

TO BRING GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE TO EACH OTHER
AND TO THE WORLD

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

December 2021

Lebanon Evangelical Lutheran Church

*A Congregation of the North/West Lower
Michigan Synod, of the ELCA
Craig Satterlee, Bishop
Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop*

**1101 S. Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461
(231) 893-5745**

Rev. Douglas M. Ogden

**Sunday Morning Worship
Worship on the Web**

Office Hours

Please contact the church office for
current hours

Newsletter Editor & Bulletin Announcements

Margaret Everling

Church Council

Meg Eaton	Cheri Crouch
Brian Jaekel	Scott Keller
Alan Hinks	Wietze Schaafsma
Sarah Schmalz	

**"We are baptized members of God's
Church, forgiven and set free by grace
through faith.**

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

**Facebook: Lebanon Lutheran Church
(ELCA)**

Instagram—Twitter : #llesignsofgrace

My mask protects you; your mask protects me. This is the COVID version of 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

This winter we will wear masks in worship because we love our neighbor - our fellow congregation members, visitors, children. As I write this, Michigan and Muskegon County and Oceana County have high numbers.

Ushers - the windows should be open, and the furnace fan set to 'on' - temperature needs to be set to about 67°. We have installed a "zapper" that eliminates viruses, bacteria, molds going into the sanctuary. It's called a REME-HALO unit. It sends friendly oxidizers into the room that kill germs within 3 feet (so says Carmichael) This is only in the sanctuary.

Food Pantry will be drive-through. We could use a couple more volunteers 8:30 - 10:30 am on Wednesdays.

Outside groups use the building include two Girl Scout troops, Tuesdays, 3pm-5pm and Sundays, 3pm-5pm, and Boy Scouts on Sundays, 4pm-7pm, and AA Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm. They follow protocols listed on framed poster between parking lot doors, and text me when they are completed.

The building, its contents, its furniture have all been lovingly purchased and maintained by Lebanon's membership for our 150 years. They are a gift, a stewardship. We role model care and carefulness what we wish for everyone, especially their safety in a worldwide pandemic.

The care we show each other matters even more. We are all in different places with what we are comfortable doing. We will treat each other with kindness, put everything in the best possible light.

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SCOUT CAN DRIVE

The final can drive for 2021 will be held on December 11, 2021 from 9am to noon in the Lebanon Lutheran Parking lot (South entrance).

DONATE RIGHT FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE

Giving through our Vanco Mobile app is an easy and convenient way to donate to our church. It only takes a moment to set up and account:

1. Download the free Vanco Mobile app from the App store or Google Play.
2. Find our Church by searching for our Church name:
Lebanon Lutheran Church
3. Donate: to the General Fund

Thank you for your generosity

This is the new version of the GivePlus app, and must be downloaded again from your App Store.

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This virus is not something to be afraid of; it's something to be careful of. That's the 21st century version of "Be not afraid - the Lord is with you. Peace, be still."

See you on Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm and 11:00 pm for one-hour worship, or Sundays in person or on YouTube at Lebanon Lutheran Church (Elca) at 10:15 am.

Pastor Ogden

**December 2021
Fund of the Month
Worship & Music**



Websites of Interest

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

www.mittensynod.org

www.elca.org

www.whitelakescouting.com

www.whitelakechorale.com

www.hopescarves.org

LivingLutheran.org.

www.samaritas.org

Suicide Hotline 1-800-SUICIDE.org
www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide_prevention

Every Woman's Place
231-722-3333 or www.everywomansplace.org

Prayer Concerns

It is an important part of our ministry to be praying constantly for one another. We add names to the prayer list with consent in order to maintain privacy and confidentiality. This month in your prayers, please remember:



Helen Bartlett, at home
Mary Bernhardt, at Robinswood Assisted Living #115 (Kay Snell)
Marlene Holmstrom, at home
Elaine Liska, at White Lake Assisted Living - Whitehall
Ruth Nurmi, with health concerns
Nancy Peterson, at Heartland , Room #405 B
Bernie Weidner, at Sanctuary of the Oaks. (Danielle Jacobs)
Marty Windbacher, at home

