

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

September 2022

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 Kelle |
| 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

Facebook: Lebanon Lutheran Church
(ELCA)

Instagram—Twitter : #lcsignsofgrace

The month of September has been set aside by the world council of churches, the Eastern Orthodox ecumenical patriarch, pope Francis, the Lutheran World Federation, and many other Christian groups as a Season Of Creation.

They have designated September 1 as a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation as a way to begin the Season, the first Sunday being September 4, and ending on October 4, the Feast day of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology.

When I was in Francis' hometown of Assisi many years ago, his statue was visited not only by many pilgrims and tourists, but by doves and other animals freely roaming, peaceably feeding in the basilica's garden.

It makes sense then that between Sept 1 and Oct 4 we will listen to the voice of creation, what it is saying to us. The world of our lakes and woods. The world of climate change actions, the world of native peoples and hymns like this one, a wonderful song that did not make it into our Lutheran book:

"The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy.
Come, dance in the forest,
come, play in the field,
And sing to the glory of God."
- Marty Haugen

Our four and five years olds will be kicking off the year at Muskegon Civic Theater's production of Seussical Sunday September 11 at 3 pm. Tickets have been purchased with your Thrivent Choice funds. Thank you Thrivent members who send your Choice Dollars regularly so we can do these kinds of activities.

We will decide on a start date for a once a month gathering Sunday on the play rug 9:30 am to 10:00 am. We will use another part of the Spark! Family of resources Lebanon currently sends to homes. It is not the same as what we send home, but is a part of the same family of material, so that they flow together well.

This is another step in our family Christian education plan for our children and youth. Thank you for your support of our kids!

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**September 2022
Fund of the Month
Stewardship**



Websites of Interest

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

www.mittensynod.org

www.elca.org

www.whitelakescouting.com

www.whitelakechorale.com

www.hopescarves.org

LivingLutheran.org

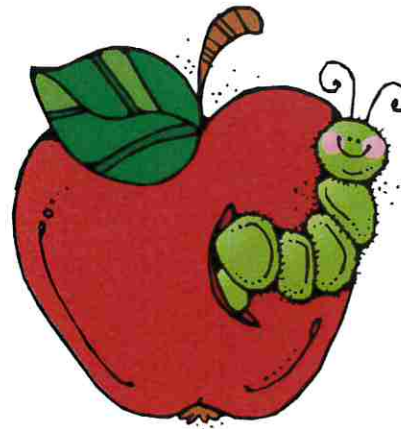
www.samaritas.org

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.



Pastor Jim Foster
P.O. Box 329
Otsego, Michigan 49078

Lebanon Lutheran Church, ELCA
1101 S. Mears
Whitehall, Michigan 49461

June 1, 2022

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your gracious invitation to Lebanon's 150th Anniversary Celebration. The Mediterranean cruise we've planned to celebrate our own 50th wedding anniversary prevents us from attending, but cannot prevent us from attempting to express our gratitude for your presence in our lives.

Sandy and I are indebted to the people of Lebanon for surrounding us with your love and encouragement, for the spiritual support that affirmed my calling and the financial support that allowed me to attend seminary. We raised our kids at Lebanon, added wings to our home in every possible direction while at Lebanon, came of age as parents and adults at Lebanon, met Christ at Lebanon.

Sandy and I have both been retired for several years, living now in a home we've remodeled on the Kalamazoo River in Otsego, Michigan. She's involved in community action and the local art council. I've done interim work for a few churches and a bit of pulpit supply, and am mostly involved in building treehouses and metal sculpture. Our two sons are doing well. Ben's back in Michigan after twenty years in Colorado, living on Bois Blanc Island. Jared and his wife Sheena have two children and live in Kalamazoo.

Together we continue to treasure the community of faith in Whitehall that so shaped our family's lives.

God bless,

Jim Foster

616-566-6341
pastorjimfoster@gmail.com

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.

Continued from Page 1

Bible study via Zoom has proven to be a good thing. It will resume Thursdays starting September 22 at 7 pm and go thru Nov 17, when we take a thanksgiving/ Advent break.

We will start with looking at the readings for the coming Sunday found in your weekly yellow insert or in the newsletter. We use what is called the Revised Common Lectionary, so you can always go to textweek.com to see the set of weekly readings also.

Please contact Pastor or the office for the zoom link. It's the same every week.

