



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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July 5, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

TASK FORCE UPDATE

Our Gathering Together Task Force has created guidelines for our Muhlenberg community life together over the next two months. You will receive the document via email (if you are signed up for our email list) and snail mail (if you are on our mailing list).

We thank the Task Force for their hard work, and their continuing work, of discerning faithful, safe ways for us to gather as a community. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to one of the members of the team: Neil Alexander, Erin Burke, Pastor Lauren Eanes, Cynthia Page, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, Greta Willis, Pastor Alex Zuber.

If you are not on our email distribution list, you may sign up at www.muhlenberglutheran.org.

If you are not on our mailing list, you may sign up by emailing info@muhlenberglutheran.org with your contact information.

If you would like to access the Gathering Together document, you will find it on our website www.muhlenberglutheran.org.



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. 4 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
 - **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:

6/21: 100 Total Live Views

*Additional information
not available this week.*

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	\$ 9,269.29
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 6,110.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 15,379.29

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

Note: no class

THIS Wednesday, July 8.

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>.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

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

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.

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 with readings, 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!

VIRTUAL KAIROS

Virginia Synod is hosting Virtual Kairos 2020! Join in **July 19-23** (Sunday evening to Thursday morning) for rising 9th - 12th graders. We are going to try to squeeze as much 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.

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

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 discussion. Muhlenberg will host digital Table Talks on Racism this summer, **July 12, 1:00 pm and July 15, 6:30 pm**. These Table Talks 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** via [Zoom](#) 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. (For an introductory conversation on these topics, see information on Muhlenberg's planned Table Talks on Racism.) Contact Pastor Alex if you would like a copy of the book, or you can find it online [HERE](#). (The book may be on backorder, so if you have the capacity to download the book digitally, please do!)

About *Dear Church*: Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the ELCA. Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone—leaders and laity alike—to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice. It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus. (*Content warning: This book contains strong language.*)



This conversation will be a more advanced level discussion on the church's call to the work of anti-racism and justice. Join us via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85264820543>.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

COMMUNICATION MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has identified several top candidates and are scheduling interviews. The Committee will then refer the top two or three candidates to the pastors for final consideration.

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.

As our country continues to face COVID-19, many are wondering if single-use plastics are safer than reusables. Recently, 125+ health experts, including virologists, epidemiologists, emergency room doctors, and specialists in public health and food packaging safety, signed onto a statement addressing the safety of reusables during the pandemic. The statement emphasizes that disposable products are not inherently safer than reusables. Best practices, like complying with food safety and health codes for sanitizing, using additional hygienic practices during the pandemic, utilizing contact-free systems, and ensuring that workers are adequately protected, make reusables just as safe as disposable single-use products.

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) 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**

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

Contact Local & Global Mission Chair Emily Wicht Carneal
(emilywicht@gmail.com / 421-1994)
for more information.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

It is only July but...we're thinking about school! Regardless of what "school" looks like for students this fall, students will still need school supplies. As we have in the past, we are asking for your help to provide supplies for students at both Second Home and Harrisonburg Minnick School. Here is how you can help:

HARRISONBURG MINNICK SCHOOL

Use the link below to see Minnick School's wish list for supplies and to order them directly from Amazon. When you order the items, they will be shipped directly to the Harrisonburg Minnick School.

Lutheran
Family Services
of Virginia

www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VQ6VSGJRAYRF?ref=wl_share

SECOND HOME



Click on the link below to see the list of desired items for Second Home. **Do NOT have the items mailed directly to the church or Second Home** as the doors are locked at all times and deliveries cannot be received. Please purchase or have items delivered to your home and then take them to the wooden bin placed at the main entrance to the MAC **July 7-24 between 6:30 am and 5:30 pm**. Label your items for Second Home.

SEE TODAY'S INSERT FOR A COMPLETE LIST

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 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.

DON'T STRESS!

Please do not feel overwhelmed by the number of opportunities to help our neighbors both near and far. The Local and Global Mission ministry team likes to inform the congregation of the many opportunities to use our time, talent, and/or resources to help others. **If you wish to participate, choose the organization that touches your heart**, knowing that others will be drawn to help with different needs.

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 **NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 12, 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

July 6-12, 2020

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
- Wed. 12 noon Service Livestreamed on [Facebook](#)
- Sun. [Sunday AM Zoom link](#)
9:00 am Faith Lens Class
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

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)

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