



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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May 17, 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



ONE LINK is all you need to participate in *Sunday Mornings at Muhlenberg!* Watch this fantastic video Pastor Alex prepared:

https://youtu.be/JxsXN3PtU_E

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and 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" to greet others if you prefer.

- **Sunday School** ~ All are welcome to join.
 - **9:00:** *Faith Lens*, 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation, 8th Grade Girls
 - **9:30:** *40 Day Journey*
 - **10:15:** Kids Storytime
- **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** ~ Want 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 a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

Previously we have had separate Zoom links for Sunday School classes and 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 notice quality issues with Facebook, give YouTube a try.** YouTube was built for sharing videos, and we have heard its quality is much better for some of our members.

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!

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

Update

A Search Committee has been formed and includes Katie McConnel (from the Personnel Committee), Sarah Sunde (from Council), and Parish Administrator Linda Depoy. The Pastors will provide support and conduct interviews with the top candidates. The Search Committee has met with the Personnel Committee for guidance, and it is hard at work to develop the process to advertise the position and begin receiving resumes. Watch *The Chimes* for updates and the opportunity to apply for the position. If you have questions in the meantime, contact Linda (depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org or 434-3496).

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

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

5/3: 151 Total Live Views
674 Total Views
193 Hours of Content Viewed

5/10: 128 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
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$19,227)	(\$19,686)	(\$11,534)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 2,760.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 5,248.00
Total Giving for the Week \$ 8,008.00

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.

INTRODUCING *WELLSTREAM* PHONE

Do you feel like you're missing out on worship because you don't have an internet connection? We want all members to have the opportunity to "participate" in worship and hear The Word. ***Wellstream* Phone is a new service that works from your home or cell phone — no internet required. Simply call the number below and select an option. Services/sermons will be available by 11 am each Sunday.**

The Details: When you call, Pastor Lauren will welcome you to *Wellstream* Phone and give you the 8 options listed below. For example, if you want to hear the most recent sermon, you would press 1 and then the # key (located on the right side of 0 on your phone). Or to listen to the last week's entire worship service, you would press 4#. **Tip:** Most hand held and cell phones are equipped with a speaker. Using the speaker allows you to hear worship without holding the phone to your ear the entire time. You may even want to listen to worship while doing something else.

There were no numbers local to Harrisonburg available for this purpose, so unfortunately the phone number is long distance. If your home phone service does not include long distance, perhaps you have a cell phone that does. If you do not have access to long distance and want to use this service, please contact Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) and she will be glad to assist.

We hope you will try this new service and give Linda your feedback. For example, we already know the music sound quality needs a little help; but just like clicks, pops and white noise from a vinyl record, the sound quality doesn't keep you from enjoying the experience. Contact Linda with any questions or concerns.

***Wellstream* Phone Number: 1-434-205-8777**

Press **1#** to hear **this week's sermon**

Press **2#** to hear **this week's entire worship service**

Press **3#** to hear **last week's sermon**

Press **4#** to hear **last week's entire worship service**

Press **5#** to hear **announcements for this week**

Press **6#** to **leave a message or prayer request**

Press **7#** to **contact the pastor on call for pastoral emergencies**

Press **8#** to hear **how to send in your offering during this time**

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

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

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

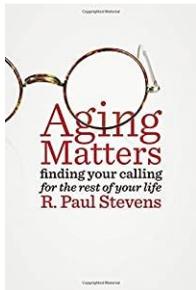
The study isn't limited to Muhlenberg members, so feel free to invite a friend.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 **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

ATTENTION GRADUATES

Are you a Muhlenberg member who is graduating from high school or college? We want to know and celebrate with you!



Please contact Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) by **THIS Tuesday, May 19** with the name of the graduate, the school from which they are graduating, and their plans afterward. We will record a blessing with those who are available to participate and honor our graduates next Sunday, May 24.

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.

The goal of being waste-free is to send nothing to a landfill, so that all resources are fully returned to our ecosystem. Last week our tip was about zero-waste in storage. This week we refer to shopping: buy loose items in bulk and store them in reusable/resealable airtight jars or containers. When shopping, bring your own canvas bags to the market or other retailers.

MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

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).

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 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.

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.

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). As of May 14, there have been a total of 1.3 million cases in the United States and over 80,000 people have lost their lives. The numbers around the world are staggering.

[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.

SECOND HOME THANK YOU

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)

There is no more appropriate time for this verse than the present. Second Home is blessed to be part of Muhlenberg's caring community. Your support allows us to serve our neighbors during these difficult times. With your help, we have been able to provide groceries for 12 families and have served 3 meals a day to our students. We have received much needed monetary donations and in-kind donations of art and educational supplies, masks, food, and other items. Our students are engaged, learning, exercising, having fun, and more importantly, safe. Their parents are able to work and serve our community with a peace of mind, knowing that their children are taken care of by well trained and caring staff. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Krisztina Szekely, Executive Director



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

MINI REFRIGERATOR NEEDED



**People
Helping
People**

People Helping People is enjoying their new offices in the Ott Street House and are currently open to serve their clients in need during the pandemic. They are looking for a mini refrigerator for staff and volunteer use. If you have one for sale (less than \$75) *contact Director Leanne Shepherd* (peoplehelpingpeopledirector@gmail.com or 433-7286).

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 1 for details.

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

Miss Diane and Miss Kathy invite Sunday school children to join in **Sunday mornings at 10:15** for storytime via [Zoom](#). We will hear a Bible story together and then have time to visit with our church friends. See p. 1 for sign in instructions.

ATTENTION JAMERS

TODAY (5/17) at 4:00 we will have a [Zoom](#) meeting for JAMers. Miss Holly and Miss Diane have missed of you and look forward to seeing you and hearing about what you have been doing since we last met. Sign in using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82770890120?pwd=MW4vSDhwMCTndktwRGUxSkQ3SnZRdz09>

Or call 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 827 7089 0120; Password: 460220

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.muhlenberglutheran.org/covid19-962911.html>

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 18-24, 2020

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Congregation Council Mtg.
- Wed. 10:30 am** Bible Study
12 noon Service Livestreamed on [Facebook](#)
- Sun. 9:00 am** Faith Lens Class
9:00 am 8th Grade Girls Class
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
10:15 am Sunday School Storytime
10:30 am "Coffee Hour" via Zoom
11:00 am Service Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
4:00 pm JAMers 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 (depay@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).

ATTENTION MINISTRY GROUP LEADERS

Zoom video conferencing 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*, email Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) and he will gladly set it up for you.