



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 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

- † Congregation Council made the painful decision Monday night to close our campus down to all activities, including Harrisonburg-Rockingham Day Care, Second Home, and support groups. Staff members, including our pastors, are working from home or the office as their responsibilities and circumstances require. You may email or leave us a voicemail message anytime.
- † Several emails have been sent recently and are posted on our website. If you do not have digital access, please ask a fellow member who is connected to keep you posted as updates are available, or leave a voicemail message for Linda Depoy at the church office and she will be happy to assist you.
- † Have you received our emails? If not, we likely do not have your current email address, or you may have accidentally unsubscribed from MailChimp. Please provide your current email address by visiting our website or emailing Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org).

- † This week, we started live streaming the Wednesday noon service and Lenten Dinner Church. *See pgs. 3-4 for details,*
- † Both Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex will be working throughout this time to stay connected with as many people as possible. While they will not be meeting in person with anyone except those in critical situations, they are both available for phone conversations, email, and video meetings. Simply email or call the church office — they'll be happy to hear from you!
- † **To learn more about Muhlenberg's response to COVID-19, visit our website for regular updates and activities.**

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

JOIN US ONLINE

While worship and church activities are cancelled, we do have a few people coming together to bring you worship online via Facebook or YouTube at 11:00.

Last week's first online service was great! Of course, there were a few bugs to work out, but we have been hard at work fixing those and hope you will join us this week.

See p. 2 for details.

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. **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 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 will be able to find archived services in both locations at any time.

We will 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.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

BASKETS OF PROMISE

We are postponing collections for Personal Care Kits.

LENOIR-RHYNE TOUR CANCELLED

The Spring tour, including today's performance at Muhlenberg, has been cancelled.

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible study is postponed. Once the current health concerns have passed, we will resume with studying two women of the Bible: Ruth and Susanna.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

On Wednesdays at noon, we will have a brief prayer service on Facebook. Tune in live, or watch the video later. Use the link below.

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

LENTEN MIDDAY RECITAL SERIES

The Recital Series has been cancelled. We hope to provide the opportunity again next year.

ATTENTION MINISTRY GROUP LEADERS

We now have a Zoom video conferencing account, which allows us to hold meetings, Bible studies, and other gatherings online. If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting for your group or class during this time of *spacious solidarity*, please email Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) and he will gladly do that.

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S "ATTENDANCE"

While we didn't meet in person last week, we were able to track our online viewership:

Peak Live Viewers:

Facebook ~ 78 YouTube ~23

Total Engagement/Views:

Facebook ~ 975 YouTube ~ 133

Total Time Watched:

Facebook ~ 81 hrs YouTube ~ 48.6 hrs

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	\$	840.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	3,918.17
Total Giving for the Week	\$	4,758.17

See Connection Center notebook for details.

March Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$405

To give online, scan here →



The church is certainly not suspending its ministry through this season, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to paying our staff and maintaining our ministries, even if they will be in a different form for now. We also want to be able to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. You can make a one-time or recurring donation through www.muhlenberglutheran.org, or mail your check to the church at 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.



MIDWEEK LENTEN DINNER CHURCH ~ WEDNESDAYS, 6:00 PM

On Wednesdays during Lent, worship will take place around the table:
YOUR dinner table!

With a community emphasis on social distancing, or spacious solidarity, in response to COVID-19, we have cancelled church gatherings, but we're shifting the structure of our Wednesday Evening Dinner Church services to be online! We will meet using Zoom, a video conferencing service. Not familiar with Zoom? No problem ... visit <https://youtu.be/NoR3axym3F4w> for a helpful tutorial Pastor Alex has prepared. The following link will allow you to download Zoom and login, or use the phone number to call in and hear the service:

<https://zoom.us/j/814203050>

Meeting ID: 814 203 050

Or join in by phone: 1-312-626-6799,,814203050#

or 1-929-205-6099,,814203050#

Gather your family, grab your dinner, and join us around the computer/laptop/phone/tablet as we form digital community! Dinner Church will offer a brief order of worship, a Lenten reflection, and a time for conversation as we work to maintain our family ties through this season. Together we will cultivate relationships with each other, and with God, as we explore the images and themes of our extraORDINARY Lenten journey.

We will begin each Wednesday at 6:00 pm, and all are welcome to join in the fun! Contact Pastor Alex Zuber (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) if you have any issues logging in to Zoom.

