

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

**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
Laura Hollister	Brian Jaekel
Sarah Schmalz	Wietse Schaafsma
Al Wheeler	

**"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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

February 2023

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Meeting in January, and who takes an active role in all that Lebanon does. We do what we do because the world needs more grace, more kindness, more gentleness, more listening and more encouragement.

Encouragement is the word I think of to guide what I do. I know as a Lutheran it could have been grace, and I do want people to experience more grace, to give themselves. The grace to accept God's grace. We need that. We are all tired, stressed, worried about the future, and many other things that we, in our better moments talk about with one another.

I find the story of Jesus Christ encouraging. I find it interesting, and I hope you do too. When I see myself in Jesus' story, it makes me remember I have a story, a purpose, my life has a meaning. But it also makes me find other peoples' live and their stories interesting. And. The more "other" the person is, the more interesting their experience is, and the more of grace I find in it.

We think of God's grace as something we bring in our encounters, in our ministries. But even more than that, I find God's grace "discoverable", as already at work around us, already present and active, and -- well -- gracious.

Ukraine and Flint. Students seeking what they will become in life, older people seeking what they will become in the next life. People who teach, who bring healing, who comfort, who feed, and people who sing. And people who find delight and hope in the story of Jesus. It is so painful to find someone for whom the story of Jesus has been presented in a way that is harmful, hurtful, damaging. It is a growing, vocal group that may not know that our way of telling the story is different.

I want us to be a light, a hopefulness, an encouragement. So that some day we can say together: the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9). I hope I do not walk in darkness from their stories. I want the light they bring when they express their need for just a little more grace, a little more light, a little more hope, and little more love.

And we walk together. "To loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thong of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free. To share bread with the hungry, bring the homeless into a house (Isaiah 58).
Happy 151st, Lebanon. Happy New Year!

Pastor Ogden



February 2023

Fund of the Month

Living Lutheran

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

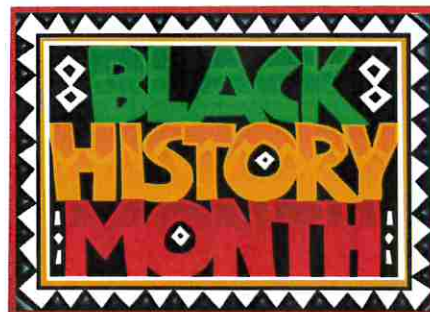
The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning) young people.



2/20/23



Scout Can Drive - February 12th
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm



North/West Lower
Michigan Synod

P.O. Box 517
Dewitt, MI 48820

517-321-5066
mittensynod.org

In this Issue:

Living Stones 2023 - 2025

Planning for the Future

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

Living Stones 2023 - 2025

Living Stones, which Synod Council endorsed in December 2018, provided a framework for our strategic initiatives for the last three-year period (2020/21-2022/23). We have found this framework helpful in directing and communicating the Synod's mission and the work of the Synod Staff, even during the pandemic years. We therefore provide a renewed Living Stone initiatives for the period of January 2023 through August 2025, which Synod Council endorsed at its December 2022 meeting and I am pleased to share with you.

Sharing the Story of Jesus: In response to the churchwide organization making vitality training free and online, our REVIVE team is providing online resources and consultation, and shifting our focus to sharing the story of Jesus.

- We will provide workshops, both in-person and via Zoom, to equip leaders to use the book, *You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus* (<https://bit.ly/3DXIk2e>). This will also be the focus of the 2023 Synod Assembly, which is themed "It's About Jesus!"
- We will continue to support our Sudanese worshiping community and our campus ministry in Grand Rapids, and remain vigilant to opportunities for other synodically authorized worshiping communities.
- We will continue to actively pursue opportunities to engage Latino and Native American communities on the territory of our synod in the hope that we experience the love of Jesus through our listening to and learning from them.

Call Process: We anticipate an increasing number of congregational vacancies as many of our pastors are approaching retirement and, in the aftermath of the pandemic, pastors are desiring to move closer to family, and congregations are seeking a change in pastoral leadership because of irreconcilable differences with their current pastor. We will need to attract candidates to our synod and help congregations re-calibrate their expectations to attract a pastor.

Sustainability: Struggling congregations and synod ministries receive accompaniment and assistance to realistically assess their sustainability and, where appropriate, to either partner with neighboring congregations, both ELCA and full communion partners, or to move toward holy closure.

Adult Theological Education: We will provide a six-week course via Zoom for adults (lay and rostered) in each of the next five "semesters." Our first course on the Corinthian Correspondence with Dr. Walter F. Taylor, Jr. began January 10. We are excited at the overwhelming interest in the course, with 96 people registering. The Fall 2023 course will be on Luther's Small Catechism and will be taught by Dr. Kit Kleinhans.

Candidates for Public Ministry: 20 candidates for rostered ministry are identified, accompanied, and supported. With the elimination of the first call "draft," the first call pastors we receive in our synod will be the ones we produce. We have generous scholarship money available for seminarians and need to find ways to better identify and invite people, especially young adults, to consider a call to public ministry. I would like to hold such an event in the next 18 months.

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Rostered Minister Debt Reduction: Rostered ministers are relieved of some measure of educational indebtedness. This is the most successful of our original Living Stones initiatives. The program will continue as long as there is a need and available funds.

Saying Thanks: Congregations leading and growing in their mission support of our synod, together with individuals committed to the Living Stones financial initiative, are honored and thanked at Mission Support Dinners.

Welcome: Our synod makes a renewed commitment to discuss ways to welcome all God's people.