Special Prayer Concerns:

Steve Albert, with health concerns
Tracey Allen, (Roger Silk's cousin) diagnosed with terminal brain cancer
Jennifer Snowden Bossi, 34, (Ardy Bulthouse's granddaughter) diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.
Dan Girvan, with health issues
Cora Hendrick, (Curt Crouch's mother) diagnosed with cancer
Paul Honoré, recently diagnosed with cancer
Karecce Johnson, recuperating after surgery on his wrist.
Lauren Kerkstra, (Darrel and Jeanette Otto's granddaughter), recovering slowly, able to walk and take commands. Remains non-verbal .
Donna Knoth, with heart issues.
Jeff Knoth, recently diagnosed with cancer
Amy Jean Knorr, (Brian Holmblades aunt in Tucson) turning 105 years old on November 28.
Lara MacGregor, Cancer is aggressive, progressing and life threatening.
Mary, (Meg Eatons mother) with health concerns after a fall.
Dwight Mead (Paula Moreau's brother-in-law), non-hodgkin lymphoma mantel type (stage four).
Shirley, (friend of Barb Aardema) recently diagnosed with cancer.
Tammy, (daughter of Wietse and Melanie Schaafsma) with brain cancer & diabetic. At home.
Jen, (Tammy's sister) suffered aneurysm, at home.
Lora Swenson, with health concerns



North/West Lower
Michigan Synod

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Lansing, MI 48906

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mittensynod.org

In this Issue:

Who Counts?

Disability Ministries

Racial Justice

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

Who Counts?

On the ELCA webpage under "Mission & Vision," our church's goal is presented as "Share the story of Jesus and the ELCA by engaging with 1 million new people as we grow the church together." To accomplish this goal, we will "Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love." Our priority is to be a "Welcoming Church: Engaging new, young and diverse people."

I am increasingly convinced that the world today needs the story of Jesus and the ELCA has a particularly powerful way of telling it. "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself" (John 12:32). Jesus' words are a pronouncement of pure grace. I would prefer that we "activate each of us so more people know" *Jesus* rather than "the way of Jesus." Unless, of course, we truly mean that Jesus is "the way" (John 14:6).

Engaging 1 million people is a lot. To accomplish this goal, each of our 65 synods will engage, on average, 15,385 people. In our synod, each congregation will engage, on average, 134 people. This is quite an undertaking for a denomination that takes Jesus' words in John 13:35—"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"—so seriously that we are reticent to mention Jesus by name. We will need to help pastors and deacons preach about Jesus and all of us to talk about Jesus. I am committed to doing both.

As our Director of Evangelical Mission, Pastor Sprang is charged with taking a key leadership role in helping us figure out how we are going to engage our share of 1 million people and share the story of Jesus with them. I am excited that the churchwide organization clarifies we are engaging *new* people, which I understand to mean people new to the story of Jesus and the way of Christ.

I am also excited that "New people will include those who are younger and more diverse than our current membership." However, I was disappointed but unsurprised to read, "Diversity means ethnic, economic and among LGBTQIA+ communities." I am disappointed and unsurprised because this church does not explicitly name people who live with disabilities among the 1 million people this church intends to invite to know the way of Jesus. Perhaps this is simply beyond the ELCA's capacity. If so, we should own that.

I am advised that there is no ELCA definition of diversity, that this description is not meant to be exhaustive, and that the ELCA is "working to address the intersectionality between disability, race, gender, and sexuality." Yet, a sentence that begins "Diversity means..." strongly suggests that what follows is a definition. Moreover, when a group is rarely, if ever, explicitly included among the descriptors, the subtle message is that they do not "count."