Starting September 11 the 9:00 am Adult Forum will invite our potential new members to discuss what it means to be a part of this congregation, to get to know who we are, and how we do things.

Because of COVID, this has been a LONG, long time coming, and I know I will miss some invitations. Some of the people we haven't yet welcomed as new members have already been well involved in our life together! Still, we want to do this up right! If you haven't been received as a member, or just want to ask some questions, we have set aside this time just for you. No need to RSVP; just come. We value what you have to say.

Pastor Ogden

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:



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
Donna Jacobs, (Don Jacobs mother) with kidney and heart issues
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.
Dwight Mead (Paula Moreau's brother-in-law), non-hodgkin lymphoma mantel type (stage four).
Monica Ogden, recuperating at home from knee replacement
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.
Bob Palmatter (Cindy Albert's brother), with breathing difficulties.
JoAnne Silk, with health issues.
Jon Stark (Erin Lewallen's brother-in-law), non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.
Jan Troeger, (Cindy Albert's sister), suffered a stroke.
Darlene Willbrandt, recuperating from tick-born disease.



Worship Notes

Sunday, September 4 - Pentecost 13

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

Musician:

Readings

**Today we pray for:
Roger & JoAnne Silk**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

Prayer of the Day

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, September 11 - Pentecost 14

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

Musician:

Readings

**Today we pray for:
Karl & Shirley Glass**

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

Prayer of the Day

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Sunday, September 18 - Pentecost 15
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Today we pray for:
Charlie & Michaelanne Hendrixon

Prayer of the Day

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, September 25 - Pentecost 16
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Today we pray for:
Phyllis Honoré

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



September

THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

9/1 Lorey Montgomery
9/1 Megan Fretty
9/2 Richard Bernhardt
9/2 Anna Slamkowski
9/3 Paula Williamson
9/5 Heather Wiethoff
9/6 Melissa Berry
9/6 Marlene Holmstrom
9/6 Deb (Statz) Peabody
9/7 Josh Keller
9/8 Robin Civis
9/8 Darlene Willbrandt
9/8 David Pearson
9/10 Valerie Johnson
9/11 Brian Jaekel
9/12 Dennis Roesler II
9/13 Zachary Bowen
9/14 Alice Hollister
9/18 Mary Carlson
9/18 Bob Palmer
9/18 Sue Roesler

9/19 Dale Bouck
9/19 Cheri Crouch
9/19 Shawn Erwin
9/20 Robert Lathrop
9/21 Chad Parks
9/22 Jason Roesler
9/23 Jodi Emms
9/23 Stephen Ogden
9/24 Chris Soraruf
9/25 Peter Fretty
9/25 Helen Allshouse
9/26 Kerri Bernhardt
9/27 Nate Aardema
9/27 Linda Meier
9/28 Kim Nelson
9/28 Mark Will
9/29 Linda Everitt
9/29 Tom Foster
9/29 Jeffrey Soraruf
9/30 Jennifer Shalifoe



9/4/93 Jay & Mardi Otto
9/8/18 Frank and Alice Hollister
9/6/14 Michael and Rebecca (Stacy) Chynoweth
9/9/77 Mike & Kay Snell
9/11/82 Rick & Holly Hughes
9/13/14 Carol Ann (Deneke) & Terry
9/14/03 Terry and Mary Beekman
9/19/92 Dwight & Michelle Roesler
9/22/90 Don & Amy Romain
9/23/72 Roger & JoAnne Silk
9/26/87 Jim and Flo King
9/26/92 Troy and Mary Gallihugh
9/29/61 Karl & Shirley Glass

Baptism Anniversaries



9/7 Lois Szczerbinski
9/11 Ethan Reynolds
9/13 Wayne Roesler

9/18 Molly Crouch Mooren
9/18 Brianne Roesler
9/19 Jessica Gelvin

9/20 Brittney Roesler
9/23 Brooke Otto
9/26 Larry Foster
9/29 Morgan Hughes

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.”



VOLUNTEER



Looking for volunteers to help during the Ragnar Relay Run on Friday, September 23, 2022 from approximately 9am to 2pm (ish) to make coffee, tea, cocoa etc. and keep items full and the area clean.

Each year the Ragnar runners have been very gracious in their donations to our church. Please help if you can, it really is loads of fun to see what theme's the group of runners comes up with each year!

