

**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
10:15 am in person
YouTube 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

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



Pastor's Notes

February 2022

"Carl Johnson acquired several acres of land, some he bought and some was homestead land received from President Fillmore. He subdivided this tract of land into lots and called it Sweden Town. Immigrants soon came streaming in from Sweden. He would meet the trains, speak to them in their native tongue and say "I see you are an immigrant, come home with me, take a bath, rid yourself of fleas and I'll see you get fed and a job." Don't forget there were no bath tubs, the old wash tubs were brought out and they were scrubbed clean. My poor grandmother had no time for bridge or ladies aid! She fed every hungry and homesick soul who was brought to her door. She passed on the word to my mother: "Never let any one leave this house hungry. Don't lock your doors to let anyone think you mistrust them." This was true then.

Now going back to my religious training. My father still had a desire that I should attend the Sunday School in the church which he felt we should all belong to. FINE. I started when I was five years old in 1900. We had an excellent teacher, Livia Youngquist. My mother who had belonged to the Salvation in Sweden thought this Lutheran Church was too sophisticated so she sent me to the Mission Church which is now the Covenant Church. Shucks, that teacher wasn't as nice as Livia so back to the Lebanon Lutheran I went. On a stormy day father said "Why does that girl have to go to the Mission church when the Lebanon is so near?" "Well I confessed that's where I have been going all the time. So by being disobedient I am still a thorough Lutheran and have never been a member of any other church although when we had Swedish for so long I did attend other churches.

We had an excellent leader who gave us good advice for a fine foundation in life. The classes who were confirmed before us were not so fortunate. This minister came from a southern state unprepared for snow and cold so different members gave them heavy clothing, shoes and rubbers. There were two girls and five boys. They had a hard time to eek out their budget on salary. Members furnished them with food and various clothing. We gave them vegetables. He was a short, stocky man and I can see him now with that long red scarf around his neck. He had a reputation in never knowing when to stop preaching, especially at funerals. This was a hardship in the winter time. Remember cars were not heard of, so drivers had to drive all around town in the winter time to keep the horses from freezing. Often the drivers hands were frozen.

Excerpt from Nora Svensson's memoirs

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

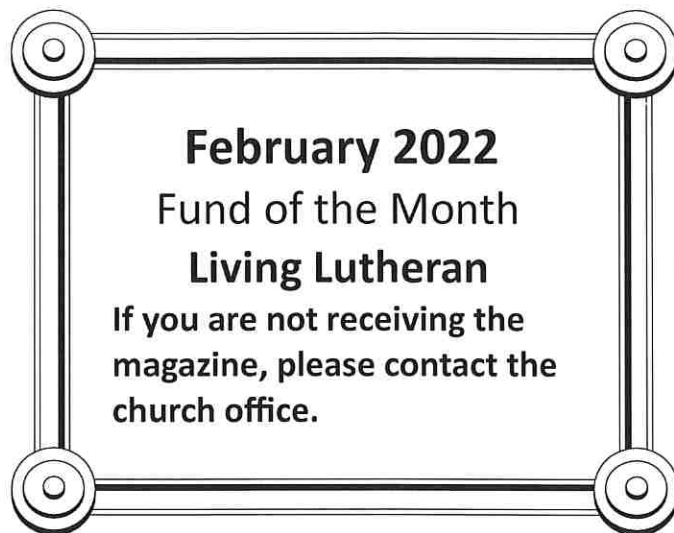
Thank you for your generosity

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



4 FEBRUARY
WORLD
CANCER
— DAY —





Did you know?

