



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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281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 ✚ Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org ✚ Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org

March 28, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ



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.

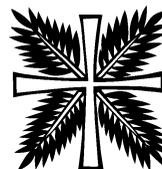
To ensure that palms are harvested in a more environmentally sustainable way whereby harvesters can earn a fair income for their labor, Muhlenberg Lutheran Church is purchasing "eco-palms" for Palm Sunday. As far back as March 16, 2008, Lutheran World Relief has partnered with Chamaedorea Palm Certification 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.

Be sure to pick up your palms Friday, March 26, 3:00-6:00 pm or Saturday, March 27, 10:00 am-noon!

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION PALM SUNDAY

Worship today begins with a procession 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 as recorded in the Gospel of **Luke**.



Today 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!

Extra worship booklets for The Great Three Days are available in the Connection Box.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each Sunday from 8:30 – 11:00 using this link:

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

8:30 – 9:00 Communion Service via Zoom
 9:00 – 11:00 “Coffee Hour” Fellowship
 9:30 – 10:00 K - 3rd Grade Class
 9:30 – 10:00 4th - 5th Grade Class
 9:30 – 10:30 Adult Faith Lens Class
 9:30 – 10:30 Adult 40-Day Journey Class
 10:15– 10:30 Pre-K Story Time
 11:00 Worship on [Facebook](#),
[YouTube](#), *Wellstream Phone*

- **Pastoral Care** ~ If you would like a private word with the pastor on call, we will provide a breakout room for you.
- **Small Group Fellowship** ~ Want to catch up with a small group of friends? We have private breakout rooms for that!

If you don't have a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

WELLSTREAM PHONE

We want all members to have the opportunity to “participate” in worship and hear The Word. *Wellstream Phone* is a service that works from your home or cell phone — no internet required. Simply call the number below and select an option. Information will be available by 11 am each Sunday. Contact Linda Depoy (434-3496) with any questions.

Wellstream Phone Number:

1-434-205-8777

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

3/14	8:30 Communion	14
	11:00 Total Live Views	100
	4:00 Parking Lot Service	30
	Total Views this Week	429
	Hours Viewed this Week	161.2
3/21	8:30 Communion	20
	11:00 Total Live Views	98

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$91,128	\$137,879	\$99,702
Total Receipts	\$112,491	\$162,758	\$124,225
Expenses	\$161,230	\$180,714	\$157,885
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$48,739)	(\$17,956)	(\$33,660)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 4,785.00
 Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 5,517.03
Total Giving for the Week \$ 10,202.03



To give online, scan here →

Muhlenberg is not suspending its ministry through this unprecedented time, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to maintaining our ministries, even if they are 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 the [donation page](#) on our website, or mail your check to the church:
281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

THIS WEEK

HOLY WEEK AT A GLANCE

See p. 4 for activity and service details.

March 29 - April 1 ~ **DAILY WORSHIP**

12:15 pm on YouTube (watch for *links*)

April 1 ~ **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

7:00 pm on [ZOOM](#)

April 2 ~ **GOOD FRIDAY ACTIVITIES ON**

[Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

12:15 pm Virtual Community Prayer Walk

7:00 pm Service

April 3 ~ **EASTER VIGIL SERVICE**

7:00 pm on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

April 4 ~ **EASTER DAY**

8:30 am on [ZOOM](#)

11:00 am on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

4:00 pm Parking Lot Service

MID-DAY WORSHIP

Ecumenical leaders are leading mid-day worship Monday-Thursday of Holy Week, **12:15 pm**. Each service is about 20 minutes long, shared live on our [YouTube](#) page and available for viewing later. Click the links below to access the services:

Mon. ~ <https://youtu.be/VhgcIR-0Vfs>

Tue. ~ https://youtu.be/_juf5Z3gCDO

Wed. ~ <https://youtu.be/Qe1fCcppSdlk>

Thu. ~ <https://youtu.be/w-UQ1CuWoQY>

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

There will be **no Christian Formation classes next Sunday, April 4** (Easter Sunday).

ALTERNATIVE GIVING OPPORTUNITY

While the deadline has passed to sign up for an Easter lily, you can still remember a loved one by supporting the **Habitat Faith Build**. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home.



