS Thursday (3/14)**

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PROPERTY WORKDAY

RESCHEDULED

March 23, 8:00 am – 12 Noon

The Property Committee workday has been rescheduled for March 23 due to a funeral on March 16. 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).

WHY GROUPS

This Lent, we've been gathering in small groups to explore the R(evol)ution brought about in us through Jesus. Last year, we called our small groups Why Groups, and we've continued to use that name this year. But instead of the primary question being Why? it's been How?. How is God at work in the world? How is God calling each of us to be a part of it? It's not too late to join in the last two weeks of a group--see the schedule below. Sign up by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/mlclent2024>, or by calling the church office.

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 five different Why Groups being offered throughout the week. It's not too late to join one (or two!). Terry Caywood

Time	Place	Convener	Notes	Dates
Sunday 12:30 pm	Muhlenberg Gathering Area	Kelly Zuber	Bring a bag lunch with you	March 10, 17
Wednesday 6:00 pm*	Muhlenberg Nielsen Room	Kathy Thompson	Light soup supper provided	March 13, 20
Thursdays 9:00 am	Mr. J's – S. High Street	Mark Warner Dave Barnes		March 14, 21
Friday 12 Noon	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 15, 22
Saturday 10:30 am	Muhlenberg Nursery & Gathering Area	Lauren Fuller	For parents and their kids	March 16, 23

HOLY WEEK

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!

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:

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. Pastor Paul Weber (former Muhlenberg Interim Pastor) will be our guest preacher and his wife Florence will be our guest organist. The nursery will be open and staffed.

Good Friday, March 29, Ecumenical Walk, 12 noon

The 37th annual Harrisonburg downtown ecumenical Good Friday prayer walk, based on the "Stations of the Cross," 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. At each station a member of the Biblical Storytellers Guild will tell a passage from the Gospel of Mark and a local pastor responds with a prayer. (Pastor Lauren and a number of Muhlenberg members will be praying/telling.) The walking route is accessible for wheelchairs/strollers.

Good Friday, March 29, Worship, 7:00 pm

We hear the passion of Christ, the narrative of Jesus crucified and reigning from the cross. The nursery will be open and staffed.

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.

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

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2024

EASTER SUNDAY ~ MARCH 31

Worship ~ 8:30 & 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 worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11:00 am.

Easter Brunch ~ 9:30 - 10:45 am

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!

Easter Egg Hunt, Family Photos & Activities ~ 9:45 am



The Children's Ministry team needs your help. Volunteers are needed to set up the Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30 after the Easter Vigil. Extra adults will also be needed in the nursery at both services on Easter Sunday, March 31. If you are available to help, please contact Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).

The Easter Egg Hunt will be inside the MAC Easter Sunday at 9:45 am. In addition to the hunt there will be an opportunity to have a family picture taken and printed, to play games, and enjoy activities for kids of all ages.

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 Rekeyed!

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

We completed Phase 3 (our final phase) by rekeying all outside doors to maximize security. **“BCK” and all previous keys that unlocked outside doors no longer work.** If you need routine access to the church and have not applied for a PIN, please 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.*

CREATION CARE TIP

God has designed most living things to breathe oxygen and to expel carbon dioxide as a waste product. But trees and other plants, as well as algae, absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and expel oxygen. So trees play an important part in ensuring a continuous supply of oxygen as well as the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



Eager to plant a tree but don't know what variety to choose or how to keep it growing once you get it in the ground? The Arbor Day Foundation has all the answers at www.arborday.org. **Bonus:** If you join the foundation for as little as \$15, you'll receive ten free trees.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

PLAN FOR PASTOR ALEX'S PARENTAL LEAVE



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 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!

CONNECTION CORNER

This past weekend Ms. Ashley and Erin Burke took four 5th and 6th graders to 7th Day, an annual Synod event held at Eagle Eyrie. The theme was *Listen God is Calling*, and we explored the story of Moses. The kids enjoyed learning the story through art, movement, storytelling, and music. During the large group gatherings, the kids enjoyed music and skits. It was an extremely fun retreat!

Lathan Copeland was on the 7th Day planning team and shares these thoughts:

One of the things that was very fun on the planning team was that I was able to participate in a skit that me and the rest of the youth planning members created. The skit that we created was on Exodus Chapters 3 and 4, when Moses is complaining to God telling him that he could not go to Pharaoh to tell him to let his people go.

What I liked about 7th Day is that it was very fun and lots of people had a great time. Something that I learned from 7th Day is that God is calling and you should not argue with him. Something else that was fun was sleeping in the hotel, because the beds in the hotel are much more comfortable than the beds in the cabins.

I would recommend being on the planning team because you are able to get to Eagle Eyrie a day early. That is fun because you get to help set up the set for the skit. Another thing that is fun is being able to have snacks at the hotel when you are at the story module. One thing to watch out for when you are at 7th Day are the eggs. **THEY ARE NOT GOOD!** Hope you have fun at 7th Day!

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 – Sunday, March 3:** One adult tooth-brush (in original packaging).
- **Week 4 – Today (3/10):** 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

Easter Lilies are a beautiful way to remember and honor loved ones. This year, we are adding seasonal color to the mix, offering **Easter Lilies, Hydrangeas and Hyacinths**. The cost per plant is \$25, with a limited number of plants available. To reserve your Easter flowers, do the following:



- Sign up online by clicking [HERE](#), 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 NEXT 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, 10:00 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 that each book of the Bible was written for a particular purpose and has a particular message. Though the overall message of the Bible is consistent, we can read each book to try to discover questions such as: When was it written? By whom? To whom? For what purpose? For example, it would be good if we could say to ourselves on a Sunday morning when the Gospel is read--oh, yes, that's from Luke--and here's what is distinctive about Luke's Gospel. Or, when Jeremiah is read--oh, yes, this is what was going on in Jeremiah's day. What were his primary concerns, and how does this passage express those concerns? When we discover the purpose and message of the book in the context of when it was originally written, we are better able to discover the message it holds for today, and for the future. What is meant provides a kind of anchor for our interpretation of what it means now.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

With great sadness, we share the news of deaths in the congregation recently. Please lift up the families of these members in prayer.

- John Douglas "Doug" Price died Feb. 29. Doug and his wife Lydia joined Muhlenberg last year, and Doug is a retired ELCA deacon. A memorial service will be held at Muhlenberg Saturday, March 16 at 11:00 am.
- Joan Strickler died February 29. Joan has been a member of Muhlenberg for nearly 30 years, most recently watching online from Gaithersburg, MD. A memorial service is being planned at Muhlenberg in early May.
- Thank you for the prayers and cards during Gleda's illness and following her death. A special thank you to Pastor Lauren, Linda Morrison, Stephanie Hudy, Crystl Whitmire, the Care Committee and all who helped provide food or other assistance with the luncheon following Gleda's funeral. Your kindness is much appreciated. *Steve Wilfong*
- Our March Patchwork Pantry collection totaled 55 pounds. Thank you for your support!

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 **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/. 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:

2/25	8:30 Holy Communion	51
	11:00 Holy Communion	88
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40
	Total Views this Week	1653
	Hours Viewed this Week	52.2
3/3	8:30 Holy Communion	77
	11:00 Holy Communion	71
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	39

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	\$ 20,185.58
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,778.85
Total Giving	\$ 21,964.43

February Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$521

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 11 - 17, 2024

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

Tues	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	Fifth Sunday in Lent	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation in person & via Zoom
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube
	12:15 pm	Cherub Choir Rehearsal



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

Alan Hiner

Lyn Hiner

Cheryl Hoak

Dolores Hoak

Carl Holyfield

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)

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