



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 15, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

† An email was sent Wednesday with information about how Muhlenberg is responding to Coronavirus concerns. Copies are available at the Connection Center or see today's insert for details.

† Did you receive the email we sent this week? If not, we likely do not have your current email address. Please use the pink cards (available in pew racks and in the Gathering Area) to provide your current email address or send it to Linda Depoy.

† Starting today, we will be live streaming the 11:00 service. *See p. 4 for details.*

† Lenoir-Rhyne has cancelled its spring tour due to the Coronavirus outbreak *See p. 3 for more information.*

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

THIS JUST IN ...

Beginning today, we return to **processional communion** as an additional effort to keep everyone healthy.

LENT: EXTRAORDINARY

The forty days of Lent invite people of faith to follow Jesus more closely, and awaken to the work of the Spirit in our lives and in



our world. Through this season, we will pay attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: **dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones.**

Using the devotional book, *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield, we'll consider Jesus' final days and journey to the cross, and see how God's extraORDINARY grace is at work through ordinary people and ordinary things.

For additional Lenten information, visit the Connection Center.

WELCOME GUESTS

We are blessed to welcome our guests today. We have a gift waiting for you at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area (main church entrance) and ask that you complete a blue guest card and/or sign our guest register. If you prefer, you may scan this QR code or securely register online:



muhlenberglutheran.org

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

BASKETS OF PROMISE

During Lent, we are sponsoring Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise appeal.

TODAY we collect
TOOTHBRUSHES (adult size
in original packaging).



Next Sunday, 3/22, we will collect
COMBS.

Look for a complete list of requested items at the Connection Center.

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION



Second Home is a ministry here at Muhlenberg. Without it, many young children in the neighborhood would go to an empty house after school.

With their parents working, the children would be on their own to do homework and feed themselves a healthy snack.

On the third Sunday each month, we ask you to donate specific items to help provide healthy snacks. For this month, we ask you to donate **cereal** (*Honey Nut Cheerios/Rice Krispies*) **TODAY**. Place donations in the designated bin in the Gathering Area. If you wish to help and prefer to make a cash donation, designate "Second Home food" on the memo line of your check and envelope.



FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	53	Wed. Noon	13
9:30 Worship	88	Wed. PM	41
11:00 Worship	<u>111</u>		
Total	252		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$99,702	\$121,248	\$102,094
Total Receipts	\$123,918	\$147,401	\$126,537
Expenses	\$157,885	\$178,331	\$143,414
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$33,967)	(\$30,930)	(\$16,877)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 6,370.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ <u>9,127.92</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 15,497.92

See Connection Center notebook for details.

March Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$405

To give online, scan here →



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, acolytes, greeters, communion assistants/stewards, sound techs, etc.

Sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center **for April, including Holy Week when we will need lots of helpers.** Signing up helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson (578-4830 or thompskb@jmu.edu)*. If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Sermons > Serve in Worship

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

GO-GO GROUP BREAKFAST (55+)

Are you 55+ and enjoy fellowship with others? Join the Go-go Group **THIS Tuesday, March 17, 8:30 am** at Thomas House in Dayton. Contact Dan Werner at 433-3912 for more information.

MIDWEEK LENTEN DINNER

CHURCH ~ WEDNESDAYS, 6:15 PM

Wednesdays during Lent (Mar. 4-Apr 1), worship will take place around the table: the dinner table. We begin at 6:15 pm in the MAC and wrap up by 7:15 pm. This casual yet meaningful experience is great for all ages. Doors open at 6:00 pm (if you arrive early, please join others who may also be waiting in the Gathering Area).

LENTEN MIDDAY RECITAL SERIES

Please join us **Thursdays at noon** during the Lenten season as we feature a variety of incredible musicians. Each week this 30-minute program offers an opportunity to temporarily release the stress of the day and be rejuvenated through the power of music. Concerts are free and open to all. Artists performing in the coming weeks ...

March 19:

Kyle Knappenberger, bass;

Jeremiah Padilla, piano accompanist

Both Kyle and Jeremiah are Doctorate of Musical Arts candidates at James Madison University

March 26: **Linlin Uta, piano**

Doctorate of Musical Arts candidate at James Madison University; Music Ministry Accompanist at Muhlenberg

April 2: **Edward Gant, cello**

James Madison University Music Faculty

LENOIR-RHYNE TOUR CANCELED

Lenoir-Rhyme was disappointed to announce the **cancellation of their tour** due to the coronavirus outbreak, including their March 22 performance at Muhlenberg. Student travel and the safety and health of potential audience members and host families were strong considerations. Muhlenberg thanks those families who committed to house students and hope you will consider hosting in the future.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

April's Pastors' Book Club selection is *Aging Matters: Finding Your Calling for the Rest of Your Life* by R. Paul Stevens. What does it mean to get older? How do we go about it fruitfully? The book delves into matters of calling, spirituality, and legacy in retirement.

