

**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 Jackel	Scott Keller
Alan Hinks	Laura Hollister
Sarah Schmalz	Wietse Schaafsma

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

**[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)**

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

**Instagram—Twitter : #lcsignsofgrace**

TO BRING GOD’S GRACE AND LOVE TO EACH OTHER,  
AND TO THE WORLD



**Pastor’s Notes**

**March 2022**

First, a Thank You to Alan Hinks, who completed his term on the Church Council with the January 2022 Annual Meeting. Alan has been a thoughtful leader we will miss.

Welcome to Laura Hollister, newly elected. We will install council members as soon as the majority are at in-person worship.

Second, after consultation with our Re-entry Team and the Church Council, we will have :

**ASH WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022  
7:00 PM**

It will be Facebook Live at: Lebanon Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Third, Thank You to our 2022 officers:

Cheri Crouch - President  
Wietse Schaafsma - Vice President  
Meg Eaton - Secretary

Fourth, Thanks to all of you who have been encouraging, helpful, supportive and participating during COVID. It means a great deal.

*Pastor Ogden*

### **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.*



**GIRL SCOUTS**

**March 12 - Girl Scouts Day**



**Websites of Interest**

[www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com](http://www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com)

[www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

[www.whitelakescouting.com](http://www.whitelakescouting.com)

[www.whitelakechorale.com](http://www.whitelakechorale.com)

[www.hopescarves.org](http://www.hopescarves.org)

[LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org).

[www.samaritas.org](http://www.samaritas.org)

**Suicide Hotline** [1-800-273TALK.org](http://1-800-273TALK.org)  
[www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide\\_prevention](http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide_prevention)

**Every Woman's Place** 231-722-3333 or  
[www.everywomansplace.org](http://www.everywomansplace.org)

**The Trevor Project** 1-866-488-7386

The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning) young people.



**Did you know?**

**March 1** - Mardi Gras

**March 2** - Ash Wednesday

**March 3**— Caregiver Appreciation Day

**March 8** - International Women's Day

**March 12** - Girl Scouts Day

**March 13**—Daylight Savings begins

**March 14** - National Pi Day

**March 17** - St. Patrick's Day

**March 20** - International Earth Day

**March 22** - World Agriculture Day

# 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.  
**Cora Hendrick**, (Curt Crouch's mother) diagnosed with cancer  
**Terri Hissong**, (Margaret Everling's sister) health concerns  
**Jamison Jeffery**, (Cindy Albert's grandson) Diagnosed with Covid.  
**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) turned 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).  
**Shirley Palmatter**, (Cindy Alberts mother)  
**Shirley**, (friend of Barb Aardema) facing stem cell transplant in April.  
**Tammy**, (daughter of Wietse and Melanie Schaafsma) with brain cancer & diabetic. At home.  
**Jen**, (Tammy's sister ) suffered aneurysm, at home.  
**Jon Stark** (Erin Lewallen's brother-in-law), non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.  
**Harry and Yolanta Swiatek**, home recuperating from surgery complications - prayers for continued healing.  
**Jan Troeger**, (Cindy Albert's sister), suffered a stroke.  
**Kennedy Wahr**, (daughter of Rob and Brittney), Update: No reconstructive surgery required, trach free after more than 1000 days!



North/West Lower  
Michigan Synod

2900 N. Waverly Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48906

517-321-5066  
[mittensynod.org](http://mittensynod.org)

### In this Issue:

"What do we do?"

Black History Month

Our Generous History

2022 Synod Assembly

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

### "What do we do?"

"What do we do?" I heard on the news on February 9 that, in Michigan, there is a new case of COVID-19 every 23 seconds. This news explains why, in recent weeks, often on Saturday, I hear from pastors who have been exposed or have COVID-19. Pastor Anderson, Pastor Sprang, and I are again recording weekly sermon videos. I encourage congregations to sign up to receive them so that, God forbid, if your pastor gets sick, you have a sermon to use. We cannot always get it to you on Saturday evening. You can sign up to receive the sermons here: <https://bit.ly/3JkOjps>

"What do we do?" Pastors and congregations tell me about average worship attendance of 14 to 20 people and are quick to add that hundreds are worshipping with them on Facebook. I know a number of "Facebook worshippers," including my mother, who attend more than one worship service on Sunday. So, I suspect several congregations are counting some of the same worshippers in their Facebook attendance. Those looking for something to do would do well to plan how the congregation is going to intentionally connect with their Facebook worshippers. We are in the process of establishing Connect Grants across the Synod to incentivize and assist congregations to come up with a plan for engaging both their online worshippers and their communities. You can learn more about these grants and how to apply for them by contacting Pastor Sprang.

