



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 11, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

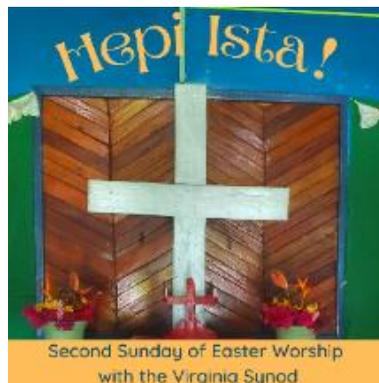
Plans for outdoor worship beginning in June are coming together, so watch *The Chimes* for more details. And our 11:00 am Facebook/YouTube worship isn't going anywhere—online worship will continue even as we begin to provide in-person gatherings.

~continued on page 4~

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

HEPI ISTA! WORSHIP FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

TODAY (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](#).**



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:

3/28	8:30 Communion	25
	11:00 Total Live Views	114
	Total Views this Week	483
	Hours Viewed this Week	384.6
4/1	Maundy Thursday on Zoom	71
4/2	Good Friday Total Live Views	59
4/3	Easter Vigil Total Live Views	42
4/4	8:30 Communion	24
	11:00 Total Live Views	107
	4:00 pm Parking Lot Service	40

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 \$ 18,722.00
 Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 22,034.32
Total Giving for the Week \$ 40,756.32



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

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (4/12), 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#

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

RETURNS!

Wednesday night Holden Evening Prayer returns to livestreaming on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) **THIS 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.

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 **next 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.

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 at the end of this 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 via the Sunday morning [ZOOM](#) link.?

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.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

GATHERING TOGETHER UPDATE

continued from page 1

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.



Here's what Bishop Bob Humphrey said to congregational leaders this week:

*"While there is certainly hope on the horizon, **only 17% of Virginians are fully vaccinated** and new strains of COVID-19 are emerging which pose a significant risk for another spike in infections. The Virginia Synod Office of the Bishop, therefore, **strongly urges congregations to continue to gather predominantly in the digital space and to avoid in-person gatherings.**"*

To learn more about the Virginia Synod's guidance on COVID-19, click [HERE](#).

MUHLENBERG NEWS

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).

Quarantine Cleaning: How to do it right!

- **Every Season:** De-clutter, purge, and donate.
- **Every Week:** Don't attempt to clean the whole house in one day. Deep clean one room a week.
- **The Circle Method:** In each room, work in a circle, top to bottom, left to right. Pull everything away from the walls before you start and put back in place as you move along. Work in the same circle throughout your house.
- **Beware of the Germ Traps:** Don't forget to clean your doors -- they are often the germiest surfaces in the home. And dishwashers? Clean the filter, usually at the bottom near the drain, then wipe down the edges with hot water and bleach. (Note: Don't use bleach if your dishwasher has a stainless-steel interior).

Did you know? Ramona Sanders not only shares these weekly tips with Muhlenberg, but she also shares them with other local churches and the Earth Day Every Day Group. We thank Ramona for helping us continually grow in our own creation care awareness.



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



March 28, 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!



Let the
peace of
Christ be with
this house.



God
loves
you!
☺
♥

VOLUNTEERS NEEDS

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

MEET OUR STUDENTS Great Community Give

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



Meet Katie and Patrick (not real names, but real children) who have attended Second Home Learning Center for several years. They are both in elementary school and have spent the academic year attending school virtually from Second Home. Due to our COVID-19 restrictions, Second Home was not able to accommodate them before the beginning of the school year. Their mother, a single parent, was out of work between March and the end of August to care for the children. Second Home provided some groceries to the family, and at the beginning of the school year the children re-joined our program. Their mother was able to find a new job and return to work again. She knew that her children were safe and cared for, they were getting two meals and a snack each day, got help with their virtual learning, and participated in hands-on, in-person activities at Second Home. They both have rekindled their friendships and have had a mostly normal life during this pandemic.



This is just one family of the many that Second Home has been able to help with a scholarship so the family could return to stability and normalcy. Your donations make this possible, and we are grateful for your support. Please help us reach our goal of \$15,000 in the Great Community Give on April 21! Visit our site at <https://www.greatcommunitygive.org/organizations/second-home-learning-center>. Early giving is now available both online, and by cash or check at the Second Home office. Thank you!

*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 **April 13 & 27, 7:00 - 8:00 pm.**

TWEENS AND TEENS

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

YOUTH NEWS

CONFIRMATION/ALPHA TEENS

Save these dates: **April 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!

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 12 - 18

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](#)
- Tue. 5:00 pm** Tweens and Teens
7:00 pm Adult Choirs
- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study
via [ZOOM](#)
8:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun. Third 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](#)
After worship ~ Coffee Hour to discuss
Strategic Plan
1:00 pm *Welcome to Muhlenberg*
via [ZOOM](#)

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).

EASTER SUNDAY PARKING LOT SERVICE

