

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

July 2022

Some things I appreciate about Lebanon's Swedish Lutheran heritage;

Its love of worship and music; Its enthusiasm for the wider church; Its concern for global mission; Its commitment to serving its community; Its support and encouragement of its Pastors.

These things (at a minimum) are the identity we want to build upon in the new post-COVID, twenty first century, constantly changing reality.

Young people today cannot be lumped into one opinion or perspective. For the most part they live in a world that assumes gun violence, environmental stresses, racial unrest, and domestic terrorism.

On the other hand, young people have a strong track record of supporting one another, of environmental concerns, encouragement of LGBTQ young people, women in leadership, and more. How will we bring the love of God, the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the community of the Holy Spirit to their experience?

Maybe just maybe by discovering God's presence already at work among them. Maybe by listening, guiding, encouraging, walking with and praying.

God's will gets done without our praying for it; when we pray, we pray that it gets done through us. (Luther's Small Catechism).

Welcome to the new world, just as Swedish Lutherans welcomed one another 150 years ago to their new world.

Pastor Ogden

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 &
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**"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 : #llcsignsofgrace



**July 2022
Fund of the Month
Backpacks**

*A Thank You note
from Bishop Satterlee*

*Thanks for including me in a wonderful celebration & the music was terrific & the food great. I was inspired by how many people were involved to make everything happen.
Have a great year
peace*

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

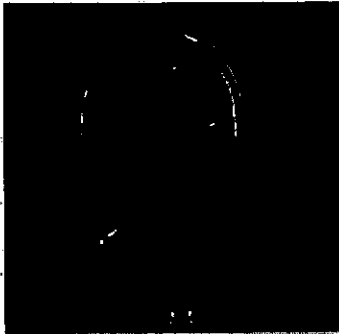
Suicide Hotline 1-800-273TALK.org
www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide_prevention

Every Woman's Place 231-722-3333 or
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.





**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

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

**517-321-5066
mittensynod.org**

In this Issue:

"Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song"

Building a Culture of Generosity

Tornado Relief in Gaylord, MI

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

"Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song"

Recently, I was part of an assembly that sang, "Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey." You can listen to the full song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgwGPPM2ytc>. I had not sung this song (or anything else with a congregation) in a long time. When we came to the words, "As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant," I began to cry and found it difficult to stop.

"As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant." I thought about all that pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders have dealt with in the last 2 ½ years and that about sums it up. For our church's bishops, including me, for pastors and deacons throughout our Synod, and for so many congregational leaders, serving Jesus is the hope, prayer, and goal of life. But the dirge of conflict and the cacophony of issues, some of it beautiful and important, seeks to drown out this song. "As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant." So how do we get back to singing?

The first verse provides the answer: "Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey; I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go; you alone are our life and our peace and our love. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey." We reclaim our song and live as Jesus's servants by telling everybody about Jesus, wherever we go. We tell that Jesus alone is our life and our peace and our love. The most important thing we can do to respond to the conflicts and issues we face is to become capable and comfortable telling people about Jesus in ways that matter to their lives and to the life of the world. After all, telling the story of Jesus invites and empowers us to talk about everything going on in the world, without exception, in ways that bring new life.

Lord Jesus shall be my song as I journey and, as far as I have any influence, Lord Jesus shall be our Synod's song as we journey. For this to happen, pastors and deacons need to preach about Jesus as Savior every Sunday. The question is how we connect whatever we think is so important that we need to talk about it from the pulpit to Jesus and not in a tangential way. This has been a long-standing concern for me, that we have pushed Jesus to the rear of the pulpit or even excused Jesus from the sermon altogether. In January, Fortress Press will publish my book on making room for Jesus in preaching and we will provide a copy for every pastor and deacon in our Synod that desires one. I am not plugging my book. I am naming my concern for the church's future.

