



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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April 4, 2021

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

GATHERING TOGETHER UPDATE

The Gathering Together Task Force is hard at work, putting together plans for a return to in-person worship! As the rate of infection continues to decrease, and the rate of vaccination increases, we will begin to offer opportunities for both indoor and outdoor worship.

Starting May 23, Pentecost Sunday, our 8:30 am Zoom worship will become a hybrid service. You can worship online via Zoom, or attend the service in person! This service of Holy Communion will require precautions such as mask-wearing, assigned seating, and no singing. It is strongly encouraged (but not required) that those who attend be fully vaccinated.

Plans for outdoor worship beginning in June are coming together, so watch *The Chimes* for more details. And our 11:00 am Facebook/YouTube worship isn't going anywhere—online worship will continue even as we begin to provide in-person gatherings.

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TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

EASTER & ITS SEASON

Easter is the crown of the church year, the queen of feasts, and as such it lasts for a week of weeks (7 weeks).



The Day of Resurrection is celebrated with gold paraments to give it unique prominence. The paschal candle burns near the altar throughout the season as a sign of the presence of the risen Christ. Lilies, symbols of the resurrection, surround us. Our liturgy is enhanced with processions, the return of the "Alleluia" and joyful music.

We invite you to join us each week in Easter as we worship, pray, learn, support and serve together in ministry and mission. *(See page 4 for info about our Easter sermon series.)*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

There will be **no classes today** (Easter Sunday).

PARKING LOT SERVICE

At 4:00 pm, we worship in person from the safety of our cars to proclaim Christ's victory over death. We will share Holy Communion, and have bread available or bring your own if you're more comfortable.

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:

3/21	8:30 Communion	25
	11:00 Total Live Views	98
	Total Views this Week	370
	Hours Viewed this Week	142.1
3/28	8:30 Communion	25
	11:00 Total Live Views	114

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	\$ 9,881.95
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,729.66
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 11,611.61

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.

EASTER LILIES

Today's lilies are given to the Glory of God and in memory of those we wish to remember on this special day. If you are a donor, you may pick up your lily at the 4:00 parking lot service today (4/4). (If you signed up and your name is not on the list, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy.)

DONOR

Brenda Branner, Lisa & Amanda
Nellie Depoy and Lucy Sloop
The Fletchall Family
Frank & Betty Lambert
Elizabeth Williams
Amy Burke
Phyllis Sonner

IN MEMORY OF ...

Lee Branner
Susan LaDue (sister)
Zack Fletchall
Loved Ones
Charles Dressler (father)
Loved Ones
Loved Ones



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Special offerings to our Habitat for Humanity Faith Build are given to the Glory of God and in memory or in honor of those we wish to remember on this special day.

DONOR

Rosemary L. Spell
Wendy Arbogast

Susan Gallaher

IN MEMORY OF ...

Loved Ones
Gina Arbogast, Malcolm & Beatrice Simmons,
Fred & Florence Arbogast
Graham & Frances Stoneburner

DONOR

Kathy Thompson

B. J. Daniel

IN HONOR OF ...

Our pastors and all those who have made this past
year of digital worship possible
Zachary, Mary, Mark, Zoe

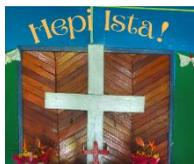
THIS WEEK

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets TOMORROW (4/5), 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=UFVeVAzdXhTSDgxUXFBV3gzemhUZz09>

HEPI ISTA! WORSHIP FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Next Sunday (4/11), we'll join in worship with the Virginia Synod of the ELCA. The service will highlight and celebrate our companion relationship with the New Guinea Islands District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea. Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick will preach. **Join us at our regular worship times of 8:30 am on [ZOOM](#) and 11:00 am on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER RETURNS!

Wednesday night Holden Evening Prayer returns to livestreaming on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) **Wednesday, April 14 at 8:00 pm (note time change)**. You're invited to this beautiful evening prayer service and worship with the gathered virtual assembly. It can also be accessed at any time during the week. If you'd like a copy of Holden Evening Prayer so you can follow along at home, please contact Pastor Lauren or Pastor Alex.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS:

MUHLENBERG'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Muhlenberg's Congregation Council has been thoughtfully and prayerfully developing a Strategic Plan over the past year and a half. While COVID slowed the process down, it also gave church leadership the opportunity to further consider how we are called to be the church in a changing world. The whole congregation is invited and encouraged to engage with the first draft of the plan, which will be available in print and electronic versions next week.