"What do we do about...?" A few people ask about their favorite social justice issue. I remind you that Synod Council established John D. Schleicher Care of Creation Grants to help congregations learn about, advocate for, and directly address climate change. We are also offering a third opportunity for people to participate in the Introduction to Social Justice course with Justice Leaders Collaborative. Please consider participating if you have not already. I found this to be a perspective changing experience, particularly on account of its direct connection to Michigan. Registration information is available here: <https://bit.ly/3uHpZCu>

"What do we do?" We are exhausted, frustrated, and fed up. Saint Paul writes, "Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you— unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:1-11).

Think of sins as more than our personal, selfish instincts and actions. Sins are those powers at work in the world that would separate us from God. COVID-19 is one. Racism is another. Environmental Exploitation is a third. All the isms that appear to be gaining strength are others. Division is yet another, as is a possible war.

Many of us are struggling to maintain our patience and perspective and respond in helpful ways, "Hold firmly to the message I proclaimed to you: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures..." Hold firmly to the message that sin will not win. Some days, I am holding onto the gospel with white knuckles. I pray you are, too.

The peace of Christ be with you!

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



## Worship Notes

**Sunday, March 6 - Lent 1**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Musician: Monica Ogden**

**Readings**

**Color: Purple**

**Deuteronomy 26:1-11**  
**Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**  
**Romans 10:8b-13**  
**Like 4:1-13**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Mardi Baumann**

**Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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**Sunday, March 13 - Lent 2**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color Purple**

**Musician: Monica Ogden**

**Readings**

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**  
**Psalm 27**  
**Philippians 3:17-4:1**  
**Luke 13:31-35**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Megan & Seth Ahrenholz**  
**Alice, Silas and Lucy**

**Prayer of the Day**

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, March 20 - Lent 3**  
**Worship - 10:15am**

**Color: Purple**

**Readings**

**Musician: Monica Ogden**

**Isaiah 55:1-9**  
**Psalm 63:1-8**  
**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**  
**Luke 13:1-9**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Lisa & Mike Clark**

**Prayer of the Day**

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, March 27 - Lent 4**  
**Worship - 10:15 am**

**Color: Purple**

**Readings**

**Musician: Monica Ogden**

**Joshua 5:9-12**  
**Psalm 32**  
**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**  
**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

**Today we pray for:**  
**Jacob & Victoria Brackmann**

**Prayer of the Day**

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



# March



3/1 Sheila Fretty	3/23 Bryce Murphy
3/1 Samantha Jo Hendrixon	3/23 Charles Schmalz
3/1 Roger Silk	3/25 Mallory Crouch Lothschutz
3/3 Karen Baker	3/25 Anna DeNicolo Gaiser
3/3 Lee Swenson	3/26 Brittney Roesler
3/4 Dakota King	3/29 Marty DeNicolo
3/5 Mary Lewallen	3/29 Donna Knoth
3/8 Kelsey Fretty	3/29 Chuck Miller
3/10 James Will	3/30 Jane Blyth
3/11 Tim DeMumbrum	3/31 Eric Plewka
3/13 Ethan Reynolds	3/31 Denise Rumsey
3/14 Sandy Robbins	
3/15 Tom Palmer	
3/17 Karl Glass	
3/19 Louis Hosticka	
3/19 Heather Moss	
3/23 Braxton Murphy	



*March 1, 2022*



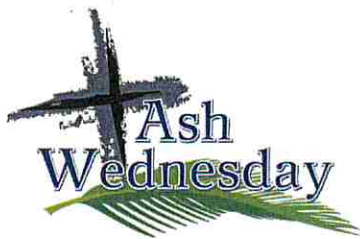
## Baptism Anniversaries



3/10 Beverly Statz	3/23 Braxton Murphy	3/28 Eric Plewka
3/10 David Hendrixon	3/23 Bryce Murphy	3/29 Traci Murphy
3/17 Irene Parks	3/24 Tom Palmer	
3/18 Tricia Lamiman	3/24 Hazel Palmer	
4/18 Charles Peabody	3/25 Denise Rumsey	
3/20 John Wahr	3/25 David Rumsey	
3/21 Mitchell Clark	3/25 Nicole Rumsey	

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.”