Alternative Giving
Opportunity

Here's a message from Congregation Council President Karen Thomsen:

More and more I am aware of God's abundance in my life. As I lay my head down at night I am thankful for a warm bed and a safe home. But what about my neighbors? Not just those that live next to me but all of my neighbors? Do they all have safe homes to live in and if not what can I do about it? During Lent we have another opportunity to directly impact our neighbors by giving to our Habitat Faith Build through our alternative giving. Our community is stronger when all of our neighbors have safe affordable housing. If you have questions or want to know more about our Faith Build participation please contact me (540-421-4431).

To participate in alternative giving, do the following:

1. **Sign up** by clicking [HERE](#) or call Karen Thomsen at 540-421-4431.
2. **Make your contribution.** Ensure correct credit/designation by indicating "**Easter Habitat Faith Build**" on the memo line. Mail your check 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 TODAY (3/28)**.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



As we continue our *Unexpected* journey with Jesus, join us for worship during Holy Week and Easter!

Stop by the church **Friday, March 26, 3:00-6:00 pm** or **Saturday, March 27, 10:00 am-noon** to pick up a **Holy Week Worship Kit**, including live palms for Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday (TODAY), we'll begin with an at-home Procession of Palms, celebrating as Christ comes into our midst, and then follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross through the reading of the Passion story from Luke. Worship will be at **8:30 am** on [ZOOM](#) and **11:00 am** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). (*This year, we ordered eco-palms. See p. 1 for details.*)

Monday - Thursday of Holy Week (March 29-April 1), we'll join with congregations around the Valley for daily worship at **12:15 pm** on YouTube (see next week's issue of *The Chimes* for links).

Maundy Thursday (April 1), we'll remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, and Jesus' commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. Worship will include Holy Communion and take place on [ZOOM](#) at **7:00 pm**.

Good Friday (April 2) draws us to the cross, as we worship on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) at 12:15 pm through the Virtual Community Prayer Walk, an annual ecumenical tradition. We'll gather once more at **7:00 pm** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) for a contemplative reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

Easter Vigil service (April 3) proclaims through story and song that God continually brings life out of death! Join us at **7:00 pm** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) for the lighting of the new fire, creative retellings of the salvation story by the Muhlenberg community, a remembrance of our baptisms, and a celebration of the night of salvation.

Easter Day (April 4) brings 3 opportunities for celebrating the resurrection with Muhlenberg. We'll join in songs of praise and the feast of Holy Communion at **8:30 am** on [ZOOM](#). At **11:00 am** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#), gather around sacred words in a festive, musical celebration. At **4:00 pm**, we'll meet in person from the safety of our cars in the parking lot to proclaim Christ's victory over death, including Holy Communion.

Links to all these services are also available at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/lent2021. We look forward to celebrating these holy days with you and the ones you love.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

Have you been worshipping with Muhlenberg online? Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex would love to get to know you! Join in our *Welcome to Muhlenberg* session **Sunday, April 18 at 1:00 pm via [ZOOM](#)**.

Learn more about our community of faith and ways to get involved and connected no matter where you live. We will also provide information on joining Muhlenberg, but all are welcome to attend whether you're interested in becoming an official member or not.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF THE WELLSTREAM



While this year has certainly been challenging, we have reason to celebrate the accomplishments of our Digital Ministry: The Wellstream!

We give thanks to the generous and anonymous donor who allowed us to get started initially, and all who have contributed their creativity and skills to this ministry over the last year.

Over the past few weeks, we have celebrated the accomplishments of our Digital Ministry: The Wellstream! We are excited to see where this ministry grows, and the ways it allows us to continue to share the message of God's abundant grace, even through the most difficult days. **You can enjoy a video celebration of this past year on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) or by clicking [HERE](#).**

YOUTH MINISTRY AT MUHLENBERG

As you have heard in recent weeks, Congregation Council has been working diligently to update and implement our Strategic Plan. As part of that plan, Council has examined the staffing needs to accomplish our spiritual development goals. One very important component of the plan is to uplift our focus and attention on youth ministry.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hiring a part-time Youth Minister. This person will provide dynamic leadership and oversight for youth ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Youth Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in young people grades 6 - 12 and their families.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

Please lift up our search in your prayers.

CREATION CARE TIP

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: (rsanders97@verizon.net or 433-1165)



For Easter baskets, consider buying Fair Trade chocolate, dried fruit, tea and coffee or small gifts made by fair trade cooperatives at www.equalexchange.coop.

