

**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
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 : #llesignsofgrace

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor’s Notes

October 2022

We began a new members group in mid-September, playing catch-up after two years of not having a group during COVID.

We discuss what makes Lebanon unique, why people come here. Comments arise about our welcoming of questions and doubts, our welcoming of all identities, and our involvement in the community.

We also discuss what makes us ELCA Lutherans - - that we are made right in God’s eyes because God is grace-filled, something we would not experience except when we step out in faith that the story of Jesus is true, with no oughts or should attached. That’s my re-phrasing of the real Lutheran phrase “we are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone apart from works of the law”.

We discuss the Swedish heritage - a love of liturgy and music, a commitment to community and global mission, a deep appreciation for the wide and ecumenical church.

Also October we will officially welcome and pray for the many new members, who are already well-integrated into our life together and as friends.

On October 23, we revive our potluck and hayride at Scholl Farms, 5955 Eilers Road in Montague. We meet there at 4:30 pm. That would be a great time to take the initiative to get to know someone you’ve not talked to before.

And sheep; we will play with Scholl’s sheep.

See you in church!

Pastor Ogden



October 2022
Fund of the Month
Samaritas

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

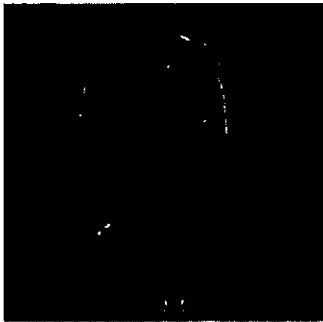
Suicide Hotline 1-800-273TALK.org
www.co.muskegon.mi.us/cmh/suicide_prevention

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**

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

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

In this Issue:

A Fork in Mission Road

Lutheran Campus Ministries

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

A Fork in Mission Road

The meetings and email exchanges I've had since returning from the ELCA Churchwide Assembly lead me to speculate that, during this time when the pandemic is not over but our fear of COVID-19 seems to be, congregations have come to a fork in Mission Road and need to decide which path they will take moving forward.

Some in congregations want to take the path of retaining and regaining members. They might point to Jesus's parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7). In pursuing this path, the congregation, and especially the pastor, invests in pastoral care of members, visitation of members, being available to members, and meeting members' needs. The assumption is that the congregation's "lost sheep" will find their way home to the congregation and the flock will have its friends back. The church, which lost members and finances during the pandemic, will return to stability and normalcy. Of course, if the "lost sheep" are feeling hurt, angry, and neglected by the pastor, or if pastoral care and visitation are not a pastor's gift, strength, or passion, a change in pastoral leadership may be necessary for the "lost sheep" to come home. Forcing this path usually divides and diminishes a congregation.

Before setting down this road, congregations should investigate the assumptions that underlie the decision to move in this direction. They should make a list of the "lost sheep" and a team, perhaps the church council but certainly not the pastor, should divide the list and telephone or visit the lost sheep and, in a nonjudgmental manner, ask where they are on their faith journey and relationship to the congregation. Some may be upset with the pastor because they feel uncared for or ignored; repairing that relationship may or may not be possible. Others may have found a new church home during the pandemic and have no need to return. Still others may be so disillusioned by fights within the congregation over vaccines and masking that they cannot bring themselves to return. Still others enjoy worshipping online and have no reason to return. I regularly talk to congregation leaders who have worked so hard to save their church that they fear they are losing their faith; I encourage these leaders to worship where they can simply receive the gospel and not feel obligated to save the church. Before setting off in search of lost sheep, congregations should make certain there are lost sheep who need finding.

Some in congregations want to take the path of engaging the neighborhood and community. They might point to Jesus sending the seventy with instructions to "cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you'" (Luka 10:9). In pursuing this path, the congregation, and especially the pastor, invests in neighbors rather than members. Instead of spending time in the church office and visiting members, the pastor is visibly and actively engaged in the neighborhood. The assumption is that experiencing the good news of Jesus will bring people to the church and these new members will revitalize and stabilize the congregation. If evangelism and community engagement are not a pastor's gift, strength, or passion, or if the pastor does not connect with the neighborhood or community, a change in pastoral leadership may be necessary to pursue this path. Forcing this agenda usually divides and diminishes a congregation.

Continued on page 2

Before setting down this road, congregations should investigate the assumption that engaging the neighbors will result in more members. People may be grateful and even excited to receive the good news of God's unconditional love, acceptance, and abundant life in Jesus Christ and have absolutely no desire to become members of the church. When convinced that the harvest is plentiful, congregations must acknowledge that the pastor cannot do this work alone and determine whether there is a cadre of church members eager to engage the neighborhood and comfortable sharing the story of Jesus. Congregations must also honestly determine whether neighbors who show up in church will be genuinely welcome.²

If our true purpose in engaging the neighbors is to gain members and not to share the good news of Jesus, we do better to stay home, lest we reduce the gospel to a transaction and our neighbors to a commodity that will serve our needs as a church. Jesus never did either of these things. Jesus gave himself on the cross to reveal God's love and not to gain members for a church. So, Jesus counsels that we should invite those who cannot repay us because we will be repaid at the resurrection (Luke 14:12-14).