But it is not enough for churchgoers to hear about Jesus from their pastor or deacon. People outside the church need to come to know Jesus and oftentimes, pastors and deacons are not the best people to tell them about Jesus. People are more open and receptive to hearing about Jesus from people they know and trust. So, telling people about Jesus is the calling of all God's baptized people who, quite honestly, have more credibility than pastors and deacons with people outside the church.

Talking about Jesus can be frightening. We can feel uncomfortable and unqualified. Yet, telling people about Jesus is the most important thing the church can do today. Therefore, we are also developing a resource that we plan to make available this fall so groups in congregations can learn to tell each other about Jesus and, when they're comfortable, tell people in their lives and in their spheres about Jesus. Again, I am not plugging a book. I am trying to help us respond to what I perceive to be the church's greatest need.

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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.

The 150th Anniversary scrapbook committee will display scrapbooks filled with news clips and photo albums spanning more than the past 25 years along the entrance hall area for the next few weeks.

Take some time to peruse the books before worship. Please see the bin of old photos that have yet to be identified. If you can help fill in the blanks, please do so.

You'll likely see familiar faces and rekindle some memories!

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I am excited for the opportunity to lead a retreat or a Zoom conversation on the preaching book and training sessions for congregational leaders on the resource for talking about Jesus. I am so excited about Jesus being the song of our journey that, if I decided today, "Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey" would provide the theme for our 2023 Synod Assembly and we would include time to tell one another about Jesus.

If you want to do something today to make yourself feel better, more hopeful, and more empowered, listen to "Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song" and consider how and why it might be your song. If it is not, ask yourself what song about Jesus is your song and spend some time listening to that. I keep returning to, "As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant." Jesus, let it be so.

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

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:



Prayer Concerns and Announcements

Prayers for those who are homebound:

Our Minister

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:

Cindy 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

Lauren Kerkstra, (Darrel and Jeanette Otto's granddaughter), recovering slowly, able to walk and take commands. Remains non-verbal .

Clare Kierston, (Darlene Willbrandt's friend), recuperating from surgery.

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.

Dwight Mead (Paula Moreau's brother-in-law), non-hodgkin lymphoma mantel type (stage four).

Shirley, (friend of Barb Aardema) had stem cell replacement in early May and is working through the healing process

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.

Jan Troeger, (Cindy Albert's sister), suffered a stroke.

For our partners in faith, our companion synods in Salud para la Vida in San Pedro Sula, Honduras for their mission and ministry in their place as we fulfill our mission in our place; for all the churches of the Lutheran World Federation, for people of the gospel throughout the world.



Worship Notes

Sunday, July 3 - Pentecost 4

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

Musician: Aeden McCauley

Readings

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**Today we pray for:
Sam and Carly Eaton;
Violet & Ada**

Prayer of the Day

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through you Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 10 - Pentecost 5

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

Musician: Aeden McCauley

Readings

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-10

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

**Today we pray for:
Ginny Farmer**

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 17 - Pentecost 6
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician: Aeden McCauley

Genesis 18-1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Today we pray for:
Jim and Leslie Peterson

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 24 - Pentecost 7
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician: Aeden McCauley

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

Today we pray for:
Wayne and Sue Roesler

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 31 - Pentecost 8
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician: Aeden McCauley

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Today we pray for:
Barb Smith

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

July



7/1 Molly Crouch Mooren	7/12 Rick Hughes
7/1 Kareece Johnson	7/13 Mitchell Foster
7/2 Zoe Courmeya	7/13 Emily Snell Glass
7/2 Frank Lundell Jr.	7/16 Cindy Frale
7/3 Raegan Murphy	7/16 Morgan Hughes
7/3 Reilly Murphy	7/16 Judy Kurtz
7/3 Rhonda Sweet	7/17 Joel Fretty
7/4 David Civis	7/18 Brooke Otto
7/4 Barbara Gelvin	7/19 Barb Reese
7/4 Eric Johnson	7/22 Terry Beekman
7/5 Michele Wheeler	7/23 Jennifer Fretty
7/6 Diane Eastman	7/26 Matthew Everitt
7/8 Donna Frietsch	7/28 Bob Ferentino
7/9 Tyler Grover	7/29 Sophia Walters
7/9 Michael Palmer	7/31 Patricia DeNicolo
7/10 Robert Ackerman	
7/10 Caryn Koster	
7/11 Lindsey Schenten	