† † † † †

*Devotional booklets for
April-June are
available from the Connection Box.*

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LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Karen Thomsen
(kethomsen25@gmail.com or 540-421-4431)
for more information about the Habitat Build
or to volunteer.

HABITAT FAITH BUILD Event Today!

The Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Blessing event is TODAY (3/28). Many of our confirmation youth and families will participate on site at this event. You may also participate by writing your own message, prayer, or blessing on a piece of paper to be either stapled to a framing board or on a card that will be saved and given to the families at the home dedication ceremony. All blessings may be placed in *Faith Blessing* envelope in the Connection Box or mailed to the church (281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg 22801), attention: *Faith Blessing*, and they will be taken to the event. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to welcome these families and let them know that their new home is surrounded by God's love and ours.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Habitat Faith Build is well underway! We hope you will take time to drive down Virginia Avenue (Rt. 42) and glance at or pull over to see the work at 658 and 660 Virginia Ave.

Semi-skilled volunteers are still needed. All Covid-19 guidelines for wearing masks and social distancing are followed on site. Please contact Karen Thomsen if you can help with any parts of the build listed below:

Drywall Hang ~ April 6 - 9

Electrical Finishing (plugs, switches, etc.) ~

April 28 - May 4

Vinyl Flooring ~ May 27 - June 1

Other Flooring ~ June 2 - June 9



SECOND HOME NEWS

UPDATE/GREAT COMMUNITY GIVE

"Blessed is the one who is kind to the needy." (Prov. 14:2)

It's been over a year that schools closed down and Second Home started to plan how we could support our families in need. With the encouragement and generous support of Muhlenberg and the local community, we have been able to continuously provide support, first in the form of groceries and later with child care. I am happy to report that 90% of our staff are fully vaccinated making it safer for us to continue working with the children.

Students at Second Home have been completing their virtual classes/assignments in a safe and supportive environment. They have also participated in academic enrichment such as the research projects and presentations that 3rd - 6th graders worked on during Black History Month in February.



We are happy for our K - 2nd graders and 6th graders who have started in-person classes. They are happy to see their schools and teachers in person. We will continue to support these grades with before and after school programming. 3rd - 5th grade students are continuing their education virtually and will stay at Second Home all day. We are excited about an offer of an outdoor stage area to continue our annual musical tradition. We are hopeful that restrictions will be reduced by June to allow our students to perform in front of an outdoor audience.

Among many other local non-profits, Second Home will participate in the **Great Community Give April 21**. If you are able, to support us with a donation, please click [HERE](#). If you would be willing to post your own fundraiser for Second Home, please email Krisztina at 2ndhomedirector@gmail.com so she can send you the invitation link. This is a very easy way to support Second Home's fundraising goal of \$15,000.

Krisztina Szekely
Executive Director of Second Home



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

For details, contact Music Minister Elizabeth Williams (williams@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

ADULT CHOIRS

Celebration Singers & Sanctuary Choir meet via Zoom every other **Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:00 pm:**

March 30 April 13 & 27

TWEENS AND TEENS

Meets **Tuesdays, 5:00 – 5:30 pm** via Zoom.

YOUTH NEWS

CONFIRMATION/ALPHA TEENS

Save these dates: **April 11 & 25 and May 16.** We will gather at Hillandale Park, **1:00 - 3:00 pm**, Shelter #1 like we did in the fall. Bring your Bible and notebook. We are looking forward to being together again!

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.), contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

✠ We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and comic papers. Also for the delicious meal that Janet & Galen Simmons brought. Thanks to Kathy Thompson for the trips to physical therapy. May God Bless each one. Thanks!

Betty & Richard Ryman

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 29-April 5

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

- Mon-Thu.** (See p. 3 for links.)
12:15 pm Ecumenical Worship
- Mon.** **2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
- Tue.** **5:00 pm** Tweens and Teens
7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
- Wed.** **10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study via [ZOOM](#)
- Thu.** **7:00 pm** Maundy Thursday Service on [ZOOM](#)
- Fri.** **12:15 pm** Virtual Community Prayer Walk on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
7:00 pm Good Friday Service on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sat.** **7:00 pm** Easter Vigil Service on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun.** **Easter Sunday**
[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)
8:30 am Communion Service
9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins
11:00 am Service Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
4:00 pm Parking Lot Service
- Mon.** **Easter Monday ~ Church Office Closed**

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@muhlenberg_lutheran.org/434-3496)

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