Whether you're already retired, looking towards retirement, or journeying with friends or family members as they wonder about this next stage of their life, you'll find this book to be a rich resource for perspective, guidance, and personal and spiritual growth.

All are welcome as we gather **Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 pm** in the Gathering Area. The book is available from online booksellers, or you may order a copy of the book through Pastor Lauren for \$12.50.

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

We are wrapping up our study of the book of Job this week. **Wednesday, March 25**, will begin a new study on two women of the Bible: Ruth and Susanna. Now is a great time to join in this deep dive into the Scriptures with Pastor Lauren, every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Nielsen Room. Bible newbs and experts are all welcome!

Welcome to The Wellstream:

A DIGITAL MINISTRY OF MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are excited to begin a new digital opportunity for outreach and community building today. **The Wellstream Project**, a play on our vision of being a *Wellspring of God's Grace*, gives us the means to livestream our 11:00 am Sunday morning worship service on Facebook Live and YouTube. Even before current health concerns, we recognized that many of our members live busy lives that take sometimes take them away from regular worship attendance, some members are homebound and unable to be physically in community, and many folks who don't have a church home wonder about what they would find in a new worshipping community. All of these reasons have led us to explore this option for creating a digital worship space where members and guests can feel welcome and connected to life at Muhlenberg.

If you have a need to stay home, or want to invite anyone to see what worship at Muhlenberg is all about, then **tune in Live at 11:00 am on Sundays via Facebook or YouTube**. If you can't join us live, you'll be able to find archived services in both locations at any time.

We'll spend the first few weeks working out any bugs or concerns, so we welcome your feedback in the meantime. For now the camera will be in the balcony, using a wide-angle shot and a zoomed shot that focuses on our worship leaders, so that our members shouldn't recognizably appear on camera. If you have any questions or concerns about the *Wellstream*, please contact Pastor Alex.

Thanks to a generous donor, the *Wellstream* Project is a positive step toward utilizing technology for the advancement of Muhlenberg's mission, and for sharing the love of Christ with our community. This initiative is not meant to replace face-to-face community, and digital worship cannot provide the sacramental nature of worship to those who engage online. However, this can be a powerful tool for greater connection with our members when life gets in the way, and it can be a hospitable first step and effective means of communicating God's grace to our neighbors.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

PARTNERING WITH SECOND HOME

Muhlenberg cares for our neighbors in many ways. One of these is the licensed and academically focused before and after school care that Second Home provides to underserved families in the city. As a licensed child care facility, Second Home needs to adhere to strict regulations set by the Virginia Department of Social Services, including regulations on extra activities in the building while children are on the premises, and who and how people are allowed to be with the children.

Second Home is open until 6:00 pm. Most parents arrive between 5:30-6:00 pm to pick up their children, making the MAC a very busy place. When Muhlenberg events (e.g. Ash Wednesday and Lenten Dinner Church) are scheduled to start at 6:15 pm, members are asked to wait until 6:00 pm before entering the MAC. This helps reduce traffic and gives Second Home staff the time needed to clean up the gym without having to sacrifice the supervision and safety of our students.

If you need to arrive before 6:00 pm, please enjoy the serenity of the church Gathering Area while you wait. Event organizers and helpers who need to use the kitchen before 6:00 pm are asked to enter the kitchen through its outside entrance instead of the MAC's main entrance. If you need to come in through the main doors, please stop by the front desk, identify yourself, and inform the receptionist of your destination. We also ask that you follow the licensing regulations of no adults in the bathrooms while children are in there.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation to make this a safe environment for some of the most vulnerable among us.

EASTER OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER LILIES

Want to help beautify our church for Easter and remember/honor a loved one? Cost is **\$17 per plant. Sign-up deadline is MARCH 29.** To reserve your lily (limit 30) and have information published on Easter Sunday, do the following:



1. **Sign up** in the notebook (*under the "Flowers" tab*) at the Connection Center.
2. **Pay** for lilies by placing your check in the offering plate (write "Easter Lilies" on the memo line/envelope).

Payment will reserve the lilies.

Lilies may be picked up after the 11:00 service on Easter Sunday. Remaining lilies will be distributed as needed on Thursday (April 25).



ALTERNATIVE GIVING



*Alternative Giving
Opportunity*

If you wish to remember/honor a loved one in a different way, choose a local or global opportunity in **Minnick School** or **ELCA World Hunger**:

1. Sign up in the notebook (**lavendar forms in the front cover pocket**) at the Connection Center. **Sign up deadline is APRIL 5.**
2. **Make your contribution** by placing your check in the offering plate. Ensure correct credit/designation by indicating "**Second Home Easter Gift**" or "**World Hunger Easter Gift**" on the memo line of your check/envelope.

