



# 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)



**June 14, 2020**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **WHAT'S THE BUZZ?**

Dear people of Muhlenberg,

As we see restrictions on activities slowly starting to be lifted, I know the question on everyone's mind is: "When will we be back to church?" Of course, we've never been away from being "church"—we've simply been the church outside of the building's walls. But I certainly understand the desire to gather as a community again. I, too, am eager to see you.

Council has decided to follow the Synod's guidance regarding Virginia's Phases One and Two, which means there will be no in-person worship during those times. We're also appointing a Task Force (see next column).

I am inclined to take a conservative approach to re-opening our building. The harm of opening a little bit later than we could have will be minimal; while the harm of opening too soon could be catastrophic. Scientific studies are pointing to being in an enclosed space for a significant time with a large group of people while speaking or singing as one of the most dangerous activities for spreading coronavirus. In addition, the community spread in Harrisonburg is higher than many other

locations in the state of Virginia, and calls for extra caution.

The weeks ahead will require patience, flexibility, understanding, and grace from all of us. But I know we will forge this uncharted path together in faith and love.

*Pastor Lauren*

## **COVID-19 TASK FORCE**

Council has appointed a Task Force to carefully consider the many factors surrounding in-person worship and activities, and to make recommendations on how to move forward safely.

Members serving on the task force are **Neil Alexander, Erin Burke, Cynthia Page, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire and Greta Willis.**

At the appropriate time, they will seek input from the congregation. Watch *The Chimes* for updates as they become available.

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

**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

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church — A Wellspring of God's Grace

### 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, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls
  - **9:30:** 40 Day Journey, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

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

**5/31: 120 Total Live Views**  
**867 Total Views**  
**166 Hours of Content Viewed**

**6/7: 85\* Total Live Views**

*\*Note: there were technical difficulties with YouTube and the service failed to upload on 6/7.*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through <b>May 2020</b>	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$273,202	\$374,471	\$282,179
Total Receipts	\$313,764	\$394,178	\$324,784
Expenses	\$335,117	\$414,277	\$349,620
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$21,253)</b>	<b>(\$20,099)</b>	<b>(\$24,836)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 3,143.00  
 Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 12,378.00  
**Total Giving for the Week \$ 15,521.00**

**June Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$9**

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.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Last week we celebrated the ordination anniversaries of three pastors who have served Muhlenberg...

**Rev. K. Roy Nilsen ~ 65 years**

**Rev. John Derrick ~ 60 years**

**Rev. Bill Nabers ~ 40 years**

Click [here](#) for the video or call in to *Wellstream Phone* (option 9#) to hear the Recognition of Ordination Anniversaries.

### 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).*

Last week we talked about composting. What items can be composted? You can use the following to start or add to your compost pile or bin: vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, tea bags, lawn clippings, wood ashes, hair and nail clippings, and natural fibers. Paper towels may be put into the compost as well. Next week we'll discuss what not to compost.

### 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!

## WELLSTREAMPHONE

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. Information 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. **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.

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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)) and she will be glad to assist.

We hope you will try this new service and give Linda your feedback.

---

### Wellstream Phone Number:

**1-434-205-8777**

- Press **1#** ~ **this week's sermon**
- Press **2#** ~ **this week's entire worship service**
- Press **3#** ~ **last week's sermon**
- Press **4#** ~ **last week's entire worship service**
- Press **5#** ~ **announcements for this week**
- Press **6#** ~ **leave a message or prayer request**
- Press **7#** ~ **contact pastor for emergencies**
- Press **8#** ~ **how to send in your offering**
- Press **9#** ~ **special events**

## MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH SEEKS COMMUNICATION MINISTER

*The Search Committee met this week to begin work on hiring a Communication Minister. The advertisement below will be posted on our website, Facebook, local and national job boards, seminary and pastoral association sites, and shared by word of mouth. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be interested in the position.*

---

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church is seeking a creative individual to develop and align all communications to reflect Muhlenberg's "brand" and vision in ways that are culturally relevant and mission-focused. The Communication Minister will provide effective and relevant communications clearly reflecting God's story and the story of Muhlenberg. The position will serve as Muhlenberg's digital representative to the congregation and wider community, including overseeing the Wellstream ministry of live-streaming worship services on Sunday morning.

Salary will be commensurate with education and experience. Competitive applicants will have skills in creative writing, editing, graphic design, and social media. The position includes benefits: health, dental and vision insurance; paid vacation, holidays, and sick leave; pension contribution; and continuing education. The application review process begins June 17.