Sundays, **April 18—May 23**, our worship will focus on a sermon series from Acts, paired with initiatives from our strategic plan. Together, we'll consider the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church and the work of the Holy Spirit in our congregation today. Following worship, all are welcome to join in an after-church coffee hour conversation about the weekly theme.

Wednesdays, April 21—May 19, all who are a part of our Muhlenberg community (whether you're "officially" a member or not) are invited to conversation at **7:00 pm** via [ZOOM](#). Here is the link for these conversations:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81226825160?pwd=-RnRVdXJ4Rm9kNDIvTnAxemRKVHBFUT09>. You may also join in by phone. Dial 301-715-8592, then entering Meeting ID: 812 2682 5160 and Passcode: 212430.

Each week we will focus on a different goal of the Strategic Plan, with opportunity for questions, brainstorming, and big dreaming about our life together at Muhlenberg. Expect these conversations to be dynamic and energizing! Plan to attend one, or attend all. This is OUR work together as a faith community.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

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.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

GATHERING TOGETHER UPDATE

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In-person baptisms, weddings, and funerals for up to 25 guests (masked and distanced) will resume, as well. Contact either of the pastors if you've been waiting to schedule a baptism!

While we are excited to look ahead to these opportunities to gather, we will also be keeping a close eye on local COVID rates and the impact of variants, and adjust plans as necessary.

The team meets again on April 29, so feel free to contact any of the members during this month if you'd like to be involved with helping in-person worship happen, or if you have any additional feedback. Members of the team are Neil Alexander, Erin Burke, Cynthia Page, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, Greta Willis, Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY AT MUHLENBERG

In updating our Strategic Plan, Congregation Council 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).



Take some time today to reflect on all the activities that you have performed during Lent, and how they have brought you into greater harmony with the earth and with all life. Conclude your Lenten Creation Care practice by making a personal pledge to serve God and serve others by pursuing a more sustainable way of life

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 BLESSING EVENT



Last Sunday, JAMers (2nd - 5th grades) and middle school students and their families came out to write messages of blessing, hope, and love on the framing boards of the two Faith Build Habitat homes on Virginia Avenue. Each participant was able to meet our partner families and surround them with messages of God's love that will be part of their homes for years to come!

UPDATED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There have been a few changes to the construction schedule for the Habitat Faith Build. Please see the new dates below. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to help with an aspect of the construction! Please contact Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431 or kethomsen25@gmail.com) if you can help with any parts of the build listed below.

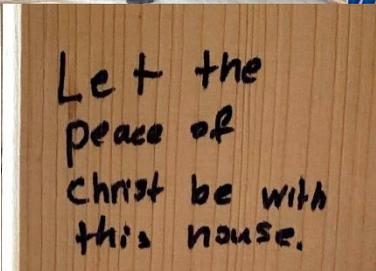
Electric rough-in - April 12-14

Yard seeding - April 15-23

Drywall hang - April 17-21

Electrical plugs and switches - May 10-13

Vinyl flooring - June 8 -12



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:**

April 13 & 27

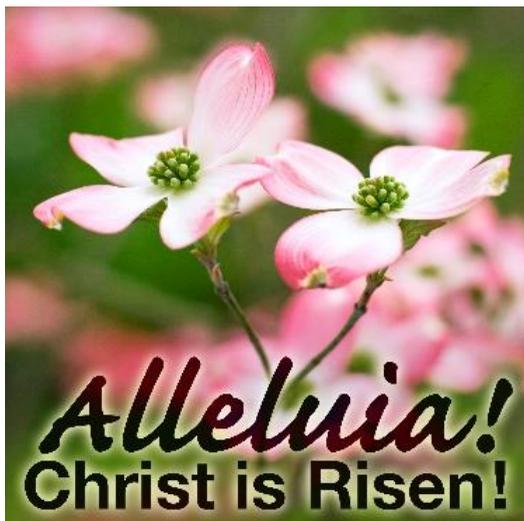
TWEENS AND TEENS

Not meeting Tuesday, April 6. Rehearsals resume **Tuesday, April 13, 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!



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 5 - 11

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

Mon. Easter Monday ~ Church Office Closed

7:00 pm Eldercare Support Group
via [ZOOM](#)

Tue. 2:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wed. 10:30 am Wed. Morning Bible Study
via [ZOOM](#)

Sun. Second Sunday of Easter

[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)

8:30 am Communion Service

9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins

8:30 am Communion Service

9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins

9:30 am K – 3rd Grade Class

9:30 am 4th - 5th Grade Class

9:30 am Faith Lens Class

9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class

11:00 am Service Livestreamed

via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

1:00 pm Confirmation/Alpha Teens

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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.

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

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