Please let Margaret know if you can help (231-893-5745)



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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Thrivent Whitehall Office

Make a Difference Today with Life Insurance for Your Children

It all starts with a strategy—and sometimes the strategy is one you haven't considered before. Life insurance for children can often be thought of as coverage for the “unthinkable.” While it does provide a death benefit, permanent life insurance can help protect your child's future in a variety of other ways, too. Buying coverage now can give your children (or grandchildren) a little extra security throughout their lives with:

- Guaranteed coverage** – An unexpected medical condition or a disability can make life insurance much more costly later in life. With guaranteed future insurability, your child will be protected, regardless of future health, as long as premiums are paid.
- Locked-in rates** – Life insurance is often much more affordable when kids are young. Buying coverage now gives you the opportunity to lock in a lower rate for the life of the contract.
- Guaranteed Cash Value** – Whole life insurance provides guaranteed cash value growth—even if financial markets decline. And the cash value can be accessed at anytime to help pay for the important things in life such as college tuition, funding a wedding, down payment for a house, starting a business.

How Permanent life insurance can impact your child's life

Take for example these new parents with a family history of health issues. Let's call them Luis and Jordan. They have: 1) A newborn named Willow, 2) Diabetes that runs in Luis's family with relatives diagnosed before the age of 18, 3) A need for life insurance to cover Willow as she grows up.

The solution: A juvenile whole life insurance contract. Using a feature called the Guaranteed Purchase Option, Luis and Jordan can buy up to \$1 million of additional life insurance coverage without Willow having to be approved through an underwriting process.

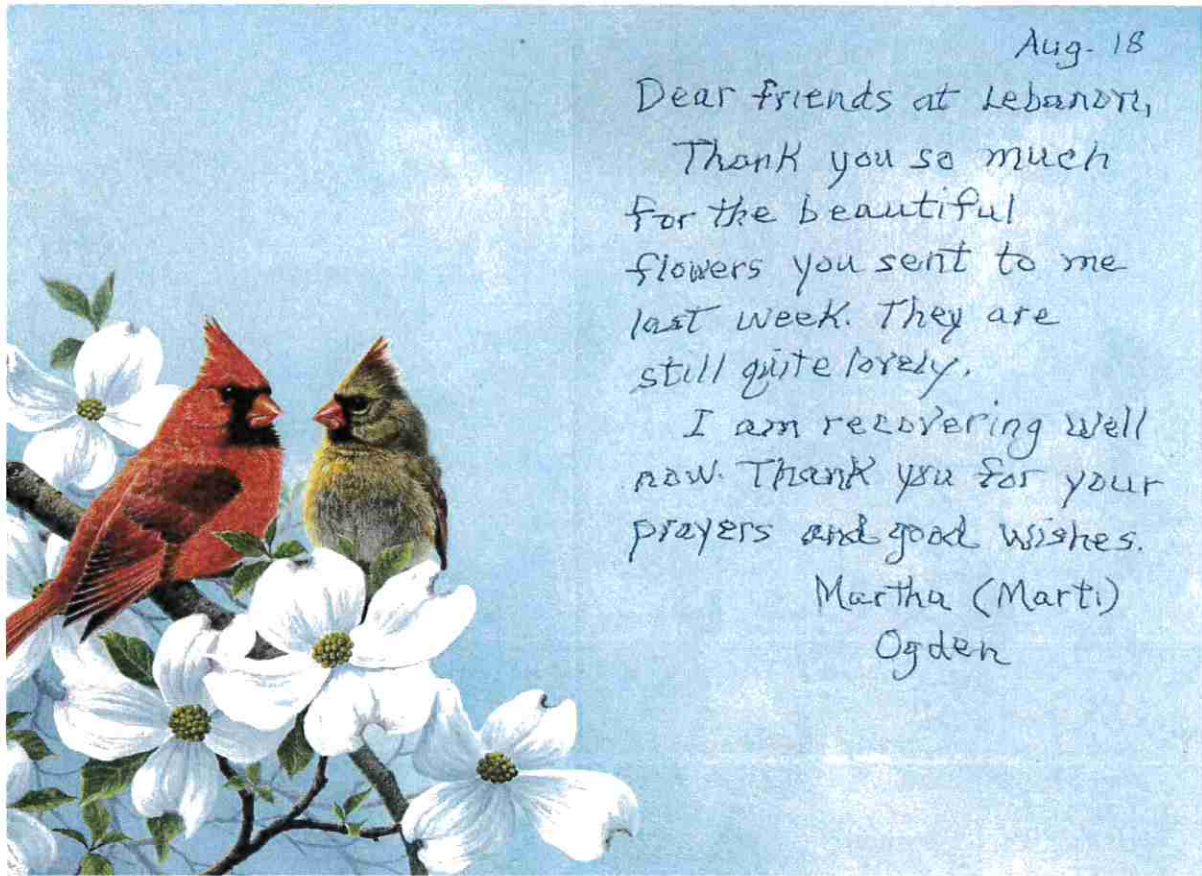
Get guidance from someone who gets you. Your Thrivent financial advisors Marci Bentz and Tony De Nicolo can further discuss the benefits of permanent life insurance for your child or grandchild. Call 231-894-8886, text 231-760-8246 or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com.



