



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 31, 2020

DAY OF PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

FROM BISHOP BOB HUMPHREY

May 14, 2020 – “Due to the highly infectious nature of COVID-19, the lack of available testing, the absence of an effective treatment for the disease, and the time needed to prepare for gathering again leads the **Bishop's Office to recommend abstaining from in-person gatherings through Forward Virginia Safer at Home Phase 1, Phase 2, and possibly beyond.** As each new Phase of reopening occurs in Virginia, congregational leaders will need to consider how to protect the health and well-being of the entire community, not simply do what is allowable or legal.”

CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

Council gathered via Zoom May 18 with the main focus of discussion being “how and when to safely interact in person” in light of COVID-19. Following good conversation, **Council was in complete consensus that Muhlenberg will follow Virginia Synod guidelines to abstain from in-person gatherings during Virginia's Phase 1 and Phase 2 reopening plans, and continue to consult Synod guidelines moving forward.**

Council approved the creation of a Muhlenberg Pandemic Task Force that will

develop short-term and long-term plans regarding in-person gatherings, safety policies, and the logistics of returning to in-church worship and activities. A team of five members will be assembled to work with the pastors in navigating the path before us. The Task Force will welcome member feedback, and avenues to provide this feedback will be shared soon. Watch for a letter with additional information from the Pastors about our COVID-19 response.

ENTERING THE CHURCH

Staff continues to work mainly from home, while Harrisonburg-Rockingham Day Care and Second Home are running carefully regulated, pared-down programs for children most in need of care. **All doors are locked at all times.** In order to continue to keep everyone safe, **we ask that congregation members refrain from coming to the church building unless necessary. If you need to be in the building, please use the Gathering Area doors to enter and exit (NOT the back red doors which Day Care uses).** We suggest you wear a mask as much as possible. If you have something to drop off at the church, please arrange with a staff person to receive it ahead of time. Do not drop items off at the MAC. Thank you!

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

PENTECOST TODAY!



From the word “fifty,” Pentecost is 50 days after Easter Sunday. The story of Pentecost is told in Acts 2, when the Spirit of the Living God was poured out upon diverse disciples from many lands and speaking many languages. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they burst from the house with a unifying story to tell – the story of Jesus, resurrected from the dead! The church marks this day with festive red, the color of the Holy Spirit and symbolic of the tongues of fire resting above the heads of each disciple.

Our task is to determine and live out the meaning of Pentecost for us today. God is at work here, now, in the world. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate and Comforter, enlivens our faith and emboldens our efforts to tell the Good News of Jesus in word and deed.

GRADUATION 2020!

Muhlenberg is excited to recognize members of our congregation who are celebrating their graduation this spring. In addition to those named last week, we congratulate ...

Kaitlyn Young who graduated with a BA in Health Information Technology from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

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

5/17: 145 Total Live Views
558 Total Views
164.8 Hours of Content Viewed

5/24: 139 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 \$ 6,228.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 1,676.00
Total Giving for the Week \$ 7,904.00

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.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

**Sunday Mornings at Muhlenberg
VIA ZOOM**

9:00am Faith Lens Sunday School,
8th Grade Girls Bible Study

9:30am 40 Day Journey Sunday School,
Confirmation

10:15am Children's Story Time with
Ms. Diane

10:30am Coffee Hour

Live Digital Worship @ 11:00am
facebook YouTube

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SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each **Sunday from 9:00 – 11:00** using this link:

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

- **Sunday School** ~ All are welcome to join.
 - **9:00:** Faith Lens, 8th Grade Girls
 - **9:30:** 40 Day Journey, 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation
 - **10:15:** Kids Story Time
- **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!

If you don't have a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

Livestreamed worship at 11:00 am on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) continues.

“TONGUES OF FIRE” 5K

VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA
VIRTUAL “TONGUES OF FIRE” 5K
SUNDAY, MAY 31 FROM 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM



Muhlenberg has put together a team in response to the Virginia Synod's invitation to join in a Virtual 5K today! You can run, walk, jog, or even cheerlead as part of the 5K. Here's how you can participate:

- 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!
- You can join in the conversation about your training on the Virginia Synod Facebook Event page!
- For Race Day: You will walk, jog, run, or cheer 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, Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org). Remember to drink water and be safe!

For details, visit vasynod.org/virginia-synod-5k. For more information, contact Diane.

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

June Pastors' Book Club

**6:30PM WED
JUNE 24TH
VIA ZOOM**

In an important conversation for our current time, Pastor and Astrophysicist Paul Wallace shows us how a genuine exploration of science can, in fact, bring us a deeper connection with our faith.

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The graphic features a starry night sky background. On the right is the book cover for 'Stars Beneath Us: Finding God in the Evolving Cosmos' by Paul Wallace. At the bottom left, there is a silhouette of a person standing on a cross-like structure.

PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

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

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.



We continue our theme of being waste-free and embracing a zero-waste lifestyle. This week we are focused on cleaning. Switch to machine washable/reusable cloth towels and napkins. Do not use paper towels and napkins. Choose a mop with a wooden handle and removable head that can be machine washed. Stay away from disposable wet floor wipes, as they do not biodegrade and create serious blockages in sewer systems. Use glass jars to store homemade cleaning products, such as baking soda and white vinegar. Avoid store-bought cleaning products, which can contain harmful toxins and be packaged in materials that cannot be reused or repurposed.

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!

NEED A MASK?

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



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**

REMINDERS

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.

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>

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).

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.

Here is a letter we received from the ELCA...

May 20, 2020

Dear Muhlenberg Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$471 to ELCA World Hunger.