**ASH WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2022**  
**7:00 PM**

It will be Facebook Live at:  
Lebanon Lutheran Church (ELCA)



## HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

### Online

1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://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!**

**WANT TO MAKE AN EVEN BIGGER IMPACT?**

**Make a personal donation.**



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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

26087 R12-18

**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](https://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.



PREPARE/ENRICH is the premarital conversation resource I use when planning a couple's wedding. It's resources might also be useful as married people emerge from the stresses of a pandemic. Here is what they offer this month:

Licking your elbow. Herding cats. Nailing jello to the wall. All things that could be considered a waste of time and effort. Let's add *changing your spouse's personality* to that list. Here's the thing: your personality doesn't really change. It tends to stay stable over time, which makes sense. It's what makes you *you*. Sure, certain facets might modulate slightly as you pass from adolescence into adulthood or as you gain more life experience and perspective, but by and large – personality stays the same.

Most of us know this, logically. But we're human, and we inevitably find ourselves wishing our partner was a little less this or a little more that. We get annoyed and frustrated. We wish they'd think or do things differently. However, when you shift to a mindset of acceptance, some really positive things happen in your relationship.

You appreciate each other more.

When you divert your energy away from attempting to change aspects of your partner's personality, you have more available to notice, (re)discover, and appreciate their many positives. There's a reason that you fell in love with them in the first place, right? Putting those rose-colored glasses back on helps reset your perspective. Instead of seeing a need to be the life of the party, you notice how they help everyone have fun and feel at ease. Instead of focusing on how they seem to run on their own time, you take in how they are always present in the moment. Feeling and expressing this appreciation kicks off a cyclical response that emanates throughout your interactions.

You learn to leverage your differences.

When you stop seeing each other's traits as a challenge to overcome and instead as a way to be stronger together, you can make beneficial adjustments in other areas of your relationship. Maybe you adjust your roles and responsibilities to better suit your strengths. Perhaps you tackle a new project that you weren't sure how to approach, or you're able to work together as parents in a way you never did before. Ultimately, working with your differences can help you become a more confident, capable, and harmonious couple. Your satisfaction gets a boost.

The desire to change aspects of your spouse's personality is rooted in an expectation that they should or shouldn't be a certain way. When we feel like our partner isn't living up to those expectations, it can cause conflict and resentment. It stands to reason then, that letting go of those expectations (or adjusting them to be more realistic) will help you be less critical of each other, cut down on unnecessary fighting, and feel more satisfied in your relationship overall.

Continued on Page 13

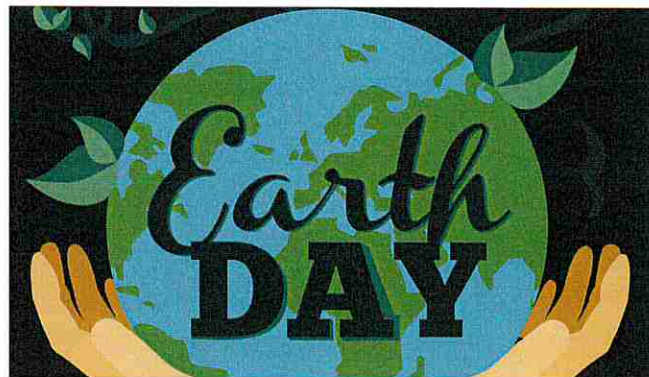
*Continued from page 12*

You grow together.

When you stop focusing on each other's perceived flaws, it feels like a weight lifted. Think about it: when you feel judged or criticized, you go into defensive mode. When you feel wholly accepted and appreciated, you're more apt to be vulnerable with each other about your own inner struggles. Being able to talk to and support each other in this self-reflection is game-changer when it comes to experiencing personal growth throughout your relationship.

Most of us don't go into marriage thinking "I do" will be the magic words that make annoying traits disappear. For the most part, we love and accept our spouse for who they are. Over time, though, certain characteristics can lose a bit of their shine. We start focusing on the parts of our spouse's personality that rub us the wrong way. We think the solution might be in how *they* can change, when really, the answer lies in ourselves: no longer putting energy into trying to change each other and instead leaning into acceptance and appreciation.

*Pastor Ogden*



*March 20, 2022*



Olavus and Laurentius Petri were the two brothers who led the reformation to Sweden in the sixteenth century. Olavus was the elder, born in 1493. He was a student at Wittenberg from 1516 to 1518. Though only a deacon after returning Sweden, his preaching attracted attention and he soon became the recognized spiritual leader of the Lutheran Movement.

Younger brother Archbishop Laurentius Petri returned from Wittenberg in 1527 to become the head of the Swedish Church for a full generation, 1541-71.

Together they produced the first Swedish bible, liturgy

Because of them Swedish Lutheranism began, and eventually came to Whitehall in 1882



*March 13, 2022*

Lenten Coin folders are available on the table  
near the church office!



Living in God's Amazing Grace

## Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue  
Whitehall, MI 49461

*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](mailto:office@lebanonlutheranchurch.com)  
(best)

# MARCH

## 2022

