



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 27, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

Your Congregation Council has been hard at work. We spent Monday evening in the Nielsen Room. It was a delight to see everyone in person to discuss all things Muhlenberg! Here are some things we discussed:

- Plans for Treasurer Sarah Sunde and I to meet with all Ministries to discuss their 2023 dreams
- We re-worked the Council Covenant
- The Part-Time Daytime Sexton job description was approved for posting
- Pastor Lauren shared two great opportunities offered to Muhlenberg by the Synod's Pastor John Wertz: a Stewardship Program utilizing a special grant from the Synod and a Mission on the Eastern Shore
- WE'VE GOT HOMEWORK!! We will be meeting in small groups over the next month to discuss next steps and timelines of our four main focus areas from the Strategic Plan

As always, we are YOUR COUNCIL and want to hear from you. Send your comments, thoughts, and suggestions our way! Feel free to email me at MLCCouncilpres@yahoo.com.

See you in the pews!

Greta Willis

Congregation Council President

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CARING GROUPS/SHEPHERDS

Do you know your Neighborhood CARING group or who your neighborhood Shepherd is? Would you like to be able to support church neighbors in need or to know whom to call if you have a care concern?

Care Ministry team members will be in the Gathering Area **TODAY (3/27)** with information, lists and maps. Stop by before or after services to look things over, get your neighborhood list, and ask questions about our "Shepherd Ministry." Not at church in person but have questions? Call Linda Morrison (383-5085) or Sandy Randolph (828-2033).

The Congregational Care Committee meets the second Monday each month during Ministries Night. Please join us!

FAITH IN ACTION

Our meeting for today has been cancelled. If you would still like to voice your preference for our next focus, contact Nancy Martin-Finks (nanmart777@comcast.net or 540-421-8199) or Cathy Copeland (317-670-1086 or catherineblose@gmail.com).

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Through April 6 Wednesdays during this season provide us with extended time to explore our theme, *Woven in Grace*. Some groups are hybrid, allowing you to participate from home!

- **WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY**

Join us at **10:30 am** via **ZOOM**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

- **Middle School and High School Youth**

Our tweens and teens are invited to join by being an assistant leader with our children's program, or by joining one of the adult classes.

- **Prayer Shawl Group (6:30 - 8:00 pm)**

Join in creating a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you basic stitches! As we pray and stitch together, we'll explore how we are woven in grace through reflections on John's gospel. Led by Jackie Wells, Pat Costie, and Pastor Lauren.

- **Lenten Book Study (6:30 - 8:00 pm)**

Join Pastor Alex for a 6-week Hybrid Book Study on [*Witness at the Cross*](#) by Amy-Jill Levine. In her book, Levine brings the unique perspective of a Jewish theologian and historian to show how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. And so, from each, we learn how those meanings and messages weave into our own time and knit us together through the grace of God. Conversations are in-person with a **ZOOM** option. Contact Pastor Alex with questions.

- **Wonder Wednesdays (6:30 - 7:15 pm)**

Youth of all ages are invited to discover who God is through Jesus and Jesus' "I am" statements in the Gospel of John. Through art, science, and community outreach projects, we will see how Jesus is woven into the very fabric of all of creation through revealing who he is to us. There will also be games and free-time from 7:15 - 8:00 pm so parents can attend other Wednesday offerings.

COMFORT MAKERS

Thursdays (through April 7) anytime from 8:00 am - noon! Contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com or 383-5085).

FOOD COLLECTION

NEXT Sunday, April 3, in the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products.



DESIGN OUR BULLETIN COVERS

Did you notice today's beautiful cover by BJ Daniel? Do you have artistic gifts or an eye for photography? Your gifts can help tell God's story! Whether you use your own art, photography, or any other visual medium, you have the opportunity to use your gifts to design our Sunday worship bulletin cover!

Storytellers of all ages are welcome to sign up [HERE](#) to claim your favorite stories from the Gospel of John. Have questions? Click [HERE](#) for a video explanation or contact Christian Perritt at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FROM PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER

Worship on Palm Sunday, April 10 begins with a procession from the Gathering Area to the Sanctuary to reenact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the Blessing of Palms. After glorious and uplifting anthems of praise from the choirs, the tone shifts quickly to the story of Jesus' suffering and death.

Palm Sunday begins the holiest week of the year for Christians as we enter into the story of Jesus' passion. On Thursday, we will commune with him at the Last Supper. On Good Friday we will watch him die on the tree of the cross, and on Saturday at the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate his rising and our rising with him in baptism.

The Great Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday will deepen your faith and your life and make Easter Sunday's worship an even greater gift. Of course, it doesn't stop there. The Easter season stretches on for seven weeks of joyful celebration!

Note: On Palm Sunday if you prefer to take a seat in the Sanctuary during the procession, you are welcome to do so.



