

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

THE LIGHT



Pastor's Notes

January 2023

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 : #llsignsofgrace

"And I said to the man who stood by the gate of the year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
And safer than a known way.'

I heard this poem years ago, when it was being set to music -- the first part, the plea in a minor key, the second part, the response in a major, calming, reassuring style. The entire poem was read as a part of the radio address in 1939 by King George VI. Midnight church services were cancelled in Britain that year to "black out" the stained-glass windows without damaging them. Carolers could not use handbells, and chorale services at Westminster Abbey were cancelled, as the choirboys had all been evacuated from London. It was widely received as a source of comfort and hope. It remained important to Queen Elisabeth II all her life.

Written over a hundred years ago by Minnie Louise Haskins, it may not provide as much comfort as it once did -- images such as "the hand of God" need a lot more unpacking if they are to have real meaning for us, and even the word "God" does not convey the reassurance that it once did. And there seems to be a lot of darkness. And yet it reassures me that "going out into the darkness" has been done before, and is worth doing. As we stand at the gate of another year, known ways will not solve our problems, nor relieve our fears. We need something more reassuring to hang onto than how things have always been -- that way is no longer safe, nor possible. Something more solid, something that lies within us. A resolve, a hope, a deep breath before we begin, a leaning into the wind, a confidence in knowing what we stand for and what we must act upon. And hand-in-hand is better than being alone.

I believe that the story of Jesus Christ is the story of God's confidence in us, the gift from God to us that we have what it takes to make our way, the reassurance that there is enough grace to see us through. In Advent vespers we sang, "deep on our hearts may the light of your Christ be burning bright." Allow yourself a little grace as you pass through the gate into this year. You've been given it. Unwrap it like a gift, the wrap up in it like a blanket.

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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.

The Annual Meeting
will be held on
January 22, 2023.





**North/West Lower
Michigan Synod**

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

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

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Lower Michigan Synod

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Advent Colors

In the last few weeks, I've had a number of conversations about the color of Advent, since Advent can be either purple or blue. The color purple is meant to suggest penitence; the color blue is intended to inspire hope. The third candle on the Advent wreath is sometimes pink or rose to suggest joy. Purple is the older color and rose works best with purple to suggest a joyous respite from a penitent Advent. Besides, to me, pink and blue insinuate a reveal party for baby Jesus, which Advent is not.

My Advent observation is that purple and blue are "both/and" rather than "either/or." We are motivated to be penitent—feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong—by either fear or hope. Together, purple and blue remind us that our penitence, our repentance, is motivated by hope. And that reminds us, that the One who "will come again to judge the living and the dead" is Emmanuel, God-with-us, lying in a manger and dying on a cross. Jesus loves us, becomes one of us, and gives himself for us, no matter what.

This is good news because we have some repenting to do. More than feeling, and showing sorrow or regret, for what we have done wrong, we need to turn around. We need to return to God. We need to change in every area of our life. Fear tries to seduce us to get back to business, as usual, to doing what we've always done. Fear scares us with things that are different to the point that we seek to eliminate the agent of change (ask Jesus). Fear dresses up as hope and tries to convince us that, if we do this or that, or if we don't do this or that, we will get what we want, which is usually getting back to the way things were.

Advent hope is not wishing on a star that things will turn out as we want. Advent hope is the good news that, come what may, Jesus is with us, and the future is securely in God's hands. Advent hope makes us brave, even daring. Advent hope does not make repenting and changing easy, painless, or free of grief. True repentance and change is hard, costly, and heartbreaking. Advent hope assures us that God is on our side, Jesus is with us, and the Holy Spirit directs and empowers us.

So Advent brings us to the Jordan, where, behind all the bluster, John the Baptist calls us to change. How wondrous that John is trying to motivate us to change with fear when Jesus came to bring us hope. So hope enough to be penitent. Hope enough to repent, to turn around, to return to God. Hope enough to change. Dare to hope that much. It's Advent.

With joy in Christ who comes,

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

(Continued from Page 1)

There are many ways people tell the story of Jesus, not all of them good, not all of them grace-filled, not all of them healthy. As we stand at the gate of Lebanon's 151st year together, we will give each other grace, we will tell the story, and we will "go out," dark or not. That will be to us better than light, safer than a known way, at it's what we mean by the hand of God.

Pastor Ogden

thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped pack and deliver the Christmas Baskets to our homebound members: Irene Parks, Mary Carlson, Donna Stacy, Deb Statz, Mary Koenen, Laura Hollister and Wayne Roesler.

Also thanks to everyone who brought donations for the baskets.

I appreciate all your help!

Blessings, Sue

I would like to thank the ladies for the super great Christmas basket.

Seems each year the goodies are more & better.

I really appreciated all the sugar-free candy etc.

God Bless all of you!

Bev Statz

Thank you to Sue Roesler, and all the Christmas Elves who gathered to assemble baskets of Christmas cheer!

The goodies were very tasty and much appreciated! Thank you for thinking of me.

