



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 12, 2020

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

The CARES Act is the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security act passed by the Federal Government. Its most significant impact for our church is the Payroll Protection Program. Congregation Council approved a motion to submit an application for funds under this program. If approved, the funds received would become a forgivable loan or grant as long as we show that the funds were used for all payroll costs (including benefits), mortgage interest, rent or utilities for the 8-week period following receipt of the funds.

Treasurer Bill Vance has worked with the staff, synod and me to develop the amount we would request for an 8-week period to cover all payroll costs and utilities. As a result, we are submitting an application to Summit Community Bank (the bank our church uses) requesting a total of \$112,000. We may receive all of the money, part of it, or none of it. Once we receive an answer from the bank, we will communicate to all.

Gary Calleo, Congregation Council President

~What's the Buzz continues on p. 3~

TODAY

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. Our liturgy is enhanced with processions, the return of the "Alleluia," and joyful music.

We invite you to join us **online** each week in Easter as we worship, pray, learn, support and serve together in ministry and mission. *See p. 6 for details about online worship.*



TODAY (CONT'D)

ADULT SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

We are pleased to share that the technical difficulties from Sunday have been worked out and *both* the **Faith Lens Class** and the **40 Day Journey Class** will meet Sunday morning via Zoom! **The information below will work for each week the class meets.**

Faith Lens Class at 9:00 am

If you're interested in joining the *Faith Lens Class*, below you'll find the meeting link to join with video, and the meeting ID number with the phone number for calling in.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/430216424>

Phone Number: +1-929-205-6099

Zoom Meeting ID: 430 216 424

40 Day Journey Class at 9:30 am

If you're interested in joining the *40-Day Journey Class*, below you'll find the meeting link to join with video, and the meeting ID number with the phone number for calling in.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/s/759744734>

Phone Number: +1-312-626-6799

Zoom Meeting ID: 759 744 734

If you have any questions or concerns, please let Pastor Alex know!

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S "ATTENDANCE"

While we didn't meet in person last week, we were able to track our online viewership:

Peak Live Viewers:

Facebook ~ 110 YouTube ~102

Total Engagement/Views:

Facebook ~ 734 YouTube ~ 250

Total Time Watched:

Facebook ~ 103 hrs YouTube ~ 112 hrs

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$158,040	\$207,212	\$174,467
Total Receipts	\$188,891	\$239,816	\$204,703
Expenses	\$207,357	\$255,408	\$210,086
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$18,465)	(\$15,592)	(\$5,382)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 24,953.00

Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 11,044.42

Total Giving for the Week \$ 35,997.42

To give online, scan here →



The church is certainly not suspending its ministry through this season, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to paying our staff and maintaining our ministries, even if they will be 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 www.muhlenberglutheran.org, or mail your check to the church at 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

✚ Upon the recommendation of our Bishop and the guidelines of our Governor, we are continuing to suspend all in-person Muhlenberg events, including worship, through May 1. At that point, we will reassess and communicate with you. Regular worship will continue online on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). If you're not familiar with Zoom, use this link for a helpful tutorial Pastor Alex has prepared: <https://youtu.be/NoR3axym3F4w>.

✚ **We have a COVID-19 tab on our website. Visit often for regular updates and activity ideas.**

✚ Both Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex are working throughout this time to stay connected with as many people as possible. While they will not be meeting in person with anyone except those in critical situations, they are both available for phone conversations, email, and video meetings. Simply email or call the church office — they'll be happy to hear from you!

ATTENTION MINISTRY GROUP LEADERS

We have a Zoom video conferencing account, which allows us to hold meetings, Bible studies, and other gatherings online. If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting for your group or class during this time of *spacious solidarity*, please email Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) and he will gladly do that.

THIS WEEK

STAFF HOLIDAY

Easter Monday is a staff holiday, so we will not be checking voicemails and emails **Monday, April 13**. We wish you a blessed Easter!

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Resumes THIS Wednesday, April 15, 10:30 am via Zoom using this link:

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

If you've never attended this study before, now could be the perfect time to join in as we begin a new study! We will learn about two women of the Bible: Ruth and Susanna. This isn't limited to members of Muhlenberg, so feel free to invite a friend. Contact Pastor Lauren for details.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

Wednesdays at noon, we will have a brief prayer service on [Facebook](#). Tune in live or watch the video later.

