



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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June 28, 2020

FOURTH 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, 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
 - **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 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:

6/14: 120 Total Live Views
476 Total Views
188.3 Hours of Content Viewed

6/21: 100 Total Live Views

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through May 2020			
	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
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$21,253)	(\$20,099)	(\$24,836)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 3,850.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 1,035.00
Total Giving for the Week \$ 4,885.00

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.

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Now is a great time to join the Wednesday morning Bible study! Spend the summer exploring the book of Esther (along with its additional parts in the Apocrypha) and the book of Tobit. All you need is a Bible that contains the Apocrypha, but if you don't have that, don't worry—contact Pastor Lauren and she can get you a copy of the two books. If you have to miss a week, that's no problem, as sessions are recorded for later viewing. Join in from 10:30-11:30 am Wednesdays :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>.

Note: there will be no class, July 8.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

POWER IN THE SPIRIT 2020

July 6-10 Online

Join in a week of study, prayer, fellowship, worship, and art. Experience new ways of worshipping 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!

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. *Watch for more information next week.*

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.

Make a few eco-friendly changes to keep mosquitoes at bay. You don't need a bug zapper or harsh chemicals to control mosquitoes. Standing water in your yard is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Drill holes in the bottom of your plant pots, recycling bins, and trashcans. Be sure to replace the water in birdbaths, water fountains, and pet bowls regularly to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.

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!

VIRTUAL KAIROS

The Virginia Synod is hosting Virtual Kairos 2020! Join in **July 19-23** (Sunday evening to Thursday morning) for Virginia Synod rising 9th - 12th graders. We are going to try and squeeze as much of in-person Kairos into this online event as we can with large group, small group, daily prayer, t-shirts, CLIPPS, Open Talent Mic Show, faith testimonies, comic relief, etc.

Cost per participant: \$25 and payment is required at time of registration. For more information about registration, and to register online, visit www.vasynod.org/event/kairos

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) 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 has begun reviewing resumes for those who have applied to be our 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, and ask them to submit their resume immediately to be considered.

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

To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to
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.

SECOND HOME NEWS

THANK YOU!



We are grateful for your donation during the Great Community Give. The Harrisonburg and Muhlenberg communities came together and really showed their love this past Wednesday. With your help we surpassed our \$10,000 goal and raised a total of **\$12,270!** This money will help us continue our mission of providing accessible child care with academic support to Harrisonburg families.

Second Home Staff

CAMP NEWS

CAROLINE FURNACE UPDATE

Day use is suspended until the end of summer. Caroline Furnace is closed to visitors until August 10.

Our decision point for on-site Summer Camp has been delayed based on Gov. Northam's announcements and Phase Two guidelines.

We continue to book retreat groups for the fall season – and Buttonwood Lodge is available to groups this summer! Call (540) 449-0012 or email julie@carolinefurnace.org to plan your retreat or visit them online: <https://www.carolinefurnace.org/summer-schedule>



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.

CELEBRATING

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Several weeks ago 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.



IN THE NEWS

GLORIA DEI RINGERS

Gloria Dei Ringers Director Kath Wissinger has been holding rehearsals with social distancing at her home. Kath and her group were recognized with a wonderful article in *The Daily-News Record* June 16. For the full article, click [here](#).

Watch this week's worship service via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) to hear pieces the group has been practicing.

YOUTH & CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer
(434-3496 or 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

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

Thanks to everyone who has continued to extend so many kindnesses to us during Lee's lung cancer treatment through UVA. Your caring and unending support with emails, calls, cards, meals and many grocery shopping trips for food/supplies during months of our self-isolation because of Covid19 helped us "survive and thrive" as they say.

Please keep praying for Lee that the addition of radiation treatments and chemotherapy fusions to the oral chemo pill will result in a favorable outcome to attack the cancer. Because of this intense treatment plan, we have temporarily relocated to Charlottesville. If you would like to send Lee a card, his new address is: 314 Montebello Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22903 We count our blessings daily and as always stay hopeful...God is good!

Brenda and Lee Branner

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 29—July 5, 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. [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).

DAILY DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Online: The daily devotional, [Christ in Our Home](#), is available free online.

Hard Copy: *Word in Season* and *Christ in Our Home* (July-September) hard copy devotionals are available from the cabinet outside the MAC entrance for anyone who lives close by. If you can't get to the church, contact Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) to request a copy by mail.