Tuesday, February 1
World Interfaith Harmony Week

Wednesday, February 2
Groundhog Day

Friday, February 4
World Cancer Day
Rosa Parks Day

Sunday, February 6
Superbowl Sunday

Tuesday, February 8
National Boy Scout Day

Monday, February 14
Valentine's Day

Monday, February 21
President's Day

Wednesday, February 23
National Banana Bread Day

Thursday, February 24
National Chili Day

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

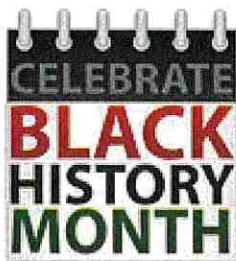
It is an important part of our ministry to be praying constantly for one another.
We add names to the prayer list with consent in order to maintain privacy and confidentiality. This month in your prayers, please remember:



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.
Lucas Carlson, (Terry and Mary Beekmans grandson) for new treatment.
Diane, (friend of Cheri Crouch) diagnosed with cancer.
Dan Girvan, with health issues
Cora Hendrick, (Curt Crouch's mother) diagnosed with cancer
Terri Hissong, (Margaret Everling's sister) health concerns
Paul Honoré, recently diagnosed with cancer
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.
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).
Irene Parks, recuperating from heart valve replacement surgery, 12/16
Shirley Palmatter, (Cindy Alberts mother)
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.
Harry and Yolanta Swiatek, home recuperating from surgery complications - prayers for continued healing.
Darlene Willbrandt, recuperating from eye surgery.
Our hearts grieve with Art and Sue Plewka, Jason, Will and Bennett MacGregor, on the passing of **Lara** on January 18. No arrangements are posted yet. **And also with** the family of **Lois Fuller** who passed away 12/31/21. funeral is planned for spring 2022.



Black History Month is an annual observance of the history and accomplishments of African Americans. The month designated for the observance is February, which was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14). Lincoln is significant for signing the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery in the United States, and Douglass for his prominence as an African American leader in the nineteenth century.

The concept for the observance originated with African American historian, Carter G. Woodson, who in 1926 called for the establishment of Negro History Week. Woodson observed that both the struggles and accomplishments of African Americans were not widely studied or recognized, and that this deficit of knowledge was unhealthy for American society in general and the African American community in particular. Woodson believed that studying and remembering the past was a prerequisite to living successfully in the present and being prepared for the future.

Normally during Sunday worship we use either the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed. These are the ancient creeds universally accepted by the church and used by Christians for over 1600 years.

Once in a while we use the Maasai Creed. A creed composed in 1960 by the Maasai people of East Africa in collaboration with missionaries from the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. An early publication of the Maasai Creed appears in Fr. Vincent J. Donovan, "Christianity Rediscovered", in which Donovan tells of his work among the Maasai through which they came to their own understanding of Christianity.

Th Maasai are an indigenous African tribe of semi-nomadic people located primarily in Kenya and northern Tanzania. The creed attempts to express the essentials of the Christian faith within the Maasai culture.'

In his magnum opus, Credo, Lutheran scholar Jaroslav Pelikan writes that unlike earlier Greek and Latin creeds, which jump from birth to death without a middle, "The Maasai Creed" includes the narrative of Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing it's a treasure, and well worth repeating . The wonderful interview with Dr. Pelikan and his recitation can be heard at" On Being" under "Creeds that Span Continents" from 2014.



Worship Notes

Sunday, February 6—Epiphany 5
Worship - 10:15am

Musician:

Readings

Color: Green

Isaiah 6:1-8[9-13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Today we pray for:
Amy Swope

Prayer of the Day

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, February 13 - Epiphany 6
Worship - 10:15am

Color Green

Musician: Monica Ogden

Readings

Jeremiah 17:0
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Today we pray for:
Mary & Terry Beekman

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Sunday, February 20 - Epiphany 7
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician: Monica Ogden

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

Today we pray for:
Mary Koernen

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, February 27 - Transfiguration of Our Lord
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: White

Readings

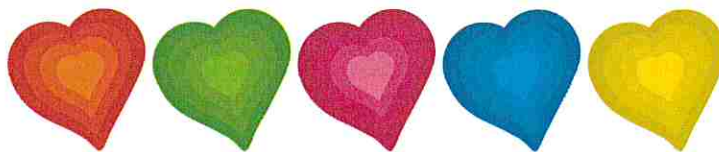
Musician: Monica Ogden

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Today we pray for:
Jone Benedict