Margaret Everling

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 Sanctuary of the Oaks. (Danielle Jacobs)
Marty Windbacher, at home

Special Prayer Concerns:

Cindy Albert, with health concerns
Ken Ahrenholz, (Megan (Aardema) Ahrenholz's father-in-law) 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.
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.

Our hearts grieve with Curt and Cheri Crouch and family on the death of Curt's mother, Cora Hendrick, on January 2, 2023.



Worship Notes

Sunday, January 1, 2023 - Christmas 1

Color: White

Worship - 10:15am

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

**Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23**

**Today we pray for:
Jon and Jane Blyth**

Prayer of the Day

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sunday, January 8 - Baptism of Our Lord
Worship - 10:15am**

Color: White

**Musician:
Monica Ogden**

Readings

**Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17**

**Today we pray for:
Arin and Dan Bowen
Ethan, Zachary, Hannah**

Prayer of the Day

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Sunday, January 15 - Epiphany 2
Worship - 10:15am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Today we pray for:
Donna and Joni Will

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, January 22 - Epiphany 3
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Today we pray for:
Marlene Windbacher

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, January 29 - Epiphany 4
Worship - 10:15 am

Color: Green

Readings

Musician:
Monica Ogden

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Today we pray for:
Amy and Matthew Swope

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

January 2023

THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

1/1 Julie Johnson	1/19 Christie Phillips
1/2 John Parks	1/19 Mary Bernhardt
1/3 Marsha Hulce	1/19 Marjie Bronsink
1/3 Barbara Brooks	3/19 Alan Hinks
1/4 Jacob R. Brooks	1/20 Becky Bronsink
1/5 Jim Coddington	1/20 John Hildebrandt
1/5 Robert Eklund	1/20 Doug Ogden
1/5 Laura Hollister	1/20 Kathy Scarbrough
1/5 Katherine Lathrop	1/22 Helen Bartlett
1/5 Luke Thompson	1/22 Richard Carlson
1/6 John Lathrop	1/22 Nancy Dahl
1/6 Scott Veeder	1/23 Gabe DeMumbrum
1/7 John Lundell	1/23 Laura Schnepf
1/8 Stephanie Larson	1/25 Virginia Foster
1/9 Glenn Eaton	1/25 Traci Murphy
1/10 Alexandra Kesteloot	1/26 Ann Snow
1/10 Ann Nessa	1/27 Taylor Ogles
1/10 Sarah O'Donnell	1/27 Erin Wendell
1/11 Lynda Lauterberg	1/28 Barb Aardema
1/11 Randy Nurmi	1/28 Bill Cloutier, Jr.
1/13 Kerry Fretty	1/29 Cory Wyatt
1/14 Jone Benedict	1/30 Joel Newsted
1/14 Steve Albert	1/30 Dwight Roesler
1/16 Jeffrey Baker	1/31 Joe Ferrentino
1/16 Jennifer Stanhope	
1/16 Al Wheeler	
1/17 JoAnne Silk	
1/18 Linda Decker	



1/19/02 Michael & Kathleen Palmer

Baptism Anniversaries



1/1 Diane Eastman	1/9 Scott Lamiman	1/27 David Pearson
1/1 Wiestse Schaafsma	1/10 Mitch Foster	1/30 Gary Holmstrom
1/1 Melanie Schaafsma	1/11 Donna Jensen	
1/1 Amy Swope	1/18 Dawn Baker	
1/1 Gretchen Lane	1/18 Nathan Parker	
1/2 Carley Smercina	1/20 Oliver Wyatt	
1/3 James Will	1/23 Tyler Grover	
1/7 Matthew Ferguson	1/24 Kristin Wolffis	
1/9 Joshua Cloutier	1/25 Lisa Holmblade	

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?

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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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HAPPY NEW YEAR from your Thrivent Whitehall Office !!


Charitable Contributions from IRAs

Did you know that, if you are at least 70 ½ years old, you can make tax-free charitable donations directly from your IRA? By making what's called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can benefit your favorite charity (for example your church) while excluding up to \$100,000 annually from gross income. These gifts would otherwise be taxable IRA distributions.

How do I make a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

In order to make a QCD, you simply instruct your IRA trustee to make a distribution directly from your IRA (other than SEP and SIMPLE IRAs) to a qualified charity. The distribution must be one that would otherwise be taxable to you. It must go directly from your IRA to your charity of choice.

To learn more about Charitable IRA Contributions and how QCDs work, call the Thrivent Whitehall office at 231-894-8886, text 231-760-8246, or email whitehalloffice@thrivent.com
Marci Bentz and Tony De Nicolo, your Thrivent Financial Advisors



arbor circle engaging kids in discipline

Join us for this FREE 5-week series on understanding discipline and how we engage children in learning. This series uses Conscious Discipline to develop helpful skills in building resilient kids.
*You may attend all or just one of the sessions.

when:

Discussion Sessions on Monday
Nights 7:30-9:00pm

Participants will be required to watch
two, 1-hour videos per week.