ABOUT OUR PALMS



Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was celebrated by using palm branches, according to the Gospel of John. Lutherans around the world recount this story of Jesus, re-enacting the waving of palms on Palm Sunday.

To ensure that palms are harvested in a more environmentally sustainable way whereby harvesters can earn a fair income for their labor, Muhlenberg Lutheran Church is purchasing "eco-palms" for Palm Sunday. As far back as March 16, 2008, Lutheran World Relief has partnered with Chamaedorea Palm Certification Project to build support for eco-palms in the United States. Purchasing eco-palms benefits farmers, families and communities in cooperatives where they are grown. It's a way each of us can walk-the-walk with Jesus on Palm Sunday.

For those worshipping at home, palms will be available in the Connection Box Friday and Saturday, April 8 - 9. You may pick them up any time those days.

Holy Week & Easter

Join us in ancient and holy practices recalling Jesus' final week and glorious resurrection.
See muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2022 for more details.

Palm / Passion Sunday – April 10, 8:30 am and 11 am*

With palm branches in our hands, we sing "Hosanna" to our King, then follow Jesus to the cross.

Maundy Thursday – April 14, 7 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 15, 7 pm*

As we hear reflections on Jesus' last words on the cross, we commemorate Jesus' gift of life for the world through his death on the cross.

Easter Vigil – Sat. April 16, 4 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.

Easter Sunday – April 17, 8:30 am and 11 am*

On the day of Resurrection, we gather for a joyous celebration of Christ's victory over death! Outdoor children's activities will be offered at 9:45am.

***Services marked with an asterisk will also be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK

The 35th annual Harrisonburg downtown ecumenical Good Friday prayer walk, based on the “Stations of the Cross,” will be held Friday, April 15, from noon to 1:00. The walk 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. Led by someone carrying a large cross, the group stops at each station where a member of the “Biblical Storytellers Guild” will tell the appropriate passage from the Gospel of John and a local pastor (including Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex) responds with a prayer. This is a contemplative, communal, and spiritual practice of shared ecumenical worship and witness that has been going on every year in downtown Harrisonburg for 35 years. Please join us! The walking route is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers.



Stations of the Cross

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

LENTEN MIDDAY RECITALS -

THURSDAYS IN LENT, 12:00 NOON

Our Music Ministry is pleased to offer a series of recitals each Thursday at 12:00 noon during the Lenten season. Now in its 13th year, these 30-minute musical moments have been a spiritual blessing to all, both to the listeners and performers. Upcoming Lenten recitals ...:

March 31, *Elizabeth Williams, organist* - our Music Minister will perform various organ works celebrating the birthday of J.S. Bach.

April 7, *Esther Nyberg, pianist, and Olivia Rominiyi, soprano* - Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Shenandoah Harpers will not be able to perform. However, we are very excited to announce that *Esther Nyberg, pianist, and Olivia Rominiyi, soprano*, both graduate students at JMU School of Music, will be here to perform music of Purcell and Saint-Saëns, as well as spirituals by contemporary African-American composer Undine Smith Moore.

Recitals are free and open to all - both in-person and live-streamed (*Facebook and YouTube*). Masks are optional, but welcome.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY

Since 1981, David Hill has faithfully served as our chairperson of the Altar Guild. Ever wonder who changes the paraments for each season of the church year? Orders our communion wine? Ensures our eternal flame stays lit? David's incredible gift of behind-the-scenes service has done all this and more to support our weekly worship. This June, David will retire after 41 years of dedicated Altar Guild ministry. We'll be recognizing him and his service this summer, but in the meantime, we're looking for a group of folks who will step up to shepherd this ministry. (Yes, David does so much it's going to require multiple people to take his place!)

This is a meaningful way to serve God and our congregation, and it can be done at times that are convenient to your schedule during the week. It's also something that a parent and child can do together, so if you're looking for a way to help your child learn how to serve, this could be a wonderful opportunity. Please contact Pastor Lauren if you're interested, or would like to learn more.

CREATION CARE TIP



Snip the plastic rings that are used to package six-packs of beer and soda. We've all heard horror stories about the plastic rings suffocating fish and getting tangled around the beaks of birds and other wildlife. Remember to snip the rings before tossing them in the trash. Better yet, eliminate them altogether by buying single sodas or cases that come in cardboard packaging.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE NEWS

PART-TIME DAYTIME SEXTON POSITION OPENING

As you have heard, due to the retirement of Chip Bayer, we are hiring a new part-time Daytime Sexton. The sexton will help insure a clean, safe and attractive environment for ministry and mission, providing excellent care and maintenance of the congregation's facilities through regular cleaning, maintenance and oversight.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are always in need of worship assistants: lecturers, ushers/greeters, crucifers, sound techs, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center for **April, including Holy Week**. 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.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

LENT SERVICE PROJECT



This Lenten season Local & Global Mission invites you to support the mission of Church World Service (CWS). CWS works to resettle and support refugee families coming to the Valley. Each week during Lent we will collect items needed by these families. We have broken the list up by the week, but you are welcome to bring any of the items at any time.