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



February



2/2 Sharon Ackerman	2/16 Emma Greenwood
2/2 Karl Holmstrom	2/17 Lori Skinner
2/2 Isaac Otterman	2/17 Ethen Wendell
2/7 Wendy Shalifoe	2/19 Gregory Civis
2/10 Holly Davis	2/19 Dustin King
2/11 Thea Lothschutz	2/19 Nancy Peterson
2/12 Ray Veeder	2/22 Jeanne Berry
2/13 Tiffany Barnes	2/22 John Wahr
2/13 Marilyn Schmuker	2/23 Donna Will
2/14 Beverly Statz	2/24 Krysten Hosticka
2/15 Trevin Bernhardt	2/24 Delia VandeBunte
	2/26 Frank Hollister
	2/26 Allie Ogden
	2/27 Dean Hewitt



2/22/02 Jim & Judy Kurtz
2/22/20 Cory & Erica Wyatt

Baptism Anniversaries



2/1 Barb Brooks
2/8 Elly Hendrixon
2/10 Larry Holmstrom
2/11 Julie Holmstrom

2/14 Franci Chamberlain
2/16 Joni Will
2/19 Nichole Page Farrar
2/21 Brenton Will
2/24 Steve Albert

2/26 Barb Aardema
2/26 Lonna Anguilm
2/26 Brian Holmblade
2/26 Bruce Holmblade
2/27 Stephanie Honoré

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.”



Presidents
Day

February 21, 2022



HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Online

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. In the "GET STARTED" section on the right, click **Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®**.
3. Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click "Direct Now" next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the "View activity history" link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "Search."
5. Choose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

By phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars® program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

**You have the power to recommend where
Thrivent gives back!**

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The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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THRIVENT MEMBERS: Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars by March 2022

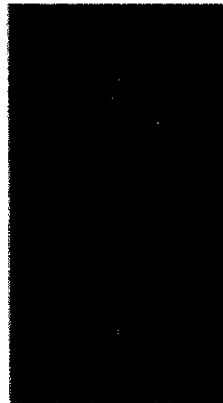
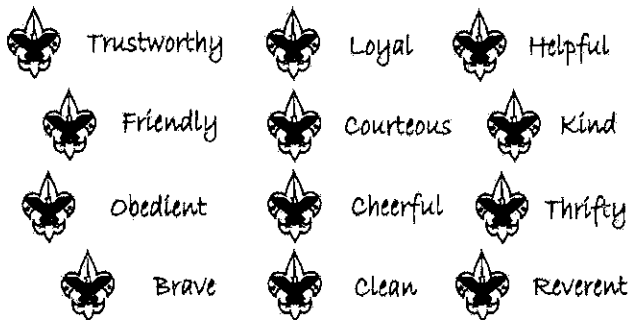
It's that time of year again! Eligible Thrivent members who have 2021 Choice Dollars have until the end of March 2022 to direct them. However, if you are directing by phone, we recommend calling by March 15 to avoid potential long wait times as the phones get busy!!

Through the Thrivent Choice charitable grant program, you can contribute to organizations and causes you care about, including helping to support your church. Don't let your 2021 Choice Dollars expire!

You can direct them by logging in online to thrivent.com/thriventchoice and click on Direct Choice Dollars OR by calling the Thrivent home office at 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Press 1 and a representative will work with you.

Marci Bentz and Tony DeNicolo, your Whitehall Office Financial Advisors, can be reached at 231-894-8886 to assist with questions.

National Boy Scout Day—Tuesday, February 8th!





**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

**2900 N. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906**

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mittensynod.org**

In this Issue:

COVID-19

Racial Justice

Mission Partners

Yes, What We Do Matters

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

"Bishop, what are you thinking about COVID-19?"

COVID-19 is the last thing I want to be writing about. We had all hoped that by this time we would be closer to or even at the end of the pandemic. However, COVID-19 is still very much present in our lives and does not seem to be going away anytime soon. In fact, recent data shows that the virus is spreading faster than ever.

On January 5, Michigan recorded its highest daily confirmed case rate since the pandemic began, adding 27,346 cases over two days and 277 deaths from the virus. The state averaged 13,673 new cases per day over Tuesday, January 4 and Wednesday, January 5. The additions bring the state totals to 1,595,919 confirmed cases and 27,563 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020. Of these deaths reported, 165 were identified during a vital records review, state health officials noted.