In response to this, I suggested changing "Diversity means" to "Diversity includes." I also said that I would rather celebrate the ELCA for explicitly including persons who live with disabilities in the list of those who "count" than grieve that this church did not include us. Then again, we should not name persons who live with disabilities if including these brothers and sisters is beyond this church's capacity. I have long advised congregations not to say persons who live with disabilities "count" if we don't.

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Worship Notes

Sunday, December 5, 2021 - Advent 2
Worship - 10:15am

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Color: Blue

Today we pray for:
Rick & Stephanie Hein

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, December 12 - Advent 3
Worship - 10:15am

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Color: Blue

Today we pray for:
Marie Hendrixon

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Sunday, December 19 - Advent 4
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Blue

Readings

Musician:
Mike Snell

Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Today we pray for:
Phil Lombard

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Friday, December 24 - Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve
Worship - 6:30 pm and 11:00pm

Color: White

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, December 26 - Christmas 1
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: White

Musician :
Monica Ogden

Readings

Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Today we pray for:
Rob Markiewicz

Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

December



12/1 Fransica Holmblade	12/22 Sharon Ziske
12/1 David Hosticka	12/23 Drew DeWeerd
12/2 Amy DeBolt	12/24 Larry Foster
12/3 Michaelanne Hendrixon	12/24 Timothy Kesteloot
12/4 Jerry Lewallen	12/25 Lisa Robertson
12/7 Jacob Brackmann	12/25 Alan Stevens
12/10 Gary Holmstrom	12/25 Sharon Gribas
12/11 Jon DeMumbrum	12/27 Ray Lathrop
12/11 Gretchen Lane	12/27 Sue Plewka
12/14 Holli Nichols	12/27 Dean Roesler
12/15 Scott Keller	12/27 Wietse Schaafsma
12/15 Melanie Schaafsma	12/28 Holly Hughes
12/19 David Hendrixon	12/28 Monica Szczerbinski
12/19 Courtney Mares	12/29 Mardi Otto
12/20 Ruth Ann Nurmi	12/29 Molly Thompson
12/21 Hilda Branstrom	12/29 Katherine Thompson
12/21 Celia Vihtelic	12/31 Elly Hendrixon
12/21 Joni Will	
12/22 Bradley Carlson	



12/27/68 Art & Sue Plewka
12/29/73 John & Chris Parman



Welcome to the Lebanon Family!

Congratulations to Katie (Shalifoe) and Nick Wallace on the birth of their twin girls on November 3 and November 4!

Grandparents are Wendy and Andy Shalifoe
Great Grandmother is Donna Will

Mom and babies are doing well.

Congratulations on your new blessing!

Baptism Anniversaries



12/1 Kara Jaekel	12/19 Logan Montgomery	12/26 Hilda Branstrom
12/3 Tom Foster	12/20 Paul Brogren	12/26 Katie Stacy VandeBunte
12/3 Mary Bernhardt	12/20 Bob Ackerman	12/26 Becky Stacy Chynoweth
12/4 Jodi Emms	12/21 Emma Stanhope	12/27 Jeff Holmstrom
12/4 Jennie Shalifoe	12/23 Curt Crouch	12/27 Julie Tyler
12/11 Lara MacGregor	12/23 Jon DeMumbrum	12/27 Dustin Roesler
12/11 Dustin King	12/24 Hannah Berry	12/28 George Stanhope
12/12 Patti Ferguson	12/24 Brian Hosticka	12/29 Diane Eastman
12/14 Sandra Morris	12/24 Sophia Walters	12/29 Jed Emms
12/15 Kathy Scarbrough	12/25 David Cavis	
12/15 Stephen Ogden	12/25 Jeffrey Cavis	
12/15 Terry Kesteloot	12/25 David Hosticka	
12/15 Tim Kesteloot	12/25 Mary Ellen Larson	
12/17 Randy Diehm	12/25 Linda Schenten	
12/17 Tylor Raymond Ramsey	12/25 Elaine Stevens	
12/18 Karen Hosticka Bruder	12/26 Bill Hosticka	

Celebrate your baptism anniversary with a candle a meal or this prayer:

“Stir up within me the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and joy, on this day when I give thanks for my baptism in to Christ.”



