



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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April 10, 2022

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

FROM PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER

Worship today, **Palm Sunday (4/10)**, 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 purchased "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.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

ALTERNATIVE GIVING



CWS
Church World Service

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. 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 **TODAY, Sunday, April 10.**

LENT SERVICE PROJECT

Today we conclude our Lenten service project collection for Church World Service:

March 6 - Toothbrush & toothpaste

March 13 - Baby wipes & diapers

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

March 27 - Soap, shampoo, deodorant

April 3 - Cleaning items

TODAY (4/10) - Pillows & sheets (twin & full size)

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (4/11), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

STAFF MEETING TIME CHANGE

Weekly staff meetings have been moved to **Tuesdays at 1:00 pm**. We make every effort to have volunteer office 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.

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us **each Wednesday at 10:30 am** for Bible study via [ZOOM](#):

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

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Join Pastor Alex for the final week of the Hybrid Book Study on [Witness at the Cross](#) by Amy-Jill Levine **THIS Wednesday at 6:30 pm**. Conversations are in-person with a [ZOOM](#) option. Contact Pastor Alex with questions.



Holy Week & Easter

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

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 – Saturday, 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 9:45 am.

***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 TODAY (4/10) and throughout Holy Week, you and your family will have the opportunity to gather around the cross of Christ. *The Woven Cross* is available in the Gathering Area today, and 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

The 35th annual Harrisonburg downtown ecumenical Good Friday prayer walk, based on the *Stations of the Cross*, will be held **THIS Friday, April 15, 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. Please join us! The walking route is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers.

EASTER SUNDAY COVID PRECAUTIONS

We look forward to welcoming large numbers of worshippers on Easter Sunday, and we want to make sure we continue to worship safely! For those most comfortable worshipping in a space where everyone is masked, the balcony will be a designated “mandatory masks” area. In the main part of the sanctuary, masks will not be required, though they continue to be welcomed. Communion will be with prepackaged elements consumed at our seats, to minimize the risk of sharing germs at the Lord's Supper. As we share the peace, we ask you to be mindful of others' comfort levels with distance and touch. Though we're thankful to see that COVID cases in our area are relatively low, we know the pandemic has not disappeared. We continue to ask that if you have any symptoms of illness at all, please worship online rather than in person.

MORE ABOUT HOLY WEEK

(CONT'D)

EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITIES



Join us **Easter Sunday (4/17)** 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

RISE 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

Give your breakfast to the birds! Instead of tossing stale bagels in the trash, tie a piece of string around the bagel and hang it in a tree. Birds - and the occasional squirrel - will flock to your yard for breakfast. As an extra treat, spread peanut butter on the bagel and roll it in birdseed. Best of all, there is no waste!



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Celebration Singers and Sanctuary Choir **will not rehearse April 19 and 20**, respectively, and will resume the following week.

Gloria Dei Ringers **will rehearse April 19**.

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.

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

GREAT COMMUNITY GIVE

April 20, 2022



The **Great Community Give** is a way for local non-profits in our community to be lifted up and fundraise together. Through our

Local & Global Mission ministry, Muhlenberg supports People Helping People, Minnick School, Second Home Learning Center, Patchwork Pantry, Open Doors, Bridge of Hope, Virginia Interfaith, Faith in Action, First Step, Church World Service, 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 on April 20 to make your donation:

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

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 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.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Our Confirmation class had a wonderful day at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center Saturday, April 2 for our capstone retreat. Students brought all their learning over these past years to a rich conversation about the gifts of discipleship:

- to live among God's faithful people
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth

On May 1 through Affirmation of Baptism, these students will take on these promises and begin the next leg of their baptismal journey. It was a joy to learn and grow together, play some Gagaball, eat great food, and enjoy time outside at a truly beautiful Lutheran Camp! Many thanks to our friends at Caroline Furnace, and thanks to all who kept this group in prayer today!



VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

IN-PERSON SYNOD GATHERING July 15-16 ~ Registration is Open



In conjunction with Power in the Spirit, the Virginia Synod looks forward to gathering in person to celebrate ministries of service from around the Synod, worship together, and learn from one another.

Everyone can attend. Unlike an Assembly where the number of participants is limited, anyone in the Virginia Synod can attend the Synodical Gathering. Congregations are encouraged to send at least two leaders, but anyone interested can register.

There are **two options for Registration:**

- **On-Campus Housing** includes the event, one-night lodging on the campus of Roanoke College, plus Friday lunch, Friday dinner, and Saturday breakfast. The cost will be \$140.
- **Commuter** includes the event, Friday lunch, Friday dinner, and Saturday breakfast. The cost will be \$100.

You are automatically registered for the Synodical Gathering if you attend Power in the Spirit. Since the Synodical Gathering will be in conjunction with Power in the Spirit and the schedules will overlap, everyone registered for Power in the Spirit (which begins on July 14) will be registered for the Synodical Gathering.

Even if you can't attend the whole gathering, you are invited to be a part of a Festival Worship Service at College Lutheran Friday, July 15 at 7:00 pm.

Click [HERE](#) to register

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

July 14-16 ~ Registration is Open

What does it mean to be a leader in the Church and a follower of Jesus? The words of Saint Thomas reveal a disciple whose faith in Jesus makes him willing to go where Jesus goes, even when danger and death are real possibilities. For Thomas, it's better to be unsafe with Jesus than to stay behind as Jesus heads into dangerous places.

For the Church today, we just may be called to a similar faith that goes with Jesus—even into danger. At Power in the Spirit 2022 we'll explore these themes, and more!

Come and learn! Come for fellowship! Come to serve your neighbor! Come to Power in the Spirit 2022!

Download the Power in the Spirit Booklet for more information: [Power in the Spirit 2022 Booklet \(April 4, 2022\)](#)

Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

3/27	8:30 Holy Communion.....	61
	11:00 Holy Communion	71
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	42
	Total Views this Week	176
	Hours Viewed this Week	80.8
4/3	8:30 Holy Communion.....	61
	11:00 Holy Communion	88
	11:00 Wellstream Worshipers.....	52

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	\$ 6,492.23
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 975.00
Total Giving	\$ 7,467.23

March Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$357

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 11 - 17, 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	Ministries Night via ZOOM
Tues	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
Wed	10:30 am	Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
	6:30 pm	Lenten Book Study via ZOOM
Thu	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday service
Fri	7:00 pm	Good Friday service
Sat	4:00 pm	Easter Vigil service
Sun		Easter Sunday
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Easter Sunday Activities
	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)