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

April 7, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

FOOD COLLECTION REMINDER



On the first Sunday each month, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. Please check the [Giving Page](#) on our website for a full list of acceptable items. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

LAY COMMUNION

Lay Communion Ministers will be blessed and sent forth this morning. They bring communion to homebound members once a month. If you are interested in receiving home communion, or if you are interested in serving as a Lay Communion Minister, please contact Pastor Lauren or Linda Morrison (540-383-5085 or lindamm778@gmail.com).

Today and the first Sunday of each month we ask you to be intentional about wearing a nametag to help others learn your name. Supplies are in the Gathering Area.



CONFIRMATION FOR ALL AGES

TODAY (4/7) at 6:00 pm

All of God's people are called to gather around the Word and grow together into our vocation as Christ's disciples. To that end, everyone is invited to join us **this evening in the Nielsen Room for our last Confirmation Class of the season. Dinner is potluck**, and you'll have the opportunity to learn and grow while supporting our youth in this valuable season of growth.

A thorough study of the Bible has been the focus of our conversation each month, reviewing broad themes of scripture, coming to understand the narrative arc of God's Word, and seeking to find how God's Word meets us in our day-to-day life. The last class will focus on "The General Letters and Revelation: How Spider-Man and Star Wars Can Help Us Read the Bible." Join us for lively conversation! If you have questions or plan to attend, contact Pastor Lauren (Eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org).

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*Devotional booklets for
April - June are
available at the Connection Center
and in the Connection Box outside.*

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

You are invited to a
Baby Sprinkle!
honoring
The Zubers!

Please join The Young Adult Group in sprinkling the Zubers with love by bringing donations of diapers and wipes to the Gathering Area. Little Baby Nadia is already growing out of newborn diapers, so size 1 and above would be appreciated.

Starting:
Sunday
April 7

Ending:
Sunday
April 28



THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY (LCM) Tuesdays, 6:00 pm

We gather for dinner in the Campus Room. It's a free meal and time of fellowship and prayer for any college student. For details, contact Peer Minister Haley Tabor (haleyntabor@gmail.com). If you're interested in supporting LCM or helping to provide a meal, contact Sarah Orem (oremse@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10:30 am

Led by Pastor Lauren, this study gathers each week to look ahead to Sunday's lessons. Meets via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

FRIDAY CHEW ON THIS

Each Friday in April, you're invited to *Chew on This* with Pastor Lauren. We'll gather at a local restaurant at **noon** for food, fellowship, and conversation related to the previous Sunday's Bible text. Please RSVP to eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org by 8:00 am each Friday to ensure we reserve enough seats.

April 12 Magnolia's Tacos

April 19 Beyond

April 26 Urgie's Cheesesteaks

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EARTH DAY

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 21, 9:45 am

Join the Harrisonburg community at Turner Pavilion in downtown Harrisonburg for a celebration of faith, fellowship, and God's creation! Muhlenberg is one of seven congregations coming together for this special event, which will include music, Scripture and reflection, and a celebration of Holy Communion. There will also be supervised activities for children during the service, led by our own Children's Minister Ashley Saunders.



This worship service will take place of all Faith Formation classes that day for children, youth, and adults. We will have regular 8:30 and 11:00 am worship at Muhlenberg — you're welcome to attend worship here AND/OR at the Turner Pavilion!

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

Sunday, April 28, 9:45 am

Interested in learning more about Muhlenberg or joining our church family? We offer a *Welcome to Muhlenberg* session that provides an opportunity to learn about the mission and ministry of the church. All are welcome to this overview of life at Muhlenberg, which includes a tour of the building and information on the many ways to get involved in our community. We'll also give details about how to become a member of Muhlenberg, though attending this session doesn't commit you to anything! Come and explore what Muhlenberg is all about **Sunday, April 28 at 9:45 am** in the Sanctuary. New members will be received in worship Sunday, May 5. If you would like to join Muhlenberg, please fill out the information form at the link below. For details, contact Pastor Lauren (eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org).

<https://forms.gle/m5vmdEXbRgH7FAtv6>

THURSDAY MEN'S GROUP

Thursday, May 2, 9:00 am

The Thursday morning *Why Group* has morphed into a monthly men's group! All are welcome to meet the **first Thursday of each month** at Mr. J's Bagels (1731 S. High St.), 9:00 am for fellowship and Bible study. For more information, contact Mark Warner (mjwcarpediem@gmail.com) or Dave Barnes (barnesda09@gmail.com).

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU!

A gathering of all ministry teams is planned for **Saturday, May 4, 8:30 - 10:30 in the MAC**. There will be food, visioning, team-building, & relationship-building among our ministries. **Everyone is invited to attend and consider being a part of the ministries at Muhlenberg.**

MUHLENBERG NEWS

ATTENTION BAKERS!