When the real issue is that we fear our congregation is in crisis and we need to do something to stabilize and sustain it, we need to take a third path. First, we acknowledge that no one loves our church as much as the active members do and not look for someone else—members who have fallen away, new people, a pastor, or the greater church—to save it. No one is more concerned with saving a congregation than its active members. Second, we honestly assess whether the current congregation possesses the number of people (50), energy, and financial resources to head down either of the first two roads. Third, we recognize that COVID-19 changed everything, including the church. That congregations find themselves in precarious situations is not necessarily anyone's fault and God is not looking for someone to blame. Fourth, we recognize that only God is eternal. All things, including congregations, have lifespans and will one day die. Thankfully, in Jesus Christ, God promises to transform death, even the death of a church, into new and abundant life.

Pastor David, Pastor Rosanne, and I are grateful when congregations invite us into conversation about where they find themselves and how they will move forward. If your congregation is struggling with these issues, please reach out to us because we are happy to meet with you and to walk alongside you as you decide which path to take on Mission Road.

In Christ,

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

¹ This article is inspired by Craig Alan Satterlee, *My Burden is Light: Making Room for Jesus in Preaching* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2023), 198-201.

² We have developed a resource to assist congregations in addressing these opportunities: *You Are Witnesses of These Things* (Dewitt, MI: Arborvitae Books, 2022) is

My Burden is Light: Making Room for Jesus in Preaching

We are excited to announce Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee's new book, *My Burden is Light: Making Room for Jesus in Preaching*, will be released by Fortress Press on January 10, 2023!

My Burden is Light invites preachers to claim proclaiming Jesus as the goal of preaching. Satterlee argues that by preaching the mystery of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection as good news, we address the issues we face, incising pandemic, climate change, assaults on democracy, social justice, and division. This book is a balm for preachers needing nourishment and renewal.

We are able to provide a complimentary copy of the book to pastors and deacons rostered in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3B8ATTe>

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

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).

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.



Worship Notes

Sunday, October 2 - Pentecost 17

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Like 17:5-10

Today we pray for:
Brian & Kara Jaekel

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 9 - Pentecost 18

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Readings

2 Kings 3:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Today we pray for:
Chuck & Ann Nessa

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Sunday, October 16 - Pentecost 19
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Today we pray for:
Ruth Nurmi

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 23 - Pentecost 20
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Today we pray for:
Bob Palmer

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, October 30 - Reformation Sunday
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Red

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Today we pray for:
Ray Lathrop

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

October



10/3 August Frietsch	10/22 Oliver Wyatt
10/3 Kristine Jordahl	10/23 Tom Fretty
10/5 Milan Jurik	10/25 Meg Eaton
10/5 Sue Otterman	10/25 Karen Hosticka
10/6 Eric Rop	10/25 Debbie Svensson
10/6 Linda Schenten	10/27 Verne Sutherland
10/9 Carol Deneke	10/27 Donald Carrier
10/10 Curt Crouch	10/29 Stefanie Honoré
10/12 Brian Holmblade	10/30 Anna Otterman
10/12 Bruce Holmblade	10/31 Jonathon Bartlett
10/12 Andreas Holmblade	
10/12 Holly Moog	
10/12 Marlene Windbacher	
10/17 Shirley Glass	
10/19 Rob Montgomery	
10/20 Becky Wahr	
10/21 Daniel Civis	



10/5/13	Mallory & Keith Lothschutz
10/5/19	Don and Danielle Jacobs
10/6/12	Corey and Rachael (Wahr) Bartlett
10/7/95	Rocky & Linda Decker
10/8/88	Lee & Debbie Swenson
10/13/84	Don & Kim Nelson
10/26/63	Bob & Sharon Ackerman

Baptism Anniversaries



10/3 Kristine Jordahl	10/20 Frank Lundell	10/30 Cheri Crouch
10/4 Minnie Estlund	10/20 Rachel Wahr Bartlett	10/30 Sally Hollister Jackson
10/10 Charles Xavier Schmalz	10/23 Lauralee Kesteloot	
10/10 Townes Ernest VandeBunte	10/29 Pete Fretty	
10/10 Violet Mae Stacy Chynoweth	10/29 Megan Nelson	

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.”



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.



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.

26087 R12-18



Hayride!

Scholl Farms

5955 Eilers Road
Montague, MI 49437

Sunday, October 23, 2022
4:30 pm to dark

Potluck



Life Insurance Can Benefit Your Loved Ones

In keeping with September as Life Insurance Awareness Month, there are a few important things to consider. Having adequate life insurance coverage is integral to a good financial plan. It can serve as the foundation of a strong financial strategy, offer a sense of security for the future and a way to leave a legacy. It can also provide growth opportunities and benefits to use throughout your lifetime, depending on the type you choose.