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2022 in observance of the holiday.

We will return to the office on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 9am.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday !



Aug. 18

Dear friends at Lebanon,
Thank you so much
for the beautiful
flowers you sent to me
last week. They are
still quite lovely.

I am recovering well
now. Thank you for your
prayers and good wishes.

Martha (Marti)
Ogden

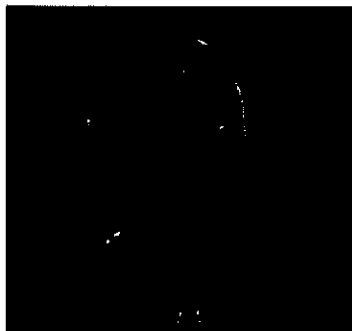
Scout Can Drive

September 10, 2022

9:00 am to 12 noon

Save those cans and help out the Scouts!





North/West Lower Michigan Synod

**P.O. Box 517
Dewitt, MI 48820**

517-321-5066
mittensynod.org

In this Issue:

The Good News of Jesus's Cross and Resurrection

Resources from the ELCA

Making "God's work. Our hands." Evangelistic

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

The Good News of Jesus's Cross and Resurrection

A text message from Pastor Doug Ogden reminded me that July 19, 2022 was the 36th anniversary of my ordination, which led me to reflect on the day. I spent the day working in the Synod Office for the first time since March 2019. I remember thinking then that COVID-19 would last until Easter and then things would get back to normal. I could not have imagined the suffering and death that would befall us. A very long Good Friday.

Going to work again has been a kind of Easter. Returning to the office gives me permission to acknowledge that I've spent the last 30 months comfortably entombed in my basement. Going to work is giving me renewed energy and uplifting my spirit. The walls and location of my office have changed, but the appointments of my office remain the same. So the space is both new and familiar, similar to what the gospels indicate resurrection is like. I anticipate going to work again will make me a bit less productive and a bit healthier. I also acknowledge that, like resurrection, this post-pandemic age has not completely arrived. I still carry a mask in my pocket and I'm not yet comfortable getting too close to people.

So we have lived through our own cross, death, and now we're hopefully experiencing the in-breaking of resurrection or the reign of God. Jesus is with us in all of it, bringing life out of death. The mystery of Jesus's suffering, death, and resurrection gives significance to his life and, through baptism, meaning and purpose to our lives and the life of the world. Sharing this good news is the central thing we as church are about.

Our Synod's processional cross and Paschal candle are on display in our new office space. When looking at them, I recall that we carry the processional cross on Good Friday and process behind the Paschal candle at the Easter Vigil. As I come to work, I am blessed with a tangible reminder that sharing the good news of the mystery of Jesus's suffering, death, and resurrection, and his promise to come again, is the central thing we as church are to be about. This is such a gracious and empowering reminder to me as I anticipate another anniversary on September 23, the 9th anniversary of my installation as your bishop. The only acknowledgment I need for that anniversary is my own acknowledgment that my calling is to lead the Synod in proclaiming the good news as we prayerfully participate in Christ's own work of reconciling the world to God's very self.



The Synod's processional cross (left) and Paschal candle (right) on display at the Synod Office.

Thank you for the grace of serving as your bishop!

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

In 2021,
Lutheran Disaster Response
was working in

17

states and territories
in the United States.

In 2022,
Lutheran Disaster Response
is working in an additional
6 states and territories*

*As of June 2022



In 2021, Lutheran Disaster Response was working in 47 countries, including the United States. In 2022, Lutheran Disaster Response is working in an additional 11 countries.*

*As of June 2022





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)