We need 10 bakers to make two to three dozen frosted cupcakes each for our celebration of Pentecost, **Sunday, May 19**. We will host a gathering following each service as part of our 175th Happy Birthday celebration, and Bishop Phyllis Milton will be with us to help mark this exciting year for our congregation.



If you would like to volunteer, please email Tassie Pippert (pippertl@jmu.edu).

Thank you in advance for helping us make this a day to remember. Mark your calendar now for this fun-filled gathering.

SECOND EVENING SEXTON NEEDED

Muhlenberg is now hiring! We are searching for a second Evening Sexton to join Jim Doyle in cleaning the facility for Second Home and Harrisonburg-Rockingham Day Care. The person will clean areas used by the Day Care (on the third floor of our main building and the second floor of the MAC). We anticipate this taking about two hours each evening, Monday through Friday. A full job description can be found at muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs. If you or someone you know is interested in a part time job that serves the mission of Muhlenberg, please contact Daytime Sexton Jeff Williams (sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org or 804-931-2274). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

BUILDING USE REQUESTS

With the arrival of spring comes an increase in Building Use requests to the church. We are excited for the chance to be a part of building faith and connection, and in our supporting role in the lives of our community.

Not only do we share our space with H-R Day Care and Second Home, but also a variety of other support groups share our campus, mostly in the evenings on weekdays. Last year at this time, we had several requests to use the MAC for overnight guests on mission trips. It's exciting to see our facilities being used in the ways imagined when they were built.

For church meetings/events, we need your help to ensure the room(s) you want to use or a suitable alternative is available. Before you plan a meeting/event, contact Building Use Coordinator Liz Engleking to schedule space.

For non-church meetings/events (e.g. support group meetings or a personal birthday party), an updated Building Use Policy, along with updated application forms, was created in 2022 to account for our post-pandemic world. The policies and forms can be found in the "Building Use Forms" mailbox in the administrative hallway. There are fees associated with using the different rooms available on our campus for non-church events. There is a Fee Reduction or Waiver Request form for non-profit groups.

If you are interested in reserving a space on the church campus, please reach out to Building Use Coordinator Liz Engleking at buildinguse@muhlenberglutheran.org or call the church weekdays, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

CREATION CARE

Buy your dog a leash made of canvas or hemp. Most dog leashes are made of nylon. Nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas associated with global warming, is emitted during the production of nylon. Replacing all of the nylon pet leashes in the United States would prevent the release of the same amount of greenhouse gases produced by 250,000 households per year.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

LAWN MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Please volunteer to mow and trim the grass on Muhlenberg's campus. During peak season, lawn maintenance is needed weekly. Less than two hours of your time can make a difference. Bring a buddy and complete the task even faster. Volunteers are needed from April through October. All equipment and training are provided, along with flexible scheduling. Please use the *Sign-Up Notebook* in the Gathering Area or contact Sexton Jeff Williams (sexton@muhlenberglutheran.org or text/call 804-931-2274).

CHOIR NEWS

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Celebration Singers will not meet this Tuesday (4/9). The Sanctuary Choir will begin meeting at 6:00 pm starting this Wednesday (4/10).

SENIOR HIGH NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERINGS Saturday Evening, April 27

All 9th - 12th grade youth are invited to gather at the home of the Gibsons for a dinner bonfire. Come roast hot dogs, make s'mores, and have fun with the high school youth! Details will be emailed, so let Pastor Lauren know if you're interested in attending or have any questions.

KAIROS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Rising 9th - 12th graders, mark your calendars for **June 23 - 28** when the Virginia Synod will host Kairos at Roanoke College. To learn more, click [HERE](#). The registration deadline is **April 30**; to register, click [HERE](#). Contact Pastor Lauren with questions while Pastor Alex is on leave.

CONFIRMATION CORNER

From "Five Key Lutheran Principles" by Mark Allan Powell. Here are key principles that Lutherans follow when they study or interpret the Bible.

3. Scripture Interprets Scripture. Lutherans believe that difficult passages of Scripture are to be interpreted in light of those passages that are more readily understandable, and that all of Scripture is to be interpreted in light of the Bible's central themes and motifs. We often try to reconcile what is said in one part of Scripture with what is said in other parts of Scripture, sometimes recognizing that there is tension between texts that seem to say different things. We try to be faithful to the entire Bible rather than just picking some parts and leaving others alone. *(Over the next two weeks, our Confirmation Corner will expand on this point by lifting up two distinct lenses that Lutherans bring to the interpretation of Scripture by Scripture.)*

LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PROJECT



Penny Saunders and Landon Orem help Bruce & Wanda Hamilton assemble care bundles.

