



# 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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**May 3, 2020**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Leadership is following the guidance from Governor Northam and the state of Virginia which does not currently allow gatherings of more than 10 people. Council and staff are beginning to discuss what our ministry will look like moving forward when restrictions ease, so that we may continue to contribute to the safety and wellbeing of all people.

## DIGITAL COFFEE HOUR



Have you participated in our Sunday morning Digital Coffee Hour? If not, you may want to try it this week. Members tell us it's a great way to enjoy "seeing" their church family, and they really appreciate the opportunity to catch up with one another.

Tune in **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>

*See p. 2 for more info about Zoom.*

## TODAY

### LCM BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

Today we bless our graduating Lutheran Campus Ministry seniors and wish them well in all of their future endeavors.

**Tori Callahan** graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Bridgewater College Saturday with a degree in Sociology and Communications, and Technology and Culture. She plans to attend Princeton Theological Seminary for her M.Div. and pursue Rostered Ministry in the ELCA.

**Megan George** will graduate next Saturday from James Madison University with a degree in Music Performance. She plans to attend the University of Central Florida for her M.A. in Trumpet Performance.

**Kelsey Kokkonen** will graduate next Saturday from James Madison University with a degree in Health Science. She plans to attend Occupational Therapy School in Roanoke, VA through Radford University.

## 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!

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ZOOM

Not sure how to download and use Zoom? A little apprehensive about trying something new? Check out this video prepared by Pastor Alex to you get started. Click the link below and choose *Zoom Tutorial from Pastor Alex*.

<https://www.muhenberglutheran.org/covid19-962911.html>

## 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 ~ 69**

**YouTube ~ 95**

**Total Engagement/Views:**

**Facebook ~ 527**

**YouTube ~ 169**

**Total Time Watched:**

**Facebook ~ 79 hrs**

**YouTube ~ 117 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
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$18,465)</b>	<b>(\$15,592)</b>	<b>(\$5,382)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 6,490.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 7,383.75
<b>Total Giving for the Week</b>	<b>\$ 13,873.75</b>

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg 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 the [donation page](#) on our website, or mail your check to the church at 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY**

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

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

The study 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.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

### **MINISTRIES NIGHT IS BACK!**

Our first “trial run” of Ministries Night online went great last Monday! Zoom allows us to continue our regular format of starting in a large group for announcements, and then “moving” into our separate ministry teams. It was fun to see everyone's faces, and it's exciting to get “back to business.”

Join us for our official Ministries Night **NEXT Monday, May 11, 7:00 pm** via Zoom. Click <https://zoom.us/j/92193459263> or contact Pastor Lauren for the phone-in option.

### **PASTORS' BOOK CLUB**

Pastors' Book Club is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 27, 6:30 pm**. We'll discuss the book *Aging Matters: Finding Your Calling for the Rest of Your Life* by R. Paul Stevens (originally scheduled for April, but postponed due to shipping delays.) Join the conversation via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88631865800>.

Next month, Pastors' Book Club will take place on **Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 pm**. We'll discuss the book *Stars Beneath Us: Finding God in the Evolving Cosmos* by Paul Wallace.

Wallace is an astrophysicist who inspires readers to engage with the natural world in new ways and find God, as it turns out, everywhere.

The regular price for this book is \$14.99, but we can get it for \$10 each if we have 6 or more people who order it. To get in on the group order, please email Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)) **no later than Wednesday, May 6**. You can then mail a check to the office for \$10. Be sure the memo line indicates “June Pastors' Book Club.”

## **PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE NEWS**

### **NEW OTT STREET LOCATION**

When Muhlenberg purchased the house at 65 Ott Street (bordering our property behind the MAC), we thought it would be a great place for People Helping People (PHP) to serve its clients. PHP has shared office space with Second Home for many years, and this new opportunity would alleviate cramped working conditions for both agencies.

After a lot of elbow grease and some minor renovation, we are proud to announce that PHP has moved to the Ott Street House! The timing is perfect to allow greater physical distancing.

To fully furnish their space, PHP is in need of gently used or new rugs, lamps, and perhaps another desk or other office furniture. Contact Director Leeanne Shepherd (433-7286) if you would like to help.

Thanks so much to Neil Alexander and Chris Harbin of the Property Committee for their work preparing the space for PHP. Additionally, we thank Bill and Crystl Whitmire, for helping move furniture and getting the office space ready for PHP clients.

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER: BE RELATIONAL

As we enter yet another week of social distancing, please take time to pray for and reach-out to one another. Especially consider those living alone or in nursing facilities. They may not have family nearby or internet access, and certainly cannot have visitors.

Can you reach out to someone by phone once or twice a week? Can your children draw pictures or write notes to send? Or can you share a funny story? Are you able to pick up groceries or drop off cookies? Thank you to those already making these connections! If you need suggestions for connecting with others, contact Stephanie Hudy (540-435-1472 or [stephanie.Hudy@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.Hudy@gmail.com)).

Are you in need of some help, feeling cut off, isolated, or depressed? Need a “phone pal”? Know of someone who might need help? Please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496). Would you like to talk to a pastor? Call the church to leave a voicemail message or learn how to connect with them in an emergency.

We are in this together, and the road is easier when we care for each other.

### NEED A MASK?



If you need a mask, contact Janet Simmons (434-5258). She will mail or deliver it to you at no charge.

### 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!

### 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](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net).*



Sustainable Fashion: So again, look for garments made of natural fibers and also research the manufacturers' human rights records. The fair and ethical treatment of garment workers must be supported; working conditions in a lot of garment factories can be poor. Here, sustainability means achieving a balance between fair treatment, wages and productivity.

### 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](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)) and he will gladly do that.

## SECOND HOME NEWS



### LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP?



Greetings from Second Home! We are operating as a full-day care for Second Home children whose parents are essential workers in the city. Physical distancing and other safety requirements are limiting the number of students we can serve, but we are so thankful to serve these families in need.

Low student-teacher ratios and added operating hours make this kind of emergency care costly. Plus, many of our families who do not need child care, still need help with groceries and every day supplies. If you would like to help, there are several ways to support Second Home's efforts to help our neighbors:

- **Cash donations** for Second Home operations or groceries are most beneficial. Please make checks payable to MLC - Second Home and mail them to Second Home at 281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg VA 22801. Feel free to designate your donation with a note on the check.
  - Alternatively, you can donate **via PayPal** through our website, <https://secondhomeva.com/support-our-program/>. Please note that PayPal takes off a handling fee, so we receive about 3% less than your actual donation. However, this is a safe, quick way to send donations.



- **Groceries:** If you prefer to bring groceries to us for use in the program or to distribution to our families in need, please contact Krisztina Szekely ([2ndhomedirector@gmail.com](mailto:2ndhomedirector@gmail.com) or 432-7989) for specific items needed and drop off instructions.
- **Clothing:** We also need elastic waist pants for boys and girls in sizes 7 and 9.

We are grateful to those of you who have already donated money towards our operations, groceries for our families, and delivered groceries to us for distribution. Stay well, and thank you!



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](mailto:mleecy@lfsva.org).

## YOUTH & CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer  
(434-3496 or [bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto: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.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 4-10, 2020

- Mon. 2:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 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@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@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](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).