COFFEE HOUR

We offer an online "coffee hour" Sundays, 10:30 - 11 am via [Zoom](#).

Make yourself a cup of coffee and sign in to visit with your church family before you head over to worship on Facebook or YouTube. Log in by clicking this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/388500586?pwd=VUYRaGfZMEZTTdk5ekRQZUx1Q3pSQT09>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

April's Pastors' Book Club selection is *Aging Matters: Finding Your Calling for the Rest of Your Life* by R. Paul Stevens. What does it mean to get older? How do we go about it fruitfully? The book delves into matters of calling, spirituality, and legacy in retirement.

Whether you're already retired, looking towards retirement, or journeying with friends or family members, you'll find this book to be a rich resource for perspective, guidance, and personal and spiritual growth.

We will meet via Zoom Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 pm. To join in, use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/335559292>. The book is available online, or you may order a copy of the book through Pastor Lauren for \$12.50.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

BASKETS OF PROMISE

Collections for Personal Care Kits postponed.

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Area Shepherds have been making phone calls to those in their Shepherd Group. They are asking questions about needs you may have, as well as ways you may want to serve over the coming weeks. We are setting up phone partners to check in with one another, grocery and pharmacy runners who can help others avoid exposure, and whatever else we need to make sure we all stay safe and connected through this time.

Let us be creative and resourceful as we find new ways to care for one another. Be kind and patient with others—we're all doing the best we can. Take time to care for yourself as well.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Online: The daily devotional, [*Christ in Our Home*](#), is available free online.

Hard Copy: *Word in Season* and *Christ in Our Home* hard copy devotionals are available from the cabinet outside the MAC for anyone who lives close by. If you can't get to the church, contact Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) to request a copy by mail.

CREATION CARE TIP

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or rsanders97@verizon.net.

The Bible is full of beautiful language and theology for celebrating God's creation. Earth Day (April 22) gives us a special opportunity to focus on the theme of creation. 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day! Since social distancing does not allow us to participate in the Harrisonburg community Earth Sunday celebration that had been planned for April 19, we will recognize the gift of God's creation in our online worship that day.



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), a new respiratory infection, has been declared a pandemic by the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO). So far, nearly 1 million people around the world have tested positive for COVID-19, and more than 50,000 people have died, according to the WHO.

[Lutheran Disaster Response](#) (LDR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by **this virus** in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

100% of your gifts given to LDR go directly to aid in relief. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** www.elca.org.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time).
- **Mail:** make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response, designate **COVID-19**, and send to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering:** make check payable to Muhlenberg and designate *Lutheran Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent Financial members can direct their Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com Disaster Response for details.

REMINDERS

CONTACT INFORMATION

With our ever-changing lifestyles, it's sometimes difficult to be sure everyone has your correct contact information. Have you recently ...



- **moved?**
- **cancelled your home phone?**
- **changed your cell phone number?**
- **changed your home/work email address?**

If so, please be sure your information is updated with the church. *Contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy* (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Are you on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter? Why not Like or Follow Muhlenberg? Get informative updates regularly throughout the week, photos, prayers, and inspirations/devotionals. It is also a great way to let your friends know about your church and our ministry. Find us on Facebook by searching for Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, or follow us on Instagram and Twitter at @MuhlenbergLC.

Welcome to The Wellstream:

A DIGITAL MINISTRY OF MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are excited about our new digital opportunity for outreach and community building. **The Wellstream Project**, a play on our vision of being a *Wellspring of God's Grace*, gives us the means to livestream our 11:00 am Sunday morning worship service on [Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube](#). Even before current health concerns, we recognized that many of our members live busy lives that sometimes take them away from regular worship attendance, some members are homebound and unable to be physically in community, and many folks who don't have a church home wonder about what they would find in a new worshipping community. All of these reasons have led us to explore this option for creating a digital worship space where members and guests can feel welcome and connected to life at Muhlenberg.