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.

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 ingredients list on packaging, you're probably already avoiding color additives. So why would you 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 & CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

All in-person activities and events are cancelled through April 1.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

For some of us, this time of social distancing provides an opportunity to slow down, and experience "sabbath" in a new way. We will be providing resources and links on our Facebook page for families and individuals to use to deepen faith together.

To start, we share a resource called *Prayer and Worship in our Homes*, an opportunity to "Grow closer to Christ even when you can't be in church. Learn more about the practice of prayer in its many forms from an array of studied experts."

Also, there is a wonderful resource for families called *Pandemic Hope*, a 7-week devotional that has a daily Bible reading and activity for families and children to do together. Visit our website for details.

This also may be a great time to read the Pastors' Book Club selection for April,

Visit our website anytime for family activities that will keep you connected to church during this health crisis or *contact Diane Bayer* (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

SECOND HOME NEWS

COVID-19 RESPONSE



One of the unique aspects of Second Home Learning Center is that we are not just a child care facility for school age children. We are a

second home for our students and staff. We are a family that takes care of each other on bad days, and celebrates together on special days. Our teachers and staff are the essence of our program. They are dedicated, compassionate, and well trained. Everybody comes to Second Home for a reason, and this reason is definitely not to get rich. While these reasons may be different for each of us, we all agree on one: we all genuinely care about the children, their families, and each other. It hurts that we cannot take care of the children right now, but it is for the community's and families' best interest.

So what CAN we do? We distributed care packages and asked families to let us know if they are in need. Muhlenberg Lutheran Church and Second Home staff will help with food, medicine, and other needs within safety guidelines. We have suspended fees for the time we are closed. We will check in with the most vulnerable families to make sure they are okay.

We will continue paying our teachers and staff as we know they all depend on this income. We will need them back after the shutdown. Second Home cannot serve the community without its teachers and staff.

So, for now we are social distancing and hunkering down. Our leadership continues to work online, we will hold meetings via Zoom, and we are optimistic. We are optimistic that

our fundraisers - the Great Community Give, and the HWSL Golf Tournament (see article below) - will still happen and will help us with much needed funding. We are optimistic that our spring musical - *The Lion King* - can still happen, even if we have to postpone it. We keep up the work under these new circumstances, and prepare for the glorious day when the danger is over and we can re-open for our students and families. Stay well, and keep us in your heart.

GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

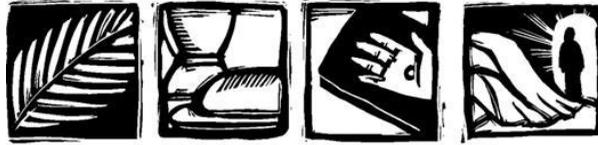
The Harrisonburg Women's Service League chose Second Home as the beneficiary of its **May 1** Charity Classic Golf Tournament. We are looking for sponsors. If interested, *contact Krisztina Szekely* (2ndhomedirector@gmail.com or 432-7989).

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Area Shepherds have been making phone calls this week to those in their Shepherd Group. They are asking questions about needs you may have, as well as ways you may want to serve over the coming weeks. We will be setting up phone partners to check in with one another, grocery and pharmacy runners who can help others avoid exposure, and whatever else we need to make sure we all stay safe and connected through this time.

Let us be creative and resourceful as we find new ways to care for one another. Be kind and patient with others—we're all doing the best we can. Take time to care for yourself as well.

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.

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!

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 by emailing Linda Depoy** (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Include who you want to remember/honor.
2. **Pay for lilies by mailing your check to the church office** (281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, 22801). 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**. **Deadline: April 5.**

1. **Sign up by emailing Linda Depoy** (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Include who you want to remember/honor and which agency you choose.
2. **Make your contribution** by mailing your check to the church office (281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, 22801) Designate "**Second Home Easter Gift**" or "**World Hunger Easter Gift**" on the memo line.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 23-29, 2020

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Mtg. via Zoom
- Wed. 12 noon** Live Service on Facebook
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner Church via Zoom
- Sun. 10:30 am** "Coffee Hour" via Zoom
11:00 am Service Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube

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 (depoy@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).

← BE STRONG →
and
→ COURAGEOUS →

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever
you go

Isaiah 41