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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

Published Weekly by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church

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March 12, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN A *WHY* GROUP!

Our first week of *Why Groups* got off to a great start! If you haven't yet joined a group, it's not too late. A list of groups is available at the Connection Center, or you can click muhlenberglutheran.org/WhyGroup to sign up. You're welcome to jump right in to the one that works best for your schedule. *Why Groups* are a short-term Lent small group opportunity during the month of March to build relationships and explore our lives in light of the parables we're hearing in worship each week. All are welcome — join a *Why Group* today!



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

The reception of new members scheduled for today **has been postponed until Sunday, April 16.**

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!

If you would like to join Muhlenberg, please fill out the information at...

<https://forms.gle/m5vmdEXbRgH7FAtv6>

and plan to join us April 16 for a welcome event at 9:45 am in Wayland Hall (downstairs in the main church building).

If you have questions or would like more information, please reach out to one of our pastors (by calling 540-434-3496, or emailing Pastor Lauren at eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org, or Pastor Alex at zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org).

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

WELCOME GIRL SCOUTS

Today we welcome Adrienne Burgoyne and friends from her troop who are celebrating Girl Scout Sunday here together through worship and a service project with Muhlenberg's Local and Global Mission Committee. Today commemorates the 111th anniversary of the founding of Girl Scouts, whose mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (3/13), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10:30 am

We gather each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons and dive deeper into God's word. 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).



Comfort Makers have been busy making warm winter bedding for those in need. Comforts will be displayed in the sanctuary the next two Sundays and blessed **NEXT**

Sunday, March 19. Comforts may be

purchased: Large ~ \$55; Youth ~ \$40; Baby ~ \$35. Proceeds will be used to pay for batting and other supplies: *See next week's issue of The Chimes for details.*

LENTEN RECITALS

Thursdays at 12 noon

Our Music Ministry is pleased to offer a series of half-hour recitals during Lent. Join us this week as **Linlin Uta, Pianist - Muhlenberg's Music Ministry Accompanist** and DMA candidate at JMU will perform classical piano works. Additional recitals include ...

- **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.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

LENT AT MUHLENBERG

For more information about Lenten activities, visit our Lenten Webpage for links and our Holy Week schedule:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2023

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 **TODAY (3/12)** if you are interested.

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*).

CREATION CARE



Faith Matters: God, we recognize the devastation that climate change wreaks across the globe, particularly for people who are vulnerable because of age, poverty, or other living situations. We know you care for all your people and that our actions affect people's lives. Guide us in your good wisdom to honor all people so that we might curb climate change together and find justice for all.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

SINGING HYMNS IN WORSHIP

Oh, how wonderful it is when we are all together singing hymns that strengthen our faith and unite us as one loving body of Christ. As a church goer (all my life) and church musician

(almost all my life), I know just how important and meaningful hymn tune melodies can be and how they can touch us both personally and spiritually.

As we continue our journey into Lent, I want to encourage everyone, in-person and live-streamed, to make a joyful noise unto the Lord when singing the hymns listed in the worship booklet each Sunday. Alas, worship booklet space is very compact, leaving us little to no room for more extended arrangements of our hymns; however, hymn numbers are provided for those in the congregation who prefer to sing from the ELW Hymnal (located in your pew rack) where on occasion a harmony arrangement will be available for that particular song.

Remember, sing for joy, sing for sorrow, sing for pain, but always sing for the Lord!

Music Minister Elizabeth Williams



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Cherubs & Tweens Update

These groups will rehearse together each Sunday after the 11:00 worship service **starting TODAY (3/12)**. Both groups will meet in the Music Room (downstairs) **beginning at 12:15 pm**. Cherubs will be dismissed at 12:45 pm. Tweens will be dismissed at 1:00 pm.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



This Lenten season, Local & Global Mission invites you to support

the mission of Church World Service (CWS). Each week we collect needed items:

TODAY (3/12) - 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, visit the Connection Center or contact Sue Totty (svtotty@gmail.com or 540-478-3073).

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



VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION

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.

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*Devotional booklets for
April - June are
available at the Connection Center
and in the Connection Box outside*

† † † † †

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: (depay@muhlenberglutheran.org /540-434-3496)
Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.

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

40-Day Journey ~ 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)

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Sundays, March 19 and 26, 9:45 am

Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am

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. To sign up, email Children's Minister Ashley Saunders (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON EASTER SUNDAY

The Children's Ministry team needs your help on Easter Sunday. Volunteers are needed to set up the Easter Egg Hunt that will be outside 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, there is a sign-up sheet next to the children's materials at the Welcome Desk or you may choose to email Ashley (saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org).

SENIOR HIGH NEWS

SENIOR HIGH

***WHY GROUP* ON SUNDAYS**

Our High School youth are invited to join us each week in March for a *Why Group* in the Campus Room after the 11:00 am service. We will have lunch together, and share in a time of fellowship and conversation around our *Why Group* topics of the week. Let Pastor Alex know if you're planning to attend or have any questions.

