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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 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

LIVING WAGE CERTIFICATION



Muhlenberg has been certified as a Harrisonburg-Rockingham Living Wage Certified Employer at the Gold (highest) level! We join 87 other local businesses and

congregations who are committed to paying employees a living wage. The Living Wage Campaign is a project of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, a non-partisan coalition which advocates racial, social, and economic justice in Virginia's policies and practices through education, prayer, and action.



Muhlenberg's pastors and Executive Committee receive the certification certificate from Campaign Steering Committee Members Ramona Sanders and Janet Harvey.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

COMFORTS ON DISPLAY TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY

Are you cozy and comfortable today in the pew? Aren't they beautiful! Imagine the joy one of these warm comforts



will bring to someone who needs warm winter bedding. Over the past 20 years, Muhlenberg has made more than 2,500 comforts to give to local, national and international disaster relief projects.

Comforts may be purchased: large ~ \$55; youth ~ \$40; baby ~ \$35. Proceeds will be used to pay for batting and other supplies. If interested, pin your name and phone number on the comfort you choose, and someone from the Comfort Makers group will be in touch with you. (pins, pens and paper are available on bell table at back of the Sanctuary)

Comfort makers meet Thursdays in Wayland Hall 8:00 am – noon. All are welcome! For more information, contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 540-383-5085).

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Today (3/19) & NEXT Sun. (3/26), 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)

† † † † †

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

† † † † †

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>

LENTEN RECITALS

Thursdays at 12 noon

Our Music Ministry is pleased to offer a series of half-hour recitals during Lent.

- **March 23, Music Minister Elizabeth Williams performs 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.

LENT AT MUHLENBERG

For more information about Lenten activities, visit our Lenten Webpage for links and info:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2023

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

TO JOIN A *WHY* GROUP!

Our *Why Groups* are off to a great start! If you haven't yet joined a group, it's not too late. A list is available at the Connection Center, or 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. All are welcome — join a *Why Group* today!





Join us in ancient and holy practices recalling Jesus' final week and glorious resurrection.

Palm/Passion Sunday ~ April 2 at 8:30 am and 11:00 am*

With palm branches in our hands, we sing "Hosanna" to our king, then follow Jesus to the cross. Walter Wangerin, Jr.'s "The Cry of the Whole Congregation" invites us into the drama of Christ.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 6. 7:00 pm *

In this deeply moving service, we reflect on Jesus' final words and actions with his disciples, with individual confession and forgiveness, foot washing, Holy Communion, and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday ~ April 7, 7:00 pm*

We continue the journey through the Great Three Days, as we read the passion story from the gospel of Matthew, pray for the whole world for which Christ died, and honor the cross as a sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation.

Easter Vigil ~ Saturday, April 8, 4:00 pm

This family-friendly service is the pinnacle of the church year, as we hear the story of salvation and joyfully share in the first celebration of Easter. Members of several local congregations will join us for this Saturday afternoon, ecumenical worship.

Easter Sunday ~ April 9 at 8:30 am and 11:00 am*

On the day of Resurrection, we gather for a joyous celebration of Christ's victory over death! Come and worship! Also on Easter morning:

- 9:30 - 11:00 am ~ Bring a dish (breakfast casserole, breads, fruit, etc.) to share for the Easter Breakfast Potluck inside the MAC
- 9:45 am ~ Join the fun on the MAC lawn at 9:45am for an Easter Egg Hunt and other activities for kids of all ages.

*Services marked with asterisks will also be live-streamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAC KITCHEN DEEP CLEAN

HELP NEEDED ~ March 25, 9:00 am



Bill and Meg Wightman are looking for 3 - 4 additional people to join them **Saturday, March 25 starting at 9:00 am** to help them deep clean the MAC kitchen to get it ready for our Easter breakfast. Interested in helping? Contact Meg at megwightman14@gmail.com.

EASTER BREAKFAST

April 9, 9:30 – 11:00 am

Join us for a potluck Easter Breakfast to be held in the MAC in connection with children's activities. It will be a great time to share a brunch with others! Please contact Barbara Roadcap (bbroadcap@gmail.com or 540-830-1896) with questions. She will be there early to hold any items brought in. We also welcome any volunteers!