Success! Thank you for your generous donations to Lutheran World Relief. Our project during Lent provided 75 care bundles for Lutheran World Relief. We also thank the youth for helping pack all the care bundles.

GREAT COMMUNITY GIVE April 17, 2023

The **Great Community Give** is a way for local non-profits in our community to be lifted up and fundraise together. Our Local and Global Mission Outreach Committee continues to support organizations the Great Community Give has supported in the past, including Second Home, People Helping People, Harrisonburg Rockingham Day Care, Minnick School, Patchwork Pantry, Open Doors, Bridge of Hope, Virginia Interfaith Center, Our Community Place, and Habitat for Humanity. If you are moved to provide additional support to any of these non-profit organizations or others of your choice, please go to the following website April 17 ...

<https://www.greatcommunitygive.org/>

CONNECTION CORNER

THANK YOU!



Wow, what an amazing Holy Week and Easter we had here at Muhlenberg! A big thanks to everyone who made this past week possible. From the waving of the palm branches, to the sharing of the meal, to the adoration of the cross, to the loud “Alleluias!,” it was a special time for our community.

Thanks to our **staff** who worked tirelessly to make sure all the details were set; our **choir members** and **guest musicians** whose beautiful musical gifts helped us experience God's presence in our worship; countless faithful **worship leaders** including LAMs, ushers, communion assistants, crucifers, torch bearers, and lectors; our **guest preacher** on Maundy Thursday, Pastor Paul Weber, who brought a beautiful message of love and hope; members of the **altar and flower guilds** who baked bread, changed our paraments, and prepared our worship space so lovingly; **sound operators and live streamers** who expertly help us share our worship far and wide; **Easter brunch planners and servers** who really brought our community together

over some great food; **nursery attendants** and Easter egg hunt assistants who continue to make Muhlenberg a safe and loving place for our youngest kiddos; **Easter photo planners and printers** for providing a much-appreciated gift to all who attended the brunch; **readers** at our Easter Vigil service who faithfully proclaimed the gospel; the **Care Committee** for organizing visits to our members who are homebound; our **office volunteers** who help keep the place running; and the many, **many other people** who have stepped in and done what was needed in the moment, whether that was ... cleaning something up, holding the door open, giving someone a ride home, greeting a new person as they walked in, or simply showing up ready to worship.

What a blessing it is to be together in this community! Thank you, all, for being a part of this *Wellspring of God's Grace in Jesus Christ*.

(And if you're interested in getting involved in any of the up-front or behind-the-scenes ministries named above, either in a formal or informal way, don't hesitate to be in touch! You don't have to be an official member of Muhlenberg to be a part of this community and share your gifts. Jump in! Your presence and participation matters!)

--Pastor Lauren



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Here are a few photos from our services and activities during Holy Week and Easter!



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

3/24	8:30 Holy Communion	72
	11:00 Holy Communion	124
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	40
	Total Views this Week	190
	Hours Viewed this Week	93.7
3/28	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday	54
	7:00 pm Wellstream Worshippers	15
3/29	7:00 pm Good Friday.....	54
	7:00 pm Wellstream Worshippers	27
3/30	8:00 pm Easter Vigil	25
3/31	8:30 Easter Sunday Holy Communion	133
	11:00 Easter Sunday Holy Communion	215
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	36

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Moving into February, the deficit remains similar to January. We see this stability because expenses were less in February. If we can hold expenses stable at \$60,000 each month and steadily increase gifts and offerings, then we will begin to see a shift in the deficit. The good news, gifts and offerings did increase slightly in February. Let's keep working together to reach our stretch budget for 2024. Continue to prayerfully consider your giving strategy.

Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2024

	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	2023 YTD Actual
Gifts & Offerings	\$67,036	\$125,833	\$87,491
Total Income	\$94,932	\$147,463	\$105,245
Total Expenses	\$127,901	\$150,521	\$125,220
Excess Income/(Deficit)	\$(32,969)	\$(3,058)	\$(19,975)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	6,200.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	262.03
Total Giving	\$	6,462.03



To give online, scan here →

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 8 - 14, 2024

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

Mon	6:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Tues	6:00 pm	Lutheran Campus Ministry
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Bible Study via Zoom
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Sun		Third Sunday of Easter
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Faith Formation in person & via Zoom
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube



Each week, we will lift up in prayer five households from our congregation. Our prayer families for this week are:

Roger & Gus Kagey

Bill, Jody and Andrew Keller

Mary Pat Kesecker

Charles & Sherri King

Bryce & Ansley Kiser

Please note: if you notice an unintentional omission in our list or prefer your name not be listed, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (540-434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)

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 /540-434-3496)