February 27th - March 27th, 2023

where:

Discussion Sessions via ZOOM
Videos on Conscious Discipline
website (must be registered to get
access to videos)



to register:

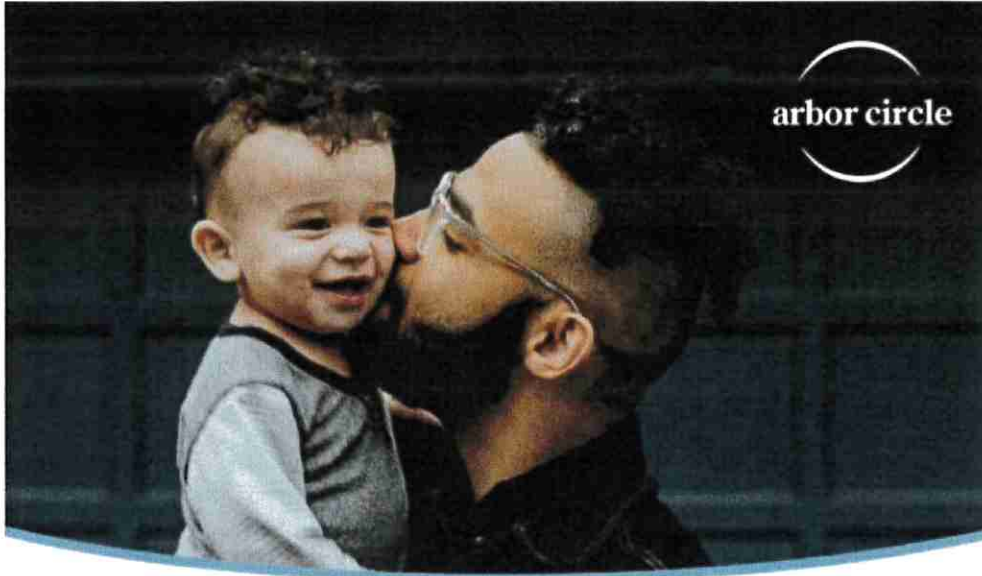
Please contact Nikki Reenders-Arens
Email: nreenders-arens@arborcircle.org
Phone: (616) 745-9511

You may also use the QR code.



Recipients of substance abuse services have rights protected by state and federal law and promulgated rules. For information contact Sarah Walters at swalters@arborcircle.org or 616-396-2301 or the Bureau of Health Systems, Division of Licensing and Certification, Substance Abuse Licensing Section, Recipient Rights Coordinator, P.O. Box 30664, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

arborcircle.org 616.456.6571 info@arborcircle.org



Just for Dads

Join us for this 12-week series Just for Dads! The group will follow the 24/7 DADS curriculum created by the National Fatherhood Initiative and will explore issues of fatherhood including: anger management, discipline, nurturing, and role modeling. This group will be virtual! Each session is 90 minutes.

WHEN:	Thursday evenings from 6:30PM to 8:00PM March 2nd - May 20th, 2023
WHERE:	Virtual sessions via Zoom Computer, mobile, and call-in options available Information to join will be provided upon registration.
TO REGISTER:	Contact Nikki Reenders-Arens at nreenders-arens@arborcircle.org or call 616-745-9511. You may also use the QR code.



Recipients of substance abuse services have rights protected by state and federal law and promulgated rules. For information contact Sarah Walters at swalters@arborcircle.org or 616-396-2301 or the Bureau of Health Systems, Division of Licensing and Certification, Substance Abuse Licensing Section, Recipient Rights Coordinator, P.O. Box 30664, Lansing, Michigan 48909



Nurturing Parenting Program (virtual)

Join us for this FREE 10-week series for parents and caregivers! Classes will cover topics including discipline, communication, child development, and problem-solving. This fun and informative class is for parents & caregivers with kids of any age!

When:

Wednesday Afternoons

12:00 PM - 2:00PM

January 11th, 2023 - March 15th, 2023

Where:

This class will be held virtual via Zoom.
Link will be provided to participant once registered.



Contact Us



Nikki Reenders-Arens
616-745-9511
nreenders-arens@arborcircle.org



Recipients of substance abuse services have rights protected by state and federal law and promulgated rules. For information contact Sarah Waters at swaters@arborcircle.org or 616 296 2301 or the Bureau of Health Systems, Division of Licensing and Certification, Substance Abuse Licensing Section, Recipient Rights Coordinator, P.O. Box 30664, Lansing, Michigan, 48909guage, etc.) or erase this and leave blank.

arborcircle.org | 616.456.6571 | info@arborcircle.org



Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Avenue
Whitehall, MI 49461

Living in God's Amazing Grace

January

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*)

WINTER SNOW
Boots Baby Its Cold Outside
Sleigh Riding  Scarfs
Jack Frost Nipping At Your Nose
Cold  Snowmen
SNOWY Mittens 
SNOW DAYS Slushy
Snowball Fights Windy
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 December  ICICLES
Freezing Let It Snow Sled JANUARY