Breakfast

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9



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).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

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 **Sunday, April 16**. 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 anes@muhlenberglutheran.org, or Pastor Alex at zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org).

CREATION CARE

Collect your reusable shopping bags and store them in your car. The next time you're at the supermarket, you'll have the bags with you. Reusable shopping bags help cut down on waste and preserve natural resources. In the United States, we use 11 million plastic shopping bags every hour. Be sure to ask about rebates for bringing your own bags. Some supermarkets will take 5 cents off of your bill for every bag you bring.



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. 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 (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 26** (no additional flowers will be ordered after that date).

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers/greeters, crucifers, sound techs, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center for **April**. Signing up really 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 + Serve in Worship](#)

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

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. 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 (3/19) - Soap, shampoo, deodorant

March 26 - Cleaning items

April 2 - Pillows and sheets (twin and full size)

For more information including a complete list of items, visit the Connection Center or our [Lenten webpage](#) or contact Sue Totty (540-478-3073 or svtotty@gmail.com).

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.

THIS 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.

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)

TALKING ABOUT HOLY WEEK WITH KIDS

It can be difficult to navigate the story of Jesus' death with children. Many parents are very careful to protect their kids from being exposed to unnecessary violence, so when we're faced with the violence and torture of the cross, we're not sure what to say. Author Traci Smith has a very helpful article that can assist adults in having honest, age-appropriate conversations with kids:

<https://www.growchristians.org/2021/04/02/the-violence-of-the-cross-and-children/>

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!

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 plan to attend or have questions.

KAIROS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Rising 9th – 12th graders this summer are encouraged to mark their calendars for **June 25 - 30** when the Virginia Synod will host Kairos at Roanoke College. "*Kairos*" is the *New Testament Greek word for "special time."* It is used whenever God's people want to talk about a time of change, of renewal, of God's special work in the believer and the community. This event is an opportunity for youth who are already committed to a life of faith to be part of a unique Christian community for a week, to gain a fresh experience of the grace and presence of God in that community, and to develop habits for discipleship that can be taken home as they live out their baptismal call to be followers of Jesus. To learn more about the event, click [HERE](#). To register online, click [HERE](#). Contact Pastor Alex with any questions.

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).



Lent With Muhlenberg
Lutheran Church, 2023



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

"THE WHY CROSS"

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

This week's question was written in a child's handwriting, and I'm so glad they asked: *Why do we have communion?*

God gave communion as a special meal to share that helps us know how much God loves us. When we have this meal, we *remember*, we *receive*, and we *celebrate*.

When we eat the bread and drink the wine, we *remember* the special meal that Jesus had with his friends before he died. We also remember that Jesus died on a cross, and on Easter, God raised Jesus to life. And we remember that all of that happened because of how much God loves us.

When we share in communion we also *receive* forgiveness of sins. We all sometimes do things that are wrong or hurt other people. But when we receive this gift of bread and wine, placed in our hands, that we can touch and taste, we can trust that we are forgiven.

And that gives us a reason to *celebrate!* Communion is like a big party where God calls all God's children to come together, be strengthened by the meal, and then go out into the world full of God's love to share with other people.

So we have communion so we can remember, we can receive, and we can celebrate God's love for each and every one of us.

If you're in elementary school and you'd like to learn more about communion, you can join Miss Ashley and me for the *Welcome to the Table* class starting today (3/19). See page 2 for details. We'd love to see you there! ~Pastor Lauren

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

3/5	8:30 Holy Communion	61
	11:00 Holy Communion	78
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40
	Total Views this Week	127
	Hours Viewed this Week	70.5
3/12	8:30 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Holy Communion	106
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	42

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 <u>Actual</u>	2023 YTD <u>Budget</u>	2022 YTD <u>Actual</u>
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	\$ 6,870.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 114.23
Total Giving	\$ 6,984.23

February Thrivent Choice Dollars ~ \$323

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 20 – 26, 2023

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

Mon	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Mtg.
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
	6:30 pm	Lutheran Campus Ministry <i>Why Group</i>
Thu	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
	12:00 noon	Lenten Recital
Sat	9:00 am	MAC Kitchen Deep Clean
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
	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:

*Nancy Martin-Finks
Bruce and Karen Matthias
Chuck and Jill May
Carol McCormick
Barbara McManus*

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).