



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 26, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

GREAT NEWS!

We heard from Summit Community Bank that our application for the Payroll Protection Program under the CARES Act was approved! We will receive \$112,000 to cover payroll and benefits for Muhlenberg staff and employees of Second Home for a period of 8 weeks. This money will significantly help us with the downturn in giving as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We still incur expenses above and beyond this amount, so please continue giving as you are able to help us carry out our mission — to equip all people to live out Christ's love as we strive to be Open, Authentic, Relational and Serving. *Gary Calleo, Congregation Council President*

GUEST PREACHER MYCAH MCNETT

Today we welcome a guest preacher Mycah McNett who is finishing her first year at United Lutheran Seminary.

It was our intention when we set this up a few months ago to have Mycah with us in person. Thankfully, technology allows us to have her preach from a distance. Join us on [Facebook Live](#) or [YouTube](#) at 11:00 am!

TODAY

HELLO FROM MYCAH MCNETT

Life at United Lutheran Seminary is good, but I miss being among you faithful folk of Muhlenberg! This first year of seminary has flown by between classes, chapel, and my ministerial fieldwork. Part of the first year of seminary is being assigned to a congregation where I participate in church life on a weekly basis, especially in worship and some teaching and pastoral visitations. I have enjoyed my time with my congregation, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Coatesville, PA, and the sermon I am sharing with you will also be shared with that congregation! My plans to work in a hospital chaplaincy this summer have changed dramatically because of COVID-19, but like you, we are doing our best to stay safe and adjust to a world that is being turned on its side. I look forward to 'hearing' from you in the comments during worship, and I hope to see you soon when it is safe to travel again!



TODAY (CONT'D)

ADULT SUNDAY

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Join in these opportunities Sunday mornings via Zoom! The information below will work for each week the class meets.

Faith Lens Class at 9:00 am

Use the link/phone number below to join the *Faith Lens Class*:

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

Use the link/phone number below to join the *40-Day Journey Class*:

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!

COFFEE HOUR

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>



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 ~ 12* YouTube ~156

**Note: Technical difficulties prevented the service from uploading on Facebook until 9 pm Sunday.*

Total Engagement/Views:

Facebook ~ 317 YouTube ~ 352

Total Time Watched:

Facebook ~ 21 hrs YouTube ~ 182 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 \$ 6,483.00

Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 9,382.17

Total Giving for the Week \$ 15,865.17

To give online, scan here →



The church is not suspending its ministry through this season, 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 www.muhlenberglutheran.org, or mail your check to the church at 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

THIS WEEK

MINISTRIES NIGHT IS BACK!

Though we cannot be together in person, the ministry of the church continues. Join us **Monday (4/27), 7:00 pm** for a “trial run” of Ministries Night via Zoom and the opportunity to catch up with others on your ministry team. Click <https://zoom.us/j/92193459263> or contact Pastor Lauren for the phone-in option.

We'll have an official Ministries Night Monday, May 11, 7:00 pm via Zoom.

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Meets **10:30 am** via Zoom using this link:

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

This isn't limited to Muhlenberg members, so feel free to invite a friend.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

We will have a brief prayer service on [Facebook](#). Tune in live or watch later.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

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 have set 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.

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.



Sustainability in fashion is a legitimate environmental and sociological movement. We can be stylish, help the environment and help other people. To sustain means to continue, maintain or carry on. Clothes made from natural fibers (cotton, wool, silk and linen) can be up-cycled (renewed or remade) into new garments, and therefore not end up in the landfill. These fibers, when worn out and no longer usable for fashion, break down nicely and will not take up space in the trash.

CONTACTING OUR PASTORS

Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex are working to stay connected with as many people as possible. While they will not meet in person with anyone except those in critical situations, they are 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.

VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA

We Are Church Together



For the Sake of the World

As we enter the second month of physical distancing, of closed church buildings, and of limited travel, it would be easy to allow ourselves to be drawn further and further into isolation.