Items may be brought to the church and placed in the bins in the Gathering Area or placed in the Connection Box throughout the week. You may also designate a financial gift by placing a check in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office with a notation that it is for Church World Service. Online giving will also be an option in the near future, so check our online giving link on the Muhlenberg website.

Let's join together with our new neighbors, as God's people, woven together in grace!

Items being collected are:

March 6 - Toothbrush & toothpaste

March 13 - Baby wipes & diapers

March 20 - Band-aids, first aid supplies,
thermometers

TODAY (3/27) - Soap, shampoo, deodorant

April 3 - Cleaning items

April 10 - Pillows & sheets (twin & full size)



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF RESPONDS TO CRISIS IN UKRAINE



The Ukrainian crisis has left us shocked, horrified, outraged and wondering how we can possibly help. Fortunately a trusted organization is already taking action.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Lutheran churches across the United States are joining together to rush needed supplies to those caught in the crisis unfolding in Ukraine and nearby Poland. The LWR staff is on the ground in the regions surrounding Ukraine to ensure that the immediate needs of our neighbors (food, shelter, medical supplies and emergency medical services as well as emergency funds for refugees) are being met.

Thanks to the leading generosity of Nelsonville Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church in Amherst, WI and now joined by incredible congregations across the country — **all donations given through Lutheran World Relief and received by April 25 will be doubled** — up to \$422,000 — for our neighbors suffering in the Ukraine crisis.

To expedite relief to those in need and have your donation potentially doubled, please make donations online directly to LWR at [LWR.org/match](https://www.lwr.org/match).

If you do not have internet access, we can still ensure your gift helps make a difference. Make your contribution to Muhlenberg and designate LWR on the memo line.

*~Local & Global Mission News
continued on next page~*

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

(CONT'D)

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Local and Global Mission Committee would like to keep everyone apprised of volunteer opportunities in our community. As you know we have been sponsoring “Mission Moments” as a way to help spread the word of organizations in our community that are working with our neighbors. As we also strive to know our neighbors and serve together with them, here are some opportunities:

Church World Service has the following needs for volunteers:

- High School Youth Mentor
- Cultural Orientation Volunteer
- Teaching Public Transportation

For more information contact Volunteer Coordinator Madison Reese at 540-807-9654 or go to <https://cwsharrisonburg.org/get-involved/volunteer/>.

INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION

For nearly thirty years, leaders and representatives of faith communities in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County have gathered monthly to declare ...

By their common origin in God, all peoples are one. Seeking to better understand our interrelatedness and to manifest love and justice, we covenant together to embody in our community God's peace through our faith traditions. (Adopted 1997)

This “Affirmation of Purpose” guides the planning and fellowship of the Interfaith Association (IFA) and is shared in every meeting. Participants from faith communities have included Protestant and Catholic

congregations, Temple Beth-El Jewish community, the Muslim community, the Mormon and Ba-Hai communities, and others. The Association gathers on the first Thursday of each month, September through June. Each meeting has a time for being better acquainted with each other and for a program of mutual interest. Some participants represent a particular faith community; others are persons simply interested in interfaith life.

As IFA exists to foster the interrelatedness among the various faith communities of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, it relies on contributions of participating faith communities and attendees to support its minimal operational expenses. It is recommended that faith communities annually contribute a minimum of \$25 and individuals who do not represent a faith community contribute \$10. Ongoing operational expenses do include a women’s jail chaplaincy which costs \$800 a year. Occasionally, as funds accumulate from donations and from Lenten Luncheons or other sources, IFA has supported Open Doors (shelter for the homeless), Faith in Action, Peace Camp, and the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. In the past, IFA has been instrumental in creating both Open Doors and Faith in Action.

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church has participated in IFA since its inception and attendees have included pastors and appointed representatives plus other interested persons. Participation has also included an annual contribution, presently \$100. More information can be accessed through the IFA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/interfaithassociation>

Robert Alley, Muhlenberg IFA Representative

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

“WELCOME TO THE TABLE”

Children 2nd - 5th grades have been participating in a *Welcome to the Table* class this Lenten season. Pastor Alex and Ashley have enjoyed teaching the children about the importance of the church community through Holy Communion. This past Sunday the children had an opportunity to learn the names and purpose of all of the elements of communion. The children even got to try on some of Pastor Alex’s chasubles. The class will conclude with the children taking Holy Communion together on Palm Sunday, April 10.



EASTER LILIES AND ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Find unique ways to give and to honor loved ones this season.