Your Required Minimum Distributions

Did you know that once you reach age 72, you're required to take a minimum amount of money out of your qualified retirement plans (e.g., IRAs, 401(k)s and 403(b)s) each year? These required minimum distributions (RMDs) are taxable and must continue for your lifetime or until the account is depleted.

But what if you don't need these funds for daily living expenses in retirement? Fortunately, there are several ways you can repurpose your RMDs to make the most of the money you must withdraw. These options can enable you to spread generosity to people and causes that matter to you and help you better meet your priorities and goals.

Count on your Thrivent financial advisors to take the time to really understand your needs and goals and provide expert knowledge to guide you in strategies to consider.

Contact Marci Bentz or Tony De Nicolo in Whitehall at 231-894-8886 or whitehalloffice@thrivent.com

Bishop's Newsletter

November 2021

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While the ELCA does not yet explicitly name people who live with disabilities among those it will engage to know the way of Jesus, I am grateful that Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Jesus (not to mention our synod staff, synod council, and leaders and members throughout our synod and across our church) do. Jesus says, "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous" (Luke 14:13-14). Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently engages people who live with disabilities.

Following the way of Jesus, I will advocate for the inclusion of persons who live with disabilities in our understanding of diversity in any expression of the church where I serve in a leadership role, as we proclaim the good news of Christ crucified and the nearness of God's reign. I regard doing so as faithfully keeping the promise I made at ordination as a pastor and installation as a bishop "to preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures." In this Synod, persons who live with disabilities "count."

I am presently wearied by the reality of this church's regard for and response to persons who live with disabilities. I therefore ask for your prayers and invite you to join in standing with and advocating for people who live with disabilities within this church and among the 1 million new people we will engage to "know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love."

Peace,

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop



Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

Living in God's Amazing Grace

The Light is published monthly by Lebanon Lutheran Church, 1101 S. Mears Avenue, Whitehall, MI 49461. Submissions are accepted through the 15th of each month. Submissions **MUST** include your name and a way to contact you in case of questions.

2 ways to submit your information:

- yellow folder in Margaret's office
(*better*)
- office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com
(*best*)



December 2021

Poinsettia Order Form ~ 2021



Orders will be taken until November 28, 2021. No late orders can be accepted. Please have your order form complete with a check made payable to : Lebanon Lutheran Church by that date, with flowers in the memo line. Thank you! *Please note: The greenhouse may substitute color as necessary.

<u>Plants Available</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>	<u>Price each</u>
6 1/2 " pots (4 to 7 blooms)		\$9.00 each
RED	_____	
WHITE	_____	
PINK	_____	
JINGLE-BELLS	_____	
7" DOUBLES (10 - 14 blooms) Average height 16" to 20"		\$16.00 each
RED	_____	
WHITE	_____	
PINK	_____	
JINGLE-BELLS	_____	
8" TRIPLES (14-18 blooms) Average height 20"		\$22.00 each

Air Purifier choices

message

meg1059@aol.com <meg1059@aol.com>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 8:54 PM

Reply-To: meg1059@aol.com

From: "office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com" <office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com>

Hi Margaret - I finally sat down and sorted out air purifiers for you to look at. There are a ton of them! Between Covid and the wildfires out West they are very popular right now. These were some of the recommended ones I found in Consumer Reports:

Blueair Blue Pure 211+ Air Purifier *- larger area & Coway AP-1512HH Mighty*

Honeywell InSight HPA5300B Air Purifier *smaller area*

Carrier RMAP-ST Air Purifier

GermGuardian AC5900WCA Air Purifier

This New York Times article has several more choices:

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-air-purifier/>

If you have time could you look them over and see if any of them look like they will work for you? I figure the controls, appearance, noise level, etc. is something you need to choose since you will be the one sharing space with it!

Thanks! Meg