When you have a need to stay home, or want to invite anyone to see what worship at Muhlenberg is all about, then **tune in LIVE at 11:00 am on Sundays via [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)**. If you can't join us live, you will be able to find archived services in both locations at any time.

We have taken steps to enhance our digital worship, and continue to welcome your feedback. For now the camera is in the balcony, using a wide-angle shot and a zoomed shot that focuses on our worship leaders. If you have any questions or concerns about the *Wellstream*, please contact Pastor Alex.

Thanks to a generous donor, the *Wellstream* Project is a positive step toward utilizing technology for the advancement of Muhlenberg's mission, and for sharing the love of Christ with our community. This initiative is not meant to replace face-to-face community, and digital worship cannot provide the sacramental nature of worship to those who engage online. However, this can be a powerful tool for greater connection with our members when life gets in the way, and it can be a hospitable first step and effective means of communicating God's grace to our neighbors.



SECOND HOME NEWS

COVID-19 RESPONSE



In this rapidly changing situation, Second Home leadership and staff have put a lot of thought into its program and how we can still support our families.

After a lot of careful thought, prayer, and planning, Second Home is going forward with the plan of re-opening with a full day care for a very limited number of students whose parents work in the critical infrastructure and are finding it difficult to provide a safe place for their children. Our goal is to re-open Wednesday, April 15. As always, we will follow and exceed all licensing regulations and CDC guidelines to make sure the children and our staff are as safe as possible.

Second Home has received funding from the United Way to help offset some of the costs of this emergency program. If you are able and willing to help us in this trying time, please continue your support. We welcome both in-kind and monetary donations. For more information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you, and we hope you stay healthy.

Krisztina Szekely
Executive Director
2ndhomedirector@gmail.com
540-432-7989

YOUTH & CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer
(434-3496 or bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org)
for more information.

All in-person activities and events are cancelled through May 1.

EASTER CHRISTIAN FORMATION PACKETS

We wish our members and families a Happy Easter. We hope many of you have received Holy Week and Easter packets. We encourage our children and youth to work on them alone or as a family. Blessings to all as we shout, "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!"

For some of us, this time of social distancing provides an opportunity to slow down and experience "sabbath" in a new way.

Adult faith formation continues to meet via Zoom. *See pages 2-3 for details.*

We also share a resource called *Prayer and Worship in our Homes*, an opportunity to "Grow closer to Christ even when you can't be in church. Learn more about the practice of prayer in its many forms from an array of studied experts." Also, there is a wonderful resource for families called *Pandemic Hope*, a 7-week devotional that has a daily Bible reading and activity for families and children to do together. Visit our website for details.

Resources and activities are available on our website under the COVID-19 tab. Select *Resources* to find activities for children, families and adults as we continue to be church together. Need assistance? Contact Diane.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.), contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

✚ Congratulations to Jean Snider who will celebrate her 90th birthday April 21. If you would like to send a card, mail it to ...

Jean Snider, Room 35A
c/o Harrisonburg Health and Rehab
1225 South Reservoir Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

From Patchwork Pantry ...

Dear Friends of Patchwork Pantry,

During the months of January 1 – March 15, Muhlenberg contributed 629 pounds of assorted food and paper products to the pantry. Please accept this letter as a sincere thank you from our Board and volunteers. Your commitment month after month to our ministry enables so many in our community to receive the food and nourishment they need. We look forward to continuing partnership with you in the coming months.

Sincerely,

*Jackie Wells, Board Member
Patchwork Pantry*

If you would like to donate to the pantry during the COVID-19 pandemic, please call them directly at 540-433-2148 to learn about current guidelines for accepting donations.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 13-19, 2020

Easter Monday ~ Staff Holiday

Tue. 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wed. 10:30 am Bible Study
12 noon Live Service

Sun. 9:00 am Faith Lens Class
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
10:30 am “Coffee Hour” via Zoom
11:00 am Service Livestreamed
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

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 (depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496).*

Additionally, requests to utilize space in the Gathering Area on Sunday or post information at the Connection Center should be made to Linda as soon as planned, but no later than Thursdays at 8 am.

Check bulletin boards for community information.

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.

