



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

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



April 3, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Your Congregation Council has been hard at work. We met March 21 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

FOOD COLLECTION

TODAY (4/3) in the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. The Pantry also needs paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products. Please check the [Giving Page](#) on our website to see a full list of acceptable items. Monetary donations are also appreciated; note *Patchwork Pantry* on the memo line.



LAY COMMUNION MINISTRY

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning.

REUSE/RECYCLE SUNDAY MATERIALS

To reduce paper waste, we are now reusing worship booklets and extra issues of *The Chimes* between services. (As always, we encourage you to take *The Chimes* home with you.) Please place materials in the designated basket. We thank Linda Morrison who has volunteered to take Sunday materials and office paper to the recycling center.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

STAFF MEETING TIME CHANGE

Weekly staff meetings have been moved to **Tuesdays at 1:00 pm**. We make every effort to have office volunteer coverage, but please note calls may not be answered during this time. Please leave a voicemail message, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **TOMORROW (4/4), 7:00 pm** via [ZOOM](#). Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us! For details, contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88053197319?pwd=cUFVeVAzdXhTSDgxUXFBV3gzemhUZz09>



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Join us for the final week of Lenten activities exploring 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. There will also be games and free-time from 7:15 - 8:00 pm so parents can attend other Wednesday offerings.

LENTEN MIDDAY RECITALS - THURSDAYS IN LENT, 12:00 NOON

Join us for the final Lenten recital of the season ...:

April 7, Esther Nyberg, pianist, and Olivia Rominiyi, soprano - 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.

COMFORT MAKERS

Join us for the final session of the season this **Thursday, April 7 anytime from 8:00 am - noon!** Contact Linda Morrison (383-5085 or lindamm778@gmail.com).

THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

FROM PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER

Worship on **Palm Sunday, NEXT 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.

PALMS / COMMUNION DELIVERED

If you are unable to attend worship in person on Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we would like to bring palms and communion to your home. Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex will stop by the homes of all who request a visit. **Please call the church office by Thursday, April 7 to sign up.**

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.**

MORE ABOUT HOLY WEEK

THE WOVEN CROSS AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Beginning next Sunday (4/10) and throughout Holy Week, you and your family will have the opportunity to gather around the cross of Christ. Next Sunday, *The Woven Cross* will be available in the Gathering Area. You are invited to prayerfully weave scraps of fabric, yarn, or thread as you spend time in reflection around the cross. You are welcome to bring your own materials from home, and some limited supplies will be provided.

The Woven Cross will stand as a reminder of the ways each of us is claimed in love and grace by Jesus, and that we are all woven together in grace.

Additionally, in the Gathering Area you will find the *Stations of the Cross* watercolors that Muhlenberg dedicated in 2004, set up with reflections for each of the 12 moments. You are welcome to walk through the stations and spend time in prayerful reflection.

The Gathering Area will be open for you to stop by the following days and times:

- each day of Holy Week, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Monday and Wednesday, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Good Friday, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, you are invited to bring flowers from home to decorate *The Woven Cross*, and you are welcome to take a family picture around this sign of God's transforming love.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK



Stations of the Cross

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.

EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

Join us Easter Sunday during the Christian Formation hour (9:45-10:45 am) for an Easter egg hunt and craft activities for families. All ages are welcome. Young children will have the opportunity to hunt eggs while older kids will have the challenge of a scavenger hunt.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

RIISING AGAIN FOR THE GOSPEL

You may have noticed that we have not been standing for the reading of the gospel for several months. The reason for that is practical: The Narrative Lectionary assigned readings between Christmas and Easter have been very long. In some cases, they've been an entire chapter of the gospel of John! We know it can be difficult even for the hardiest of legs to remain standing for that extended period of time, so we've remained seated as the gospel has been shared.

At Easter and continuing forward, the gospel readings will return to a more moderate length, and we will return to our regular practice of standing during the reading of the gospel. We do this to honor Christ's presence among us in the Word. Christians have been standing during the gospel reading in worship since the 200s, so we join a long line of faithful Christians as we rise to praise Christ in our midst each Sunday.

ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY

Since 1981, David Hill has faithfully served as our chairperson of the Altar Guild. This June, he will retire after 41 years of dedicated Altar Guild ministry. We're looking for a group of folks who will step up to shepherd this ministry. Please contact Pastor Lauren if you're interested, or would like to learn more.

CREATION CARE TIP

Choose concentrates. Juice sold as a concentrate in a small container can be reconstituted with water in your kitchen. Many laundry detergents and liquid cleansers come in concentrated forms that reduce packaging and save energy.

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 we will collect items needed by these families. Items may be placed in the bins in the Gathering Area or placed in the Connection Box. You may also designate a financial gift by placing a check in the offering plate or mailing it to the church, noting Church World Service on the memo line.



Items being collected are:

March 6 - Toothbrush & toothpaste

March 13 - Baby wipes & diapers

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

March 27 - Soap, shampoo, deodorant

TODAY (4/3) - 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, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Lutheran churches across the United States are joining together to rush needed supplies to those caught in the crisis.

To expedite relief to those in need, please make donations online directly to LWF 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.

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.

REMINDER

COMMUNION IN THE PEWS



Holy Communion

For those who wish to receive Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, communion is served in the pews – **please let an usher know**. In addition to bread and wine, **grape juice and gluten-free bread** are also available. Please indicate your preferences to the Lay Assisting Minister.

COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WITHOUT ONLINE ACCESS

Those who cannot read *The Chimes* online can request a copy be mailed to them weekly. If you know someone without online access, contact *Parish Administrator Linda Depoy* (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

While the deadline has passed to purchase an Easter lily, you can still donate to Church World Service if you wish to remember or honor a loved one during this Holy Season. 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.



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

3/20	8:30 Holy Communion.....	54
	11:00 Holy Communion	65
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	41
	Total Views this Week	187
	Hours Viewed this Week	91.1
3/27	8:30 Holy Communion.....	61
	11:00 Holy Communion	71
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	42

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	\$ 4,726.58
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,565.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,291.58

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 4 - 10, 2022

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

Mon	2:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
	7:00 pm	Eldercare Support Group via ZOOM
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	Palm/Passion 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)