So, I am again writing about COVID-19. While some worry that my comments on COVID-19 and how to navigate the ongoing pandemic are undermining their congregation, it is my responsibility as bishop to provide guidance to those in our synod. At the top of my list of constitutional responsibilities as bishop, I am "to have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations" (*Constitution for Synods*, ¶8.12.b.). More important, I continue to speak on COVID-19 because pastors and congregational leaders ask me questions and seek my counsel.

One of the main things I continue to recommend to congregations is to have a plan for responding to COVID-19. Churches are not immune to the virus and having a plan allows congregations to better protect their members and quickly respond when COVID-19 comes to their church community. The plan should address face coverings, social distancing, singing, sacraments, fellowship, food, and when to return to online worship. If your congregation does not have a plan for responding to the virus, it is not too late to make one. If your congregation has a plan, this is not the time to abandon it.

In addition to advising congregations on their COVID-19 plans, I am often asked for guidance on specific topics. Recently those topics included Holy Communion, mask wearing, and vaccines. As I've stated before, my guidance on these topics is not mandatory and I cannot force pastors, deacons, or congregations to follow it. However, I offer my thoughts on these topics as a way to help pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders make decisions for their communities.

I shared my thoughts on Holy Communion early in the pandemic (<https://bit.ly/31OzxQ3>) but I will briefly touch on it again. We can worship without celebrating Holy Communion. While it is now common to receive the Lord's Supper every week, a lot of us remember the time when receiving the Lord's Supper once a month was the norm. And so, as we believe Jesus is present in the Word in the same way Jesus is present in the Sacraments, we are able to experience Jesus' love and be renewed in the proclamation of the Word. Preachers can make the sermon a feast by preaching lavishly about Jesus. My spiritual diet changed in the pandemic—more Word, less Sacrament – and I have never been more satisfied.

Continued on Page 13

Continued from page 12

In the past few weeks, questions about mask wearing and vaccinations have become more prominent. As we have heard from public health officials, including the CDC and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, wearing a mask and getting vaccinated are the best ways to protect yourself and those around you. As Christians, we are called to love, protect, and care for our neighbors and we must remain vigilant in reducing the spread of this virus. Wearing masks and getting vaccinated are ways we embody Jesus' love and care for one another.

A doctor in the World Health Organization recently stated that COVID-19 will be a threat until 70% of the people in every nation are vaccinated. ELCA leaders have encouraged getting vaccinated against COVID-19 as both Lutheran heritage and ELCA teaching encourage participation in public health efforts. I have received questions about whether our pastors and deacons can provide a religious exemption for vaccination and while there is no ELCA policy resolution dedicated to vaccination, a basis in Lutheran tradition and ELCA teaching for religious exemption is virtually non-existent.

While the Synod, and even the ELCA, cannot mandate that congregation members be vaccinated against COVID-19, Congregation Councils can require church employees and the pastor to be vaccinated. I know of congregations that are asking their pastor, church staff, and members for proof of vaccination as people feel more comfortable returning to church when they know everyone is vaccinated. I certainly appreciate congregations who tell me this and that they will be wearing masks when they invite me to come and preach.