Your life insurance needs will depend on several factors, including whether you're married, the size of your family, the nature of your financial obligations, your career stage, and your goals. For example, when you're young, you may feel you don't have a great need for life insurance. However, as you take on more responsibilities and your family grows, your need for life insurance increases.

Here are some questions that can help you start thinking about the amount of life insurance you need:

- What immediate financial expenses (e.g., debt repayment, funeral expenses) would your family face upon your death?
- How much of your salary is devoted to current expenses and future needs?
- How long would your dependents need support if you were to die tomorrow?
- How much money would you want to leave for special situations upon your death, such as funding your children's education, gifts to charities, or an inheritance for your children?
- What other assets or insurance policies do you have?

Remember it's important to periodically review your life insurance needs and coverage; over time your needs will change.

To learn more, contact your Thrivent Financial Advisors, Marci Bentz and Tony De Nicolo, by calling the Whitehall office 231-894-8886, texting 231-760-8246, or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com.



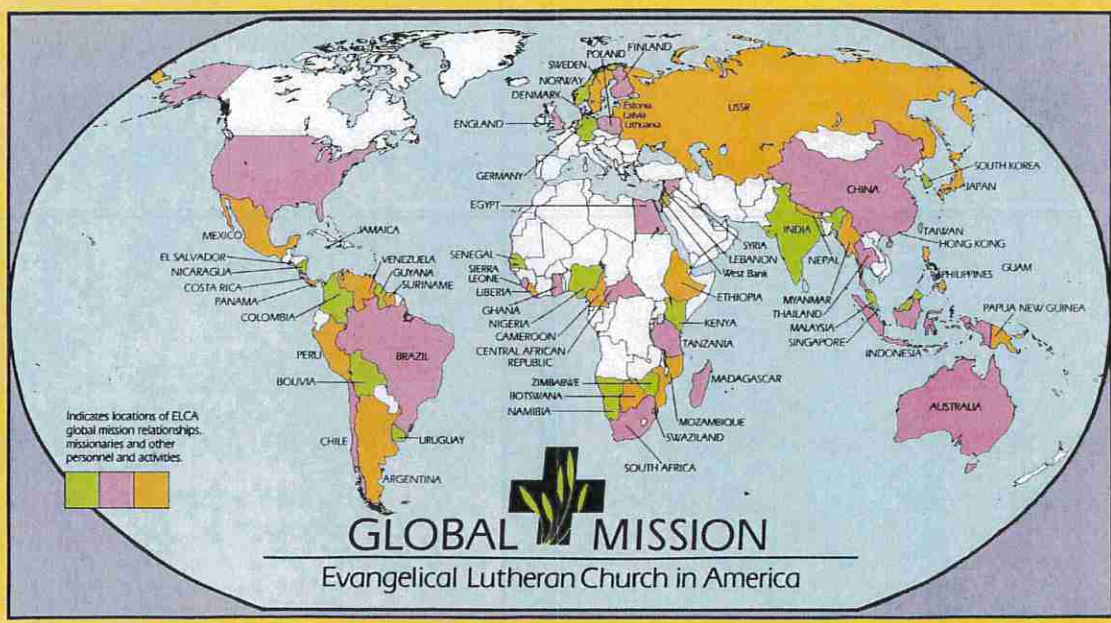
WE ARE PARTNERS IN GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION...

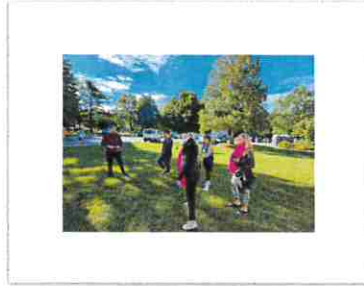
EVANGELIZING
sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people

PARTICIPATING
in God's life-giving purpose, especially with oppressed, poor and suffering people

COOPERATING
in witness and service with churches around the world

COMMITTING
ourselves to share our gifts and to receive the gifts of others





Did you know ?

Lebanon has been hosting the Ragnar Relay participants since 2016!

Runners begin the relay at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon and run in groups of 6 along the lakeshore in several legs, until they reach the Traverse City area.

We have offered them coffee, water, hot cocoa and tea, for which the generously make donations.

The runners are respectful of our church property, and the ladies especially, are grateful for the use of our bathrooms to change in after running 9 miles!

Support vehicles are decorated, runners are dressed in theme costumes and it is so much fun!

This year we had wonderwomen, a blue unicorn, and chipmunk and of course, a rubber ducky !

The local race happens every September and we welcome volunteers to help with the multitude of coffee fills, and keeping the water filled.

Thank you to Pastor Ogden and Corie Kellum for their help!



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

*September
2022*



JOIN US
for a
day of service





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)