Easter Lilies - Remember and honor loved ones this year with an Easter Lily. The cost per plant is \$22. To reserve your lily, do the following:

- Sign up online by clicking [HERE](#), visiting our [Lenten webpage](#), or you can sign up at the Connection Center or by calling Louise Layman (540-442-1524)
- Pay for lilies (write “lilies” 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 lilies.

Lilies may be picked up Easter Sunday after the 11:00 am service. **Sign up deadline is today (3/27)** (no additional flowers will be ordered after that date).



Donating to Church World Service - If you wish to remember a loved one in a different way during this Holy Season, we offer a local opportunity to support the work of Church World Service. Can you imagine what it would be like to leave your home and country with nothing but a few clothes? Thankfully, Church World Service is a nonprofit organization in Harrisonburg that helps refugees from many different countries find and make new homes in our community. Currently, Church World Service is working hard to welcome and find homes for the many refugees from Afghanistan that have left their country for reasons of safety. If you would like to contribute to this organization, please do the following:

- Sign up by clicking [HERE](#), visiting our [Lenten webpage](#), visiting the Connection Center, or by calling Karen Thomsen at 540-421-4431.
- Make your contribution - ensure correct credit/designation by indicating “Easter Church World Service” on the memo line. Place your check in the offering plate or mail it to the church office (281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg 22801).

We will publish the name of your loved one(s) in The Chimes on Easter Sunday (as we do for lily donations). Sign up deadline is Sunday, April 10.



REMINDERS

ACCESS SERMONS ONLINE

Following the Narrative Lectionary allows us to tell a continuous story of faith week after week. If you missed or would like to revisit a particular sermon, you can find a [playlist on YouTube](#) that is updated weekly! Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) to see the sermons posted, and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)!

WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AT 11 AM

Digital ministry is now an essential part of our community. Our Wellstream service at 11:00 am allows those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a hybrid service of Holy Communion. This means cameras will be on during worship, and we want to be sure our community knows what to expect. Cameras will be primarily focused on worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the sanctuary. *We will not intentionally focus on congregation members in the pews*, but you may briefly appear in view depending on your seat. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Alex or Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberg.lutheran.org) for possible solutions. You're welcome at any time during worship in the sanctuary to connect on Facebook or YouTube to comment a word of welcome or peace to those worshipping online!

PRAYER CARDS



Prayer
Requests

You can find prayer request cards in the back inside cover of the worship book in your pew or at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area.

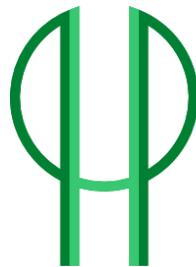
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Jesus said, "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes...." Matthew 25

People Helping People is hope for many. It is an ecumenical crisis ministry of churches and faith communities serving Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. They are an organization whose purpose is to ...

- Coordinate services for people in need
- Partner with clients by helping them with assistance they may require
- Improve the quality of life for individuals and families in our community

People Helping People, located in the Ott Street house on Muhlenberg's campus, is open limited hours Tuesday through Thursday by appointment. If this ministry speaks to you, contact Director Leanne Shepherd (Peoplehelpingpeopledirector@gmail.com or 540-433-7286) to discuss volunteering or how you might help those in need in our community.



**People
Helping
People**

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

3/13	8:30 Holy Communion.....	29
	11:00 Holy Communion	47
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	54
	Total Views this Week	225
	Hours Viewed this Week	86.2
3/20	8:30 Holy Communion.....	54
	11:00 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	41

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Gifts and offerings are behind the budget projection and a little behind where they were in 2021. Expenses are considerably down from 2021 due to changes in staff and all other categories were comparable to the previous year. Personnel is the largest expense in the budget and critical to doing God's work through the strategic plan. As staff is hired, expenses will increase.

In addition, benevolence payments were also reduced. We currently do have a deficit as we have incurred more expenses than income. I hope we can increase benevolence payments and reduce the deficit because of the increased generosity of our community. *Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2022

	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget	2021 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$87,526	\$102,500	\$91,128
Total Income	\$110,936	\$117,291	\$112,491
Expenses	\$122,960	\$144,614	\$161,230
Excess Income/(Expenses)	\$ (12,024)	\$ (27,323)	\$ (48,739)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 11,039.54
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,010.64
Total Giving	\$ 12,050.18

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 28 — April 3, 2022

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

Mon	2:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tues	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
	6:30 pm	Lenten Wednesday Activities <i>See page 2 for details</i>
Thu	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
	12 noon	Lenten Recital
Sun	Fifth Sunday in Lent Food Pantry/Lay Communion Sunday	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube

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/434-3496

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

CHRISTIAN FORMATION 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 -12 ~ Campus Room

Devotional Classics Adult Class ~ Nielsen Room

Faith Lens Adult Class ~ Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)