As followers of Jesus, however, we know that we are not isolated. As followers of Jesus, we know that we are called to see the stranger and the disenfranchised, the hungry and the hurting, the prisoner and the outcast as neighbors and fellow members of the body of Christ. As followers of Jesus, we know that we are called to use our gifts for the building up of the whole community. We are the church, not simply for ourselves, but for the sake of the world.

With the pandemic impacting millions of people around the world, now is the time for us to lift up our eyes and see the opportunities that are before us to be God's heart and hands in a hurting world. Now is the time to open our hearts, to lift up our voices and to share our gifts so that we might be the church together for the sake of the world.

Over the next few months, the Virginia Synod will be sharing ideas, resources and projects that invite us to be church together for the sake of the world.

Our first Virginia Synod project is in partnership with Lutheran Family Services of Virginia. See the next page to learn how you can join with others around the Synod to help provide 25 students with the WiFi they need to be able to continue to learn at home. The Virginia Synod Office staff plans to sponsor one student, and we invite congregational members to join in sponsoring the other 24 students.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.,
Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop
Virginia Synod, ELCA



*“Now is the time for us to lift our eyes and see the opportunities that are before us to be God’s heart and hands in a hurting world. We must open our hearts and our gifts so that we might **be the church together for the sake of the world.**”* – The Rev. John Wertz Jr., Director of Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop

In this unprecedented time of national health crisis, our mission partner, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, is experiencing unique challenges as their Minnick School educators must provide instruction and support using distance learning for 200 + children with disabilities.

60% of their students qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch — meaning the families have little or no access to the internet for at-home learning. All of the students live with a disability such as autism or emotional disturbance which makes it challenging for them to find success in school. **Virginia Synod’s goal is to provide WiFi access for 25 Minnick students for three months.**

[Click here to see a VIDEO of some of the students you will be helping](#)

Can you help? It costs just \$3.50 per day.

[Click here to DONATE so each student can stay connected](#) to teachers and support staff and continue to thrive.

LFSVA educators are innovating distance learning by producing lesson modules individualized for each student, grade level, SOLs remaining for the year, and for students graduating with an applied or standard diploma. In order to meet these assertive goals for instruction and learning, the teachers are providing:

- both live and recorded video instruction
- daily telephone connection for academic and behavioral support
- written packets and educational websites recommended to enhance instruction

LFSVA’s Minnick Schools are private day schools, licensed by the Department of Education. Highly trained educators help students in grades K-12 learn about positive behavior choices, how to make better decisions and how to respond to stressful and challenging situations, alongside a vibrant academic program meeting the requirements of 32 school districts. Public schools contract with LFSVA Minnick Schools when they can no longer meet the needs of these students in a traditional classroom.

Questions? Please contact Melissa Leecy, Director of Development, at mleecy@lfsva.org.

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 until further notice. Adult faith formation continues to meet via Zoom. See page 2 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 depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

✚ Congratulations to Juanita Propst who will celebrate her 95th birthday May 1. If you would like to send a card, mail it to ...

Juanita Propst
817 Oakland Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802



THANK YOU FROM COUNCIL

✚ Council would like to thank Property Committee team members Neil Alexander, John Mulder, RW Carneal, Tim Eye and Chris Harbin who did a significant amount of yard maintenance, trimmed shrubs, etc. Saturday, April 18. They were able to practice appropriate social distancing, and at the same time accomplished a tremendous amount of work. They plan to continue to do work that we were paying an outside contractor for in an effort to save money during these challenging times!!

✚ Council would like to thank Jim Doyle for the cleaning services he provides in the evening after the Day Care and Second Home utilize our facilities.

✚ We also give a shout out and thanks to David Hill and Diane Walton for their tireless work behind the scenes in preparing the worship space given all the changes over the past 6 weeks.

✚ An additional word of thanks to Mark Byerly, Mike Koch and Bo Boisen for all of their efforts to make the live streaming of our worship service possible.

All of these folks and more are our behind the scenes "unsung heroes" in their service to our congregation! *Congregation Council*



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 27—May 3, 2020

- Mon.** 2:00 pm Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Ministries Night via [Zoom](#)
- Wed.** 10:30 am Bible Study
12 noon Service Livestreamed on
[Facebook](#)
- 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 (depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.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.