On Easter Sunday, we will publish the names of loved ones remembered with Easter lilies or alternative giving.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5 ~ Worship - 8:00, 9:30, 11:00

Experience the story of Christ through a dramatic presentation, "The Cry of the Whole Congregation."

WEDNESDAY NOON EUCHARIST ~ APRIL 8

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9 ~ 7 PM

Worship with foot/hand-washing and Holy Communion. We will celebrate the first communion of 6 young people.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10 ~ 7 PM

Dramatic procession with the cross and passion narrative

Ecumenical walk downtown, 12 noon

EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 11 ~ 4:30 PM

Begins in Woodbine Cemetery (next block)

This powerful service focuses on baptism and moves us from the stark Good Friday experience to the celebration of Easter. This year, the service takes place at a family friendly time to make it possible for young and old to worship together.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Festival Worship at all morning liturgies ~ 8:00, 9:30, 11:00

Children's Activities ~ 9:30

Following the children's message at the 9:30 service, Christian Formation leaders will take children ages 2 years-5th grade to the MAC for an easter egg hunt, story time and craft. If preferred, parents may take children and rejoin the service in the Sanctuary.

Join us ~ all are welcome!

SECOND HOME NEWS

GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

The Harrisonburg Women's Service League chose Second Home as the beneficiary of its **May 1** Charity Classic Golf Tournament. We are looking for sponsors. Details can be found at the Connection Center. If interested, *contact* *Krisztina Szekely* (2ndhomedirector@gmail.com or 432-7989).

CREATION CARE TIP



Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or rsanders9@verizon.net.

While dyeing eggs naturally using **produce** may be more costly than using commercial dye, there is no doubt that naturally dyed eggs are better for everyone. If you already make an effort to read the list of ingredients on packaging, you're probably already avoiding color additives. So why would you then purchase those color additives to dye your eggs? A common list of ingredients contained in egg dye could include yellow 5, red 40, blue 1, and red 3. While these additives have been graded as harmless by the FDA, it's good to know that yellow 5 is a synthetic dye produced from petroleum. The United Kingdom and other countries require manufacturers to place a warning label on products that contain yellow 5: "May have an adverse effect on activity and attention in children."

To avoid color additives, stick to naturally dyed eggs. You may use onion skins (brown), turmeric (yellow), red cabbage (blue), beets (pink), blueberries (blue/navy) or spinach for pale green.

YOUTH NEWS

ALPHA TEENS

Contact Rebecca Pettit (304-939-0528 or [pettitre4@gmail.com](mailto:pettetre4@gmail.com)) for more information.

CARE BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

NEXT Sunday, March 22, 12:15 pm, we will walk to Benny's for lunch (pack a lunch if you prefer). We will return to the church and assemble Care Bags with soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.

JAMERS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer (434-3496 or bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org) for more information.

MEETING DATE CHANGE

We will meet **NEXT Sunday, March 22, 12:15-4:00** in the MAC for lunch (provided), a movie, and games!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer (434-3496 or bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org) for more information.

Pick up a green Christian Formation brochure from the Connection Center for details about our opportunities.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

First Communion Class will meet in the Nielsen Room at **12:15 TODAY** and **Sundays, March 29 & April 5 12:15**. We ask that one parent/guardian attend with your child.

On Saturday, April 4, students will bake Communion bread in the MAC and then review the service for their First Communion in the sanctuary. Students will receive Communion with their families at the Maundy Thursday service, April 9.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Emily Carneal (emily.wicht@gmail.com or 540-421-1994) for more information.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

At a moment's notice, natural disasters like the powerful tornado that hit Nashville this week can cause widespread destruction. Please pray for those impacted, including members of St. John's Lutheran Church which was heavily damaged.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

100% of your gifts given to LDR go directly to aid in disaster relief. Visit the Connection Center for more information. Here are ways you can give:

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

PASTORAL VISITS

Retirement communities and nursing homes have contacted us requesting we not make routine pastoral visits until the threat of Coronavirus has passed. Our pastors are happy to make visits upon request as specific needs arise – simply call them at the office (434-3496) to schedule a visit.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 16-22, 2020

- Mon. 6:30 pm** Congregation Council Mtg.
- Tue. 8:30 am** Go-Go Group Breakfast
4:45 pm SonShine Singers
5:30 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Celebration Singers
7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers
- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study
12 noon Holy Communion
6:15 pm Lenten Dinner Church
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir
- Thu. 8:00 am** Comfort Makers
12 noon Lenten Concert Series
- Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am** Holy Communion
9:30 am Christian Formation
12:15 pm Alpha Teens
12:15 pm JAMers

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Thursday at 8 am**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (ldepoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496).

Additionally, requests to utilize space in the Gathering Area on Sunday or post information at the Connection Center should be made to Linda as soon as planned, but no later than Thursdays at 8 am.

Check bulletin boards for community information.

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