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 Laura Hollister Sarah Schmalz Al Wheeler

Cheri Crouch Brian Jaekel 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: #llcsignsofgrace



March 24 at 6:00 pm Mystery Dinner event. Potluck dinner where participants solve a "Mystery at the Castle".

Lent brings Potluck and Evening Prayer. 6:00pm and 7:15pm each Wednesday beginning March 1 through March 29. The music is by Mike, Monica, Diane and Stephen using our Lent variations of Holden Evening Prayer.

Lent also brings back the noon Lent Luncheons at area churches. The schedule is inside this newsletter, Lebanon's day to provide the meal is March 29.

Lastly Lent brings the personal care kits we make for Samaritas' New Americans. We collect items weekly and assemble on Palm Sunday (and whatever days are needed after that!)

Refugees continue to come from Ukraine, Syria, Turkey, Afghanistan. A care worker whom we will meet this spring on Sunday called them essential.

Thank you to the property committee who created dedicated classroom space for our 5 and 6 year olds. Amy, Jenna, Sarah, Christie and Skeets have been guiding and sorting. Glenn, Doug, Wietse and Scott arranging.

You will also see an orange candle next to the lectern on Sundays. Orange has become the color for gun violence. For our students, teachers, professors and college kids, especially at MSU, we will light the candle on Sundays and protest the darkness.

Pastor Ogden





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.



June 11 December 10
SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 4:30 TO 6:30



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:



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
Marty Windbacher, at home

Special Prayer 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

John Lewallen, (Mary Lewallen's brother-in-law), liver cancer

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

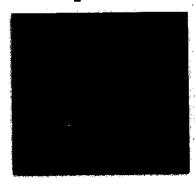
Bob Palmatter (Cindy Albert's brother), with breathing difficulties.

Roger Silk, with health issues.

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

Bishop's Newsletter

February 2023



North/West Lower Michigan Synod

P.O. Box 517 Dewitt, MI 48820

517-321-5066 mittensynod.org

In this Issue:

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Rebuilding Community

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Congressions is Teasurian

I Turned to Jesus

"From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 4:17). Repent: not so much regret as turn—turn around, turn toward the "kingdom of heaven" that comes near in Jesus, turn to Jesus, return to Jesus. My most recent turn to Jesus was Wednesday, January 25. Turning to Jesus was energizing, renewing, and uplifting. Days later those feelings have not waned.

"Follow me!" Jesus called to Simon and Andrew, James and John (Matthew 4:18–22). "Follow me!" Jesus calls to me and to us. Following Jesus is the key to moving forward as a church. Listening to Jesus is the second or third step in following, right after turning or returning to Jesus, and experiencing Jesus's presence, love, and life. In my most recent turn, I experienced Jesus and his abundant life as my mind filled with things Jesus said that have for a long time been touchstones for me.

Jesus asked, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down" (Mark 13:2), Jesus is talking about the Jerusalem temple. I am persuaded Jesus is also speaking of his church in our time. Coming out of COVID-19, the church will not return to what it was before the pandemic and will certainly not return to what it was in our favorite decade. Stones are falling. Some are large stones, including the governance structure of the ELCA in the hope that we as a church might better participate in Christ's mission. Some stones are precious, including congregations and Synod ministries. Some are small stones that give us comfort because we can manage or control them, including the ways we've "always" done things. Concentrating on these little stones can divert our attention and shield us from the fear and pain of the larger stones falling all around us.

We get to choose whether we will approach the falling stones as "gloom and doom," as Jesus bringing new life, or something to be denied, disregarded, and delayed. I recall sharing Jesus's words about temple stones falling with you at the 2013 bishop election and commenting, "I do not want to spend my life propping up stones Jesus has destined to fall." That is easier to say when stones are not falling; it is no less true when they are. Propping up stones, even stones we can argue Jesus has not destined to fall, depletes us. Protecting falling stones, regardless of how precious they are to us, prevents us from perceiving the new thing Jesus is raising up. Though we may delay them from toppling, the stones are still likely to crush us, or at least to crush our faith, when they fall. So I am asking myself how much energy I spend propping up stones that are destined to fall and how much time I want to spend feeling depleted, prevented, and crushed. The simple answer is "less." "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10), Indeed, the thieves opposed to Jesus's reign and even well-intentioned folk determined to protect precious stones will use those falling stones to steal our life, kill our hope, and destroy our faith. Jesus came—Jesus comes—that we may have abundant life. I am asking myself what Jesus's abundant life means for me, my family, and our synod. I am also focusing more of my work as bishop on what gives us abundant life and not on what steals, kills, and destroys. Please remain attentive to synod publicity for announcements of the abundant life Jesus is bringing to our synod. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

"To another Jesus said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:58-60). Some are not yet ready to turn to Jesus and abundant life; we still need to grieve all that we have lost. I once heard Jesus's words as harsh; now I hear them as freeing and permission-giving. Rather than convincing people to get with the program, we can graciously "let the dead bury their own dead."