7/1/16	Daniel and Arin Bowen
7/6/74	Al & Michelle Wheeler
7/11/78	Jim & Stephanie Emms
7/19/69	Brian & Juanita Holmblade
7/28/18	Ken and Kathy (Pelleran) Mahoney
7/30/11	Charles & Sally Jackson



Back-to-School backpack give away will take place in August. Date has yet to be confirmed. Please stay tuned to our Facebook page, and our website for updated information regarding time, date and location.
www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com



Baptism Anniversaries



7/2 Eric Nelson	7/19 Kelsey Fretty
7/2 Drake Otto	7/21 Peter Damm
7/2 Jay R. Otto	7/23 Brianna Clark
7/8 Monica Ogden	7/29 Marlene Holmstrom
7/12 Arin Snell Bowen	7/30 Gina Holmblade
7/14 Carla Nessa	

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.”

For a variety of reasons Lebanon’s tradition of Summer DayCamp is taking a summer off.

We are giving our attention to a smaller group, especially for the preschoolers we are privileged to have among us now. With every business begging for staff, it just isn’t possible to recruit the number of young volunteers we need.

Smorgasbord made its presence felt during the June 150th Anniversary dinner.

We will welcome CJ Clark of Stony Lake Camp on August 7th (Living Waters Ministry) to support the new generation need to make summer camp free (it used to cost \$300/week pre-COVID) and to show its resolve to welcome questioning youth and those who know and support them.

Walking together, we remember our identity, or at least those five things that are a part of who we are. Read them again.

Pastor Ogden



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!

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.

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How to apply for a Thrivent Action Team

Your passion and excitement for your community are sure to make your Thrivent Action Team a success. Follow these steps to apply—and don't forget to share the results of your project with us.

1. Visit thrivent.com/actionteam for resources to help you brainstorm ideas and prepare for your project.
2. Once you have your project idea, get ready to apply. Here's what you'll need to have handy when you fill out the application:
 - Your User ID and password.
 - Your estimated project date. (Allow 14 days for your Thrivent Action Kit to arrive.)
 - A short description of your project and how your volunteer team will be involved.
 - The church or other nonprofit organization that will benefit from the project, if applicable.
 - How you'll use the Community Impact Card.
 - Number of volunteers on your team and T-shirt sizes.
3. Now that you have everything you need, visit thrivent.com/actionteam and click **Apply Now** to begin the application process. Applying for a Thrivent Action Team takes less than 15 minutes.
4. If it is your first time logging in, you will need your Thrivent ID. If you don't know your Thrivent ID, please contact your Thrivent financial advisor or call 800-847-4836 for assistance.

After you've completed the application, watch your email inbox to see if your project was approved. You should receive an email within 24 hours of submitting your application.

After your project

Go to thrivent.com/actionteam and share your story. Reporting on your project takes less than 10 minutes.

Make sure you have the following handy:

- Your User ID and password.
- What your team accomplished.
- Number of:
 - Volunteers on your team (and their names).
 - Hours to plan the event and length of event.
 - Hours (on average) each person volunteered.
 - Total participants.
- The amount raised if you hosted a food drive or fundraiser.

Questions or experiencing technical difficulties with the Action Team hub? Call 800-847-4836 for the Member Connection Center and say "Thrivent Action Teams."

Your local Whitehall Thrivent financial advisors Marci Bentz and Tony De Nicolo can be contacted by calling 231-894-8886, by texting 231-760-8246, or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com.



Living in God's Amazing Grace

Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

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2 ways to submit your information:

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



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2022 in observance of the holiday.