On the very first Easter, there was fear, confusion and doubt before there was unreserved joy. But hope and new life triumphed. That is what we, as Christians, celebrate now. This Easter season, you are sharing that hope with your neighbors around the world through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy.

In Christ,

The Rev. Robin Brown

Mission Fund Director, Congregations

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. Faith formation continues to meet via [Zoom](#). See page 3 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. 3 for sign in instructions.

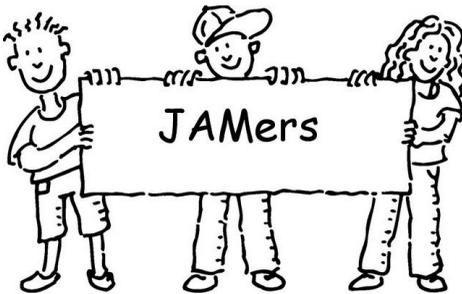
JAMERS

Miss Diane and Miss Holly had a wonderful time connecting via Zoom with some of our JAMers May 17. We are going to meet again **TODAY (5/31), 4:00** using the same link (see below). We hope to see more of you and catch up with each other!

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

Or call 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 827 7089 0120; Password: 460220



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 1-7, 2020

If viewing electronically, you can click the links below to access meetings and services.

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting

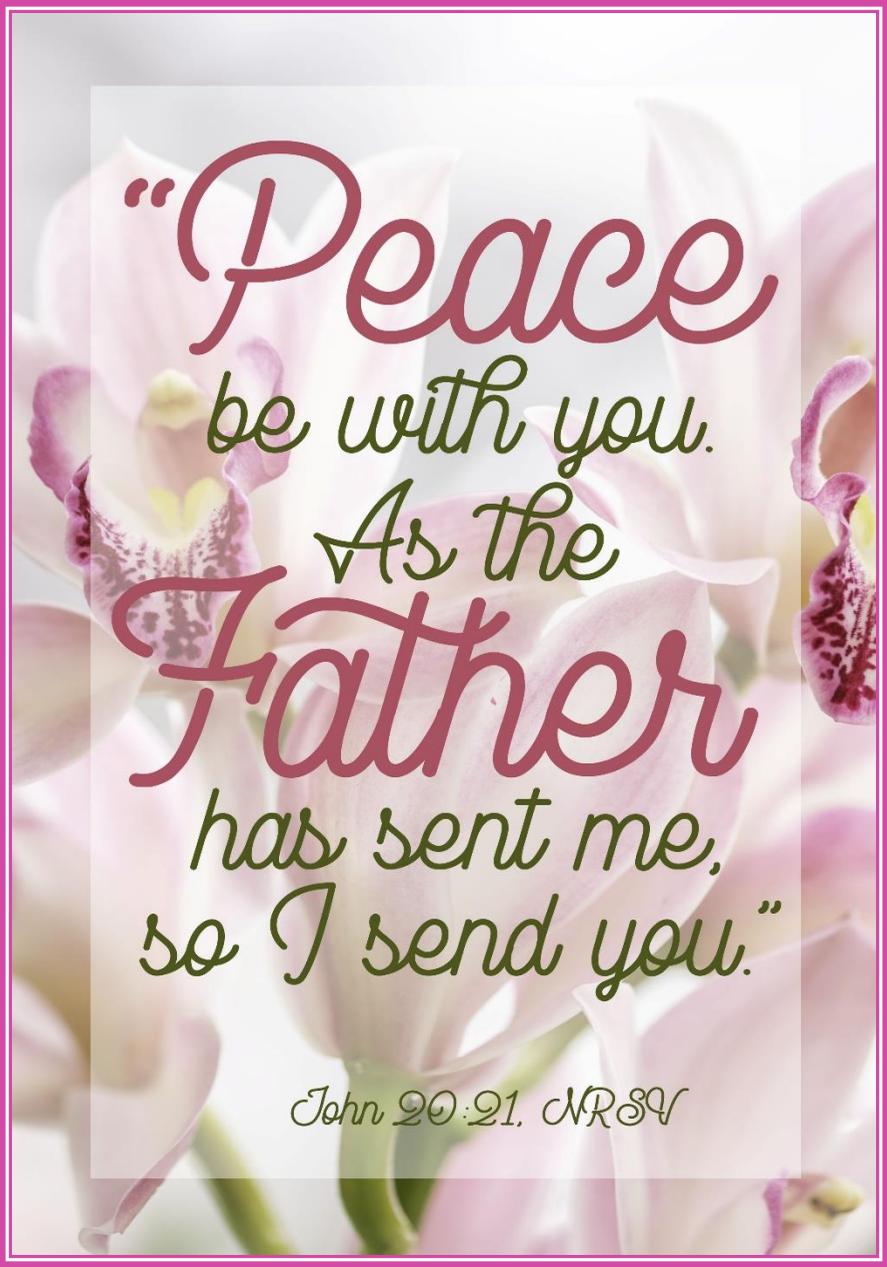
Wed. 10:30 am Bible Study via [Zoom](#)
12 noon Service Livestreamed on
[Facebook](#)

Sun. The Holy Trinity
[Sunday AM Zoom link](#)
9:00 am Faith Lens Class
8th Grade Girls Bible Study
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
6th & 7th Grade Confirmation
10:15 am Sunday School Story Time
10:30 am "Coffee Hour"
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/434-3496.

Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).

A background of soft-focus pink orchids with yellow centers, framed by a thin magenta border. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangle.

*“Peace
be with you.
As the
Father
has sent me,
so I send you.”*

John 20:21, NRSV