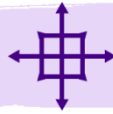
LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

***WHY GROUP* ON WEDNESDAYS**

All college students are invited to join us in the Campus Ministry Room **Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm** for a free dinner and conversation as a *Why Group*. We'll have a time of fellowship and conversation in a space where your questions about faith and life are always welcome. Contact Pastor Alex if you can join us or have any questions!



Lent With Muhlenberg
Lutheran Church, 2023



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

“THE WHY CROSS” QUESTIONS ANSWERED



God loves when we ask questions! Whether they are great big philosophical questions, sweeping theological questions, fun questions about why we do something during worship you've never understood, or really specific questions about something that you came across while reading scripture, your questions are an important part of growing in faith and community. Throughout Lent, the pastors will be taking time to respond to some of the questions left on “the Why Cross” in the Gathering Area this Lent. Here are some answered this past week:

It says, “After the Transfiguration in Matthew 17, the disciples asked “Why then do the scribes say Elijah must come first?” What are they asking? In verse 13 it says they understood Jesus was talking about John the Baptist when he said “Elijah did come.” Why? What is the relationship?”

Great question! In Malachi chapter 4 verse 5 it says, “Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.” The scribes, who were incredible authorities on what the sacred texts said, would likely have been using this as an argument against Jesus being the messiah. “Well Elijah hasn’t come back yet, so he can’t be the guy!” The scribes are teaching this, but the disciples are confused. Because in the transfiguration story, they see Jesus with Moses and Elijah on the mountain. God spoke to both of these prophets in ancient days on the mountains, but they were never called God’s son. This scene presents a continuity with Israel’s past, while making it clear that something radically new is occurring in Jesus. But clearly, this Elijah has shown up AFTER Jesus was born. But Jesus reminds them, in the verses cited by this question, that Elijah has come, and just like Jesus, was not recognized and received for who he truly was. “They did to him whatever they pleased, so also the son of man is about to suffer at their hands.” It was only two chapters earlier in Matthew that John the Baptist was beheaded, and the loss and grief would still have been fresh. Elijah did not show up in the way that the scribes or

disciples expected, but in John the Baptist, the spirit of Elijah was alive again, calling the people to repent before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. While this relationship between John and Elijah may have been a symbolic one, it was still vitally important to the history of God's love throughout the Hebrew scriptures that was being made known in a new way through Jesus. As we know, that Great and Terrible day will happen on Good Friday, and again, it won't be anything that they expected.

+Pastor Alex

“We are told to pray—we pray frequently for peace in our world and in each other's hearts—yet peace has not been found, even in early biblical readings. Why can't God reach into hearts to push for justice and peace?”

This is one of those questions where I definitely can't just say “here's THE answer”. But if I could offer MY answer to the question, I think that God does reach into our hearts to push for justice and peace. It's happened many times throughout history, but at the same time sin has gathered hearts to get into the way. Sin draws us away from God and one another, and in so doing, draws us away from peace. And furthermore, *peace* is not such a clear-cut thing. Biblically *Shalom* is the abiding peace of reconciliation that is a gift of God and connects us to all God has made. But *Shalom* is not the same as Rome's version of peace, for example. That peace was won by sword and spear, and kept by crucifying those who were considered disruptors of the peace. That's a very different definition of peace, and a reminder of the fact that the way we pursue peace matters. *Shalom* does not need violence to support it, it needs love. If you want to learn more about *Shalom*, I would encourage you to read a book called “The Very Good Gospel” by Lisa Sharon Harper. It's an incredible reflection on *Shalom*, Goodness, and Violence throughout history.

None of this is to say that praying for peace is meaningless. But I would say that as WE pray for peace, WE work for peace—in big ways and small ways—until the day that God's *Shalom* is known by all living things.

+Pastor Alex



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

2/26	8:30 Holy Communion	62
	11:00 Holy Communion	107
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	29
	Total Views this Week	142
	Hours Viewed this Week	71.4
3/5	8:30 Holy Communion	61
	11:00 Holy Communion	78
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Income and expenses are tracking similar to last year. Muhlenberg received funds in February from the Virginia Synod for Lutheran Campus Ministry programs. We are grateful the Synod continues to support this important ministry. We also continue to receive Thrivent Choice Dollar support and are grateful to those who designate Muhlenberg as a recipient.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2023			
	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$74,918	\$105,667	\$81,526
Total Income	\$105,245	\$128,129	\$103,936
Total Expenses	\$119,588	\$149,140	\$133,037
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(14,343)	\$(21,011)	\$(29,101)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 12,837.01
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,664.64
Total Giving	\$ 14,501.65

February Thrivent Choice Dollars ~ \$323

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 13 – March 19, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Ministries Night
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
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	Tween/Teen Choir Rehearsal



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

*Garland and Jeannie Long
John and Kathy Lubkowski
Paul, Erika, Gene, and Alice Mabrey
Bill and Brenda Maddox
LaVonne Markin*

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).