To view a full position description, visit: [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/jobs)

To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to  
[communication@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:communication@muhlenberglutheran.org)

*At Muhlenberg Lutheran Church **we strive to be a Wellspring of God's Grace:***

***Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving***

*We are an ELCA congregation with a rich history dating back to 1849, a dynamic presence with over 1400 members and a bright future. While we are a large congregation in our area, we enjoy and foster a smaller church atmosphere in many ways. Learn more about who we are at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org).*

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

### GREAT COMMUNITY GIVE



The Great Community Give is June 24. Remember to point, click, give! This is an initiative by the Harrisonburg and Rockingham Community Foundation to donate to our local nonprofits, several of which Muhlenberg supports. To see a full list of participating organizations, or to make a donation, visit [www.greatcommunitygive.org/](http://www.greatcommunitygive.org/).

### OPEN DOORS UPDATE



Open Doors wrapped up its extended season on June 10, giving those experiencing homelessness a clean and safe place to shelter during the COVID-19 crisis. More than 125 individuals were served over the last 11 weeks!

Thank you to Muhlenberg members Linda Morrison, Lesa Calleo, Susan Lawrence, Barbara Roadcap, and Janet Simmons for providing assistance with meals. Wes Way also joined Open Doors as a dedicated staff member. We are grateful for all of Muhlenberg's love, support, and tireless efforts!

To learn more about Open Doors, visit their website at [www.valleyopendoors.org](http://www.valleyopendoors.org).

## SECOND HOME NEWS

### SUMMER CAMP

Second Home has exciting news! After a successful 8 weeks of full-day operation during the COVID-19 school shut down, we are staying open for a Summer Camp during HCPS' online summer school until July 24! This has been a long-time dream for us, even though we never dreamed of the present circumstances. Phase two of the economic reopening, and the need for social distancing still drastically limits our numbers, but we are able to accept a few more children than in April.

Children at Second Home will continue learning, participating in creative activities, as well as improving socio-emotional and physical skills in a safe and fun environment. Those children who are participating in the HCPS summer school will be able to connect with their teacher online from Second Home. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to hear about day to day activities. Please consider supporting us in the [Great Community Give](#) online giving day on June 24!



## REMINDERS

### 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!

### NEED A MASK?

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

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ZOOM

Do you want to participate in online meetings and activities but not sure how to get started? 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>

## GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

In this unprecedented time of COVID-19, ministry at Muhlenberg looks and feels different — but is still just as vital. In fact, our reach has expanded around the country and around the world through digital means of worship and learning. We invite your continued generosity throughout the summer months. Consider an extra gift — perhaps a portion of your stimulus check? — if your situation allows. Your gifts and offerings allow Muhlenberg to continue to help neighbors in need and share the good news of the gospel. Thanks for your generosity!

So, this is a reminder that **your regular giving is important.** Here are ways you can make sure your gifts and offerings continue even when we cannot be together for worship:

1. \*Click [here](#) to visit our website to set up a one-time or recurring donation.
2. \*Simply Giving arranges regular payments from your bank account. *Contact Financial Secretary Janet Simmons (434-5258 or [gandjsimmons@gmail.com](mailto:gandjsimmons@gmail.com))* with any questions or to set up Simply Giving.
3. \*Use your bank's online bill pay to set up automatic payments to Muhlenberg.
4. Mail your checks each week directly to Muhlenberg (281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801).
5. Calculate how much your regular giving would be for the Sundays we have had to miss in-person worship and give that total amount in one check.

*\*Any of these "automatic" alternatives may be cancelled at any time.*

## REMINDERS (CONT'D)

### COMMUNICATING WITH OUR MEMBERS

Members of the congregation who cannot read *The Chimes* online can request a copy be mailed to them weekly. If you are interested, or know a member who is, contact *Parish Administrator Linda Depoy* (434-3496 or [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

### EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

Have you been receiving our weekly email newsletters? If not, please make sure they didn't end up in your spam or promotions folders. To subscribe or verify that you are on the list, send your email address to *Linda Depoy* ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

## YOUTH & CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

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

### CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

Miss Diane and Miss Kathy invite Sunday school children to join Story Time **Sunday mornings at 10:15** via [Zoom](#). We will hear a Bible story and visit with our church friends. See p. 2 for sign in instructions.

### JAMERS

Join us **TODAY, 4:00** via [Zoom](#)!

<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 15-21, 2020

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting  
**6:30 pm** Congregation Council mtg.
- Wed. 10:30 am** Bible Study via [Zoom](#)  
**12 noon** Service Livestreamed on [Facebook](#)  
**7:30 pm** Remembrance and Repentance via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun. [Sunday AM Zoom link](#)**  
**9:00 am** Faith Lens Class  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Bible Study  
**9:30 am** 40-Day Journey Class  
6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

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