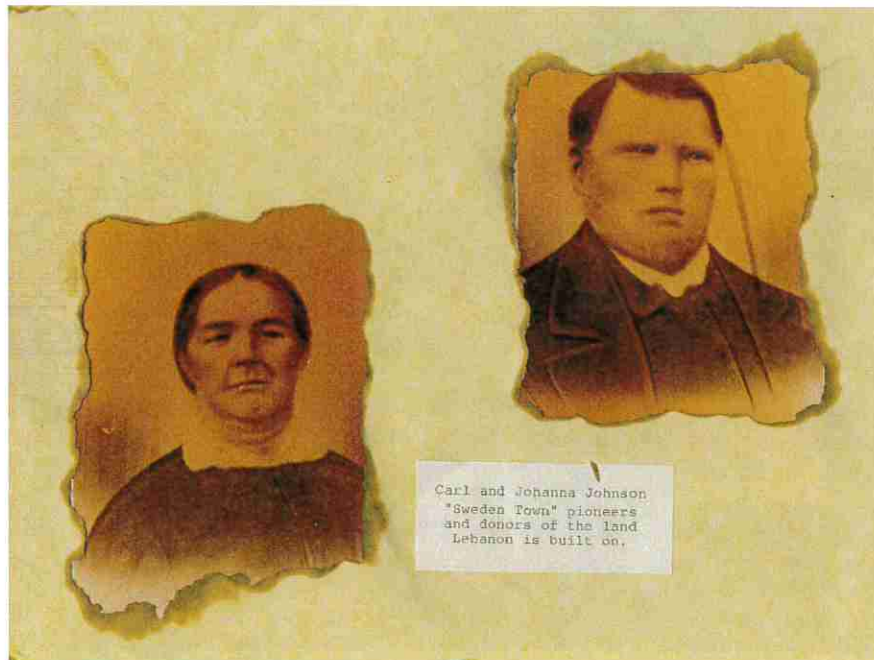
In recent weeks, there have been some questions about what it means to be vaccinated. Given the current pandemic, what people mean when they ask "Are you vaccinated?" is "Are you fully vaccinated against COVID-19?" To be fully vaccinated means that you have received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. As boosters become available to more people, currently those 12 and older, "Are you boosted?" has become a common follow-up question. To be boosted means that you are fully vaccinated and have received the booster dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

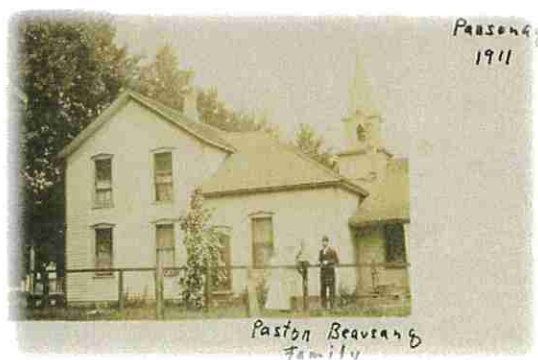
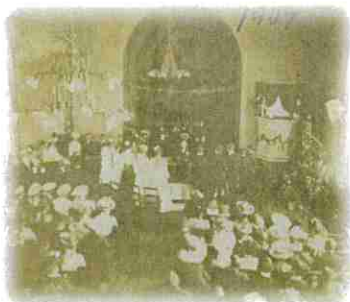
When people ask these questions, they are trying to get information to help them make decisions about their own health and safety. Christians, and especially pastors and deacons, tell the truth. Or we say that we're not going to answer the question. But we cannot answer that we are vaccinated if we are not. We cannot say that we thought we were being asked about childhood diseases. A response that is evasive or untrue undermines and even breaks trust. "Dishonesty, deception, duplicity, or the manipulation of others for personal benefit or gain is conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office" (Definitions and Guidelines B.2, "Integrity").

As we have experienced throughout the pandemic, tensions and emotions are running high. In my conversations with pastors and deacons, I continue to hear how hard it is for them to make decisions to keep themselves and their congregation members safe when those decisions and safety precautions are then ignored by those in their congregation. I therefore encourage congregations and their councils to think carefully about what they might require of their pastor and staff and what they refuse to do themselves. In early 2021, the Great Resignation or the Big Quit, an economic trend in which employees voluntarily resign from their jobs en masse, began. Churches have not escaped this trend and I am heartsick every time a former student, who is a good pastor, tells me that, while they love Jesus, they have lost their capacity to respond to parishioners who treat them disrespectfully, even threaten their livelihoods, as they try to keep the congregation safe. So, they are leaving ministry and embarking on new careers.

While we are not where we hoped to be in this pandemic and the situations and decisions we are currently facing are difficult and stressful, may we take comfort in knowing that God is with us through all of it. As we work our way through this pandemic, I invite you to consider these words: "If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..." (Philippians 2:1-5).

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







Lebanon Lutheran Church

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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)



2022