



# 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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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 21, 2020**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

### **TASK FORCE UPDATE**

Our COVID-19/Gathering Again Task Force has met several times and is finalizing a plan for moving forward. Contact any of the members if you have questions or suggestions! Members include Neil Alexander, Erin Burke, Cynthia Page, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, Greta Willis, Pastor Alex Zuber. Watch for updates coming soon.

### **PASTOR ALEX SERVING IN A NEW ROLE**

After the retirement of Pastor Jeff Sonafelt from Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market, Pastor Alex has been appointed by the Virginia Synod to serve as Vice Pastor for Reformation during their interim season of transition. Vice Pastor responsibilities include attending monthly council meetings, assisting with coordinating pulpit supply and plans for Sunday worship, and responding to pastoral emergencies. As defined in the Vice Pastor Agreement, Pastor Alex's **responsibility to Muhlenberg will always come first**, but he is excited for the opportunity to walk with this congregation, and provide this needed service to our Lutheran neighbors in the Valley.



From June 14 - July 19, we are exploring the Psalms in worship. We will move through the Psalms in a manner that reflects how we experience the life of faith: from orientation (when life is stable and the world seems trustworthy), to disorientation (when the bottom drops out and the tradition seems like a lie), to reorientation (when faith in a trustworthy God is found again, but the experience of disorientation is not forgotten).

To accompany our worship, a daily Psalms devotional and prayer guide can be found at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org), as well as online through the Facebook group [Muhlenberg Summer Psalms Devotional](#). For kids, we recommend *Psalms for Young Children* by Marie Helene Delval and *Spark Story Bible Psalm Book* by Naomi Krueger.

*See p. 3 for information about Table Talks on Racism and July's Pastors' Book Club.*

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### 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
  - **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.

## COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

### NEW NICHEs AVAILABLE

An additional 24 Columbarium niches have been added to the Caring Corner. The Property Committee has made upgrades to this room with new lighting, including eternal spotlights shining on the niches. If you are interested in a niche or want additional information, please contact me ([compton1080@gmail.com](mailto:compton1080@gmail.com) or 437-8933).

*Bill Compton  
Columbarium Committee*

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

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

- 6/7: 85\* Total Live Views**  
**446\* Total Views**  
**140.2 Hours of Content Viewed**
- 6/14: 120 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 \$ 4,215.00  
Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 2,353.29  
**Total Giving for the Week \$ 6,568.29**

**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.

## 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.

### PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

Pastors' Book Club will be held **THIS 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. Join the conversation via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85264820543>

Phone In: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 85264820543

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### TABLE TALKS ON RACISM AND JULY'S PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

Wondering where to begin with conversations around anti-racism? If phrases like *white privilege*, *systemic racism*, *reparations*, or *white supremacy* are new or challenging to you, please join us for further conversation. Muhlenberg will host digital Table Talks on Racism this summer, July 12, 1:00 pm and July 15, 6:30 pm. These conversations will involve pre-reading an article and then small group conversation over Zoom. Sign up for a session by clicking [here](#).

Wish to continue conversations on anti-racism and dismantling white supremacy, with a particular focus on the church? Join us Wednesday July 29, 6:30 pm for a Pastors' Book Club conversation on *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US* by ELCA Pastor Lenny Duncan.

### POWER IN THE SPIRIT 2020

#### July 6-10 Online

Join in a week of study, prayer, fellowship, worship, and art. Experience new ways of worshiping at home and online. Our theme this year centers on this event's namesake: the Holy Spirit! Just who is this person of the Holy Trinity, oft-neglected by Lutherans? Each day we'll explore the scriptural images of God's Spirit, and how this Spirit continues to be at work in our world today.

While it's a shame we won't be together in person this year, that doesn't mean going without the ministries of Power in Spirit. If you sign up you can expect:

- A daily devotional emailed each morning with readings, brief videos, and guides for at-home arts and crafts.
- Daily Zoom workshops, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, in which presenters share their expertise.
- Closing vespers service at 6:45 pm live and online. Each night you'll participate in different ways of worship, even while physically apart.

Click [here](#) to sign up. Come and enjoy Power in the Spirit!

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



**Here's a clarification about recycling teabags:** 20 to 30% of tea bags may be composed of polypropylene, which will not decompose. These types of tea bags may be slippery to the touch and have a heat-sealed edge. If this is the case, slit open the bag and discard in the trash and reserve the damp tea leaves for composting. Moist tea leaves added to the compost bin increase the speed with which your pile decomposes. When using tea bags as fertilizer, either in the compost bin or directly around plants, first attempt to identify if the bag itself is compostable. Tea bags made of **paper, silk or muslin are suitable** for composting.

**Do not compost:** meat, fish, or poultry, rice, coal ash, cat litter, dog/cat feces or disposable diapers.

### 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.

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**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 has begun work on hiring a Communication Minister. The advertisement below has been 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.*

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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.

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 this Wednesday, 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



### UPDATE FROM STUDENTS

We are wearing our masks, doing our summer school activities with HCPS teachers, and learning about diversity. Daily challenges make Summer Camp a blast. This week we are learning about Egypt, Burundi, India, Spain, and Hungary. Building pyramids and drumming have been super fun! We can't wait to see what else our amazing Second Home teachers have in store for us.

We are so thankful for being safe and happy at Second Home while our parents are at work. Find out more about our daily activities by following Second Home's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Will you please support Second Home Learning Center in the Great Community Give June 24? You can donate now through the day of the event using the following link: <https://donate.greatcommunitygive.org/organizations/second-home-learning-center>

*Second Home Students*



## 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 **NEXT Sunday, June 28, 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 22-28, 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](#)  
**6:30 pm** Pastors' Book Club via [Zoom](#)
- 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](#)  
**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:*

[depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)

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