



# 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](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org) † Website: [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: [eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: [zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org)

**May 10, 2020**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



Starting **THIS SUNDAY (5/10)**, **one link is all you need** to participate in *Sunday Mornings at Muhlenberg!* Watch this fantastic video Pastor Alex prepared to help you more:

[https://youtu.be/JxsXN3PtU\\_E](https://youtu.be/JxsXN3PtU_E)

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for fellowship via **ZOOM** each **Sunday from 9:00 – 11 am**. We'll use "Breakout Rooms" via Zoom to ensure that everyone has a space to participate in this time together! One of the pastors will greet you and "send" you to the event of your choice. You're also welcome to stay in the "Gathering Area" if you prefer.

- **Sunday School** ~ Classes open around **9:00 am**, and all are welcome to join. Currently the *40 Day Journey*, *Faith Lens*, and **added this week, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls** classes are meeting. Never attended before? Now is a great time to check one out!

- **Pastoral Care** ~ If you would like a private word with one of the Pastors, we will provide a private breakout room for you and the pastor "on call."
- **Small Group Fellowship** ~ If you would like to catch up with a small group of friends, we have private breakout rooms for that!

**Join each week using this link:**

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

If you don't have an internet connection or it isn't reliable enough for video, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

Previously we have had separate Zoom links for both Sunday School classes and for Coffee Hour. Now, you'll only use the link above to access all of our Sunday morning activities. Previously used links will no longer work.

Livestreamed worship at 11:00 am on **Facebook** and **YouTube** remains unchanged.

If you have questions, or would like your group to meet, contact one of the Pastors. We look forward to connecting with you on Sunday mornings!

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

### MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION

We are pleased to announce that we are moving forward to fill the position of “Minister of Communication.” This position was approved in our last congregational spending plan and Council approved a small adjustment in salary, if needed, to ensure that we can attract the best candidates. As you will recall, Mycah McNett was previously in a similar position until she entered Seminary.

It is critical that we fill this position at this time as our communication needs and strategies have drastically changed during the pandemic in recent months and will continue to be more in demand as we move forward. Our Pastors have taken on these communication duties admirably; however, we now need a full-time person to focus on the communication role so that our Pastors may continue to fully invest their time pastoring, leading and serving our faith community.

*Mark Warner*  
Personnel Committee Chair

### 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 get you started. Click the link below and choose *Zoom Tutorial from Pastor Alex*.

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

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

While we aren't meeting in person, we are able to track our online viewership:

4/26: 164 Total Live Views  
778 Total Views  
181.7 Hours of Content Viewed

5/3: 151 Total Live Views

*Note: the ELCA has made recommendations for tracking online attendance. We will now provide total views for the most recent week, and full details for the week before.*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$216,981	\$275,193	\$231,661
Total Receipts	\$252,906	\$314,548	\$267,821
Expenses	\$272,133	\$334,234	\$279,355
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$19,227)</b>	<b>(\$19,686)</b>	<b>(\$11,534)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 23,039.00  
Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 23,459.22  
**Total Giving for the Week \$ 46,496.22**

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 at 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **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 **THIS Monday, May 11, 7:00 pm** via Zoom. Click <https://zoom.us/j/92193459263> or contact Pastor Lauren for the phone-in option.

### **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.

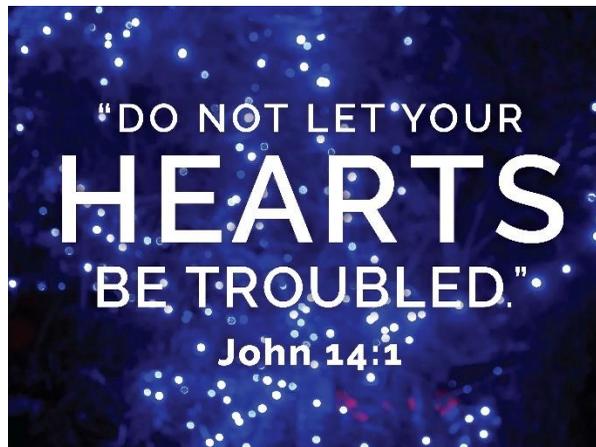
## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

### **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.

You can order the book from Amazon and other online bookstores.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER: BE RELATIONAL

As we continue 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).*



Go beyond recycling....Embrace a Zero-Waste Lifestyle. The goal of being waste-free is to send nothing to a landfill, so that all resources are fully returned to our ecosystem. For Zero-Waste in storage, use glass and stainless steel containers; try not to use plastic.

### 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.

## VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA

### VIRTUAL “TONGUES OF FIRE” 5K

SUNDAY, MAY 31 FROM 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM



Muhlenberg hopes to put together a team in response to the Virginia Synod’s invitation to join them in a Virtual 5K! You can run, walk, jog, or even cheerlead as part of the 5K. Here’s how this will work:

- Between now and May 31, we’ll form a team and name a team captain who will register us.
- Cheerleaders will not physically compete but will root and pray for those participating the whole way! Dress up, make an encouraging sign, and be a positive force for those competing on your team!
- Between now and May 31, limber up! Get some daily walking or jogging in.
- You can join in the conversation about your training on the [Virginia Synod Facebook Event page](#)! Share how you're training, your personal training playlist, and what keeps you motivated as we prepare for May 31.

**For Race Day:** You will be walking, jogging, running, or cheering along 3.2 miles in your own home or neighborhood. You can use your own course, your treadmill, etc. You will have 24 hours to complete your race (you may start at any time). Once finished, report your finishing time and any photos to our team captain. Remember to drink water and be safe!

Final results and superlative awards will be shared in the Synod’s Weekly Update. For details, visit [vasynod.org/virginia-synod-5k](http://vasynod.org/virginia-synod-5k).

## 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 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.

## 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 1 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.

## 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 for 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 toward our operations, groceries for our families, and delivered groceries to us for distribution. Stay well, and thank you!

## 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](http://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](http://thrivent.com) Disaster Response for details.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 11-17, 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  
**9:00 am** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls 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 ([depay@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496](mailto:depay@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](https://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).