- Building on the 90 people who participated in the Introduction to Social Justice course and the group who participated in the White People Doing their Work course, we will develop and implement a plan for helping our Synod address racial justice.
- Our Ministry with Persons with Disabilities Task Force will offer additional training and consultation with congregations. The Task Force is also applying for a holy innovations grant to help us address issues related to ministry with persons who live with disabilities.
- We will encourage and facilitate our synod's participation in the churchwide review and revision of the ELCA social statement, "Human Sexuality Gift and Trust." Our "Open Hearts, Open Church" Task Force is available to consult with congregations considering becoming Reconciled in Christ.

Youth:

- We will continue to support Living Water Ministries, and their summer camps and other youth events, as the foundation for youth ministry in our synod. We will also work to help our synod better understand that our primary way of supporting youth ministry throughout the Synod is through Living Water Ministries.
- We will encourage and facilitate our congregations' participation in the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, including MYLE, the tAble, and the Young Adult Gathering.

Living Stone Contributors:

- Synod Council and I are very grateful for the commitment and generosity of individuals who financially contributed to the original Living Stone initiatives. We are even more inspired by those who have communicated their intention to continue to financially support our synod directly, in addition to giving to their congregations. This is certainly Cathy's and my intention. We understand that these are financially challenging times for congregations and families. Therefore, rather than set a goal, we will provide regular invitations and opportunities for individuals to contribute directly to the work of our synod and these initiatives.

After a season in which my primary, even exclusive, synod work was addressing COVID-19 and congregational conflict, the Synod Staff and I are excited for this work. We look forward to the new year and serving alongside you as together we prayerfully participate in Christ's own work of reconciling the world (all creation?) to God's very self.

Peace,

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

Scrapbook Committee

The Scrapbook Committee will meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to work on the scrapbooks and photo albums. Everyone is invited to join us!

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)
Erma Hinze, with health concerns
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 McCauley Place (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.
Karl Glass, with health concerns
Donna Jacobs, (Don Jacobs mother) with kidney and heart issues
Shawn Jeffery, Corneal transplant 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) turns 106 years old on November 28.
Judy Kurtz, with health concerns
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
Bob Palmatter (Cindy Albert's brother), with breathing difficulties.
Roger 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, February 5 - Epiphany 5

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

**Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20**

**Today we pray for:
Jackie Martin**

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, February 12 - Epiphany 6

Color: Green

Worship - 10:15am

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119-1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37**

**Today we pray for:
Christie & Charles Phillips
and Lynzie**

Prayer of the Day

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Sunday, February 19 - Transfiguration of Our Lord
Worship - 10:15am**

Color: Green

Readings

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

**Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9**

**Today we pray for:
Mark & Ann Brooks**

Prayer of the Day

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, February 26 - Lent 1
Worship - 10:15 am**

Color: Purple

Readings

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

**Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11**

**Today we pray for:
Katie & Jordan Vandebunte
Townes and Delia**

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

White Lake Chorale begins rehearsals for its spring concert Monday, January 23, at Lebanon Lutheran Church, 1101 S. Mears Avenue, Whitehall. The 7 p.m. rehearsal will be preceded by a 6 p.m. potluck, hosted by current members. Anyone of high school age or older, who can carry a tune and loves to sing, is welcome to join us, and is invited to the potluck as our guest.

The Chorale is a volunteer community choir supported by donations and participants' registration fees. Scholarships are available.

Cindy Moore, who has directed church choirs for many years and taught music in public schools for over 30 years has been the Chorale's director since 2016. She returns to the podium again this season as we prepare a mostly Broadway tunes show.

For more information, or email WhiteLakeChoraleinfo@gmail.com.

February



2/1 Francis Litchfield
2/2 Sharon Ackerman
2/2 Karl Holmstrom
2/2 Isaac Otterman
2/7 Wendy Shalifoe
2/10 Holly Davis
2/10 Amy Swope
2/11 Thea Lothschutz
2/12 Ray Veeder
2/13 Tiffany Barnes
2/13 Marilyn Schmuker
2/14 Beverly Statz
2/15 Trevin Bernhardt
2/16 Emma Greenwood
2/17 Lori Skinner
2/17 Ethen Wendell
2/19 Gregory Civis
2/19 Dustin King
2/19 Nancy Peterson

2/22 Jeanne Berry
2/22 John Wahr
2/23 Donna Will
2/24 Krysten Hosticka
2/24 Delia VandeBunte
2/26 Frank Hollister
2/26 Allie Ogden
2/27 Dean Hewitt
2/28 Jenna Brown



2/22/2020

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.”

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

THRIVENT MEMBERS:
Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars by March 31, 2023

It's CHOICE DOLLARS time again! Eligible Thrivent members who have 2022 Choice Dollars have until the end of March 2023 to direct them. 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 2022 Choice Dollars expire!

You can direct them by going **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.

Your Whitehall Financial Advisors, Marci Bentz and Tony De Nicolo can be reached to assist with questions by calling 231-894-8886, texting 231-760-8246, or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com

February 22, 2023



Curt and Cheri Crouch would like to thank everyone for the kind words, prayers and support in regards to the passing of his mother, Cora Hendrick.

BRING YOUR CANS & BOTTLES!
hosted by the
Scouts BSA Troop 1048
of the White Lake Area

Cans & Bottles Returnables We Need YOU!

2023 CALENDAR - EVERY 2nd SUNDAY

January 8	July 9
February 12	August 13
March 12	September 10
April 9	October 8
May 14	November 12
June 11	December 10

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 4:30 TO 6:30

Location: Lebanon Lutheran Parking Lot
1101 S. Mears Avenue, Whitehall
Drive Thru - Drop Off - No Contact

Benefits:
 Scouts BSA Troop 1048 of the White Lake Area

Tell your neighbors too, please!



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*)



2023