The time comes when we can do nothing more for dying congregations, ministries, and beloved ways of being church. We cannot make people's grief go away, except to be the object of their blame and anger. Regardless of how hard we try or how long we wait for the church to return to what it was, death comes. We can turn to Jesus for life, So I am asking myself where the line is between caring for people who deny death or whose grief prevents them from embracing abundant life and proclaiming the "kingdom of God." Jesus calls us to proclaim the "kingdom of God," which means we cannot wait until the dead are buried and everyone is over their grief. I am heeding Pastor Sprang's advice to count the raised hands to see if we have enough to attempt something new and not count the naysayers, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people [some manuscripts say the cosmos] to myself" (John 12:32). Of course, Jesus is speaking of the cross. On the cross, Jesus brings abundant life out of death. Jesus does not deny, disregard, or delay death. I love Jesus's words draw, all, and cosmos. Jesus draws like a magnet. Jesus pulls or drags to make us come to himself. We really do not do anything. Even our faith is the work or gift of the Holy Spirif that we can nourish and treasure. Jesus draws all people; I hear no qualifiers in the word all. The word cosmos in some manuscript suggests Jesus's saving work extends beyond the human family to all creation, the entire universe, the cosmos. So I am asking myself how I as bishop and we as a synod lean into and not resist Jesus's "magnetic draw." Leaning in has to do with receiving, even turning to, Jesus as his gracious gift to us and resisting other forces attempting to draw us in other directions, particularly into the past. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus said, "You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48). Jesus, risen, did not give the first disciples a choice; he declared them his witnesses. In the waters of baptism, when we are joined to Christ's resurrection, Jesus does not give us a choice either. Jesus declares us his witnesses. We witness to Jesus's life, death, and resurrection and the new and abundant life Jesus brings. We witness to Jesus more than we sell or save or grow the church. Sharing the story of Jesus comes first because it is such life-giving good news. Sharing the story of Jesus is also the only way to sell, save, or grow the church. I am asking myself how much time I spend at failed attempts to sell and save the church and how much time I spend bringing good news by witnessing to Jesus. Jesus declares us his witnesses. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Moving forward, sharing the story of Jesus is our number one priority because this is the work Jesus gives us and sharing the story of Jesus is the church's future. Pastor Clay Bates lovingly reminds us that God will not bless congregations and ministries who do not name sharing the story of Jesus as their top priority. So I ask myself how whatever we are doing, want to do, or used to do shares the story of Jesus. If we cannot answer that question, we probably should not do it or we should stop doing it. More important, I am releasing my grip on stones I know will topple, turning to Jesus, experiencing his abundant life, and listening for what Jesus is saying to me. It is energizing, renewing, and uplifting. I wish this for you as well. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

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



Worship Notes

Sunday, March 5 - Lent 2 Worship - 10:15am Color: Purple

Musician: Monica Ogden

Readings

Today we pray for: Verne & Janet Sutherland

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may life up your life to all the world 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.**

Sunday, March 12 - Lent 3

Worship - 10:15am

Color: Purple

Musician: Monica Ogden Readings

Today we pray for: Erin (Lewallen) Stark

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, March 19 - Lent 4 Worship - 10:15am

Color: Purple

Readings

Musician: Monica Ogden 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 Today we pray for: Jeanne Berry

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, March 26 - Lent 5 Worship - 10:15 am Color: Purple

Today we pray for: Ann Bloom

Musician:

Monica Ogden

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

Readings

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in the right-eousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



March



2/1	(21 11 12	
4/	Shorto Erectty	
3/1	Sheila Fretty	

3/1 Samantha Jo Hendrixon

3/1 Roger Silk

3/3 Karen Baker

3/3 Lee Swenson

3/4 Dakota King

3/5 Mary Lewallen

3/8 Kelsey Fretty

3/10 James Will

3/11 Tim DeMumbrum

3/13 Ethan Reynolds

3/14 Sandy Robbins

3/15 Tom Palmer

3/17 Karl Glass

3/18 Tricia Lamiman

3/19 Louis Hosticka

3/19 Heather Moss

3/23 Braxton Murphy

3/23 Bryce Murphy

3/23 Charles Schmalz

3/25 Mallory Crouch Lothschutz

3/25 Anna DeNicolo

3/26 Brittney Roesler

3/29 Marty DeNicolo

3/29 Donna Knoth

3/29 Chuck Miller

3/30 Jane Blyth

3/31 Eric Plewka

3/31 Denise Rumsey



The Scrapbook Committee meets in March on the following dates at 1:00 pm.

Friday, March 10, 2023

Friday, March 24, 2023

Please feel free to join them!

Samaritas Health Kit Schedule:

Week of February 22nd - towels and washcloths

Week of March 1 - towels & washcloths

Week of March 8 - toothpaste

Week of March 15 - combs

Week of March 22 - nail clippers

Week of March 29 - soap (bars are best)

Any cash donations we receive will be used to purchase whatever items are needed to make the kits come out even. We will assemble them beginning Sunday, April 2nd at 9:00 am .

Baptism Anniversaries







3/10 Beverly Statz	3/20 John Wahr	3/25 Denise Rumsey
3/10 David Hendrixon	3/21 Mitchell Clark	3/25 David Rumsey
3/17 Irene Parks	3/23 Braxton Murphy	3/25 Nicole Rumsey
3/18 Tricia Lamiman	3/23 Bryce Murphy	3/28 Eric Plewka
4/18 Charles Peabody	3/24 Tom Palmer	3/29 Traci Murphy

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."

Murder Mystery Event March 24, 2023 6:00 pm



Potluck Dinner where participants solve a "Mystery at the Castle"

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.



MSU Food Handler's Class

MSU Extension educators present food safety topics for volunteers and staff working in food pantries and food banks in a 3-hour online training. This training covers the topics of hand-washing, personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, receiving food and produce, storing food, re-packaging, and legal issues. <u>This</u> training is completely optional.

Participants receive a pantry food safety training certificate after completion of training. Join us online via Zoom for <u>one of the dates/times</u> listed below using your laptop, tablet, smartphone, or any device with internet access. <u>Link to class registration here.</u>

This is a FREE workshop taught by experienced MSU Extension food safety educators.

- Tuesday, March 14 2 5 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, April 5 9 a.m. 12 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, May 24 5:30 8:30 p.m. ET
- Tuesday, June 6 9 a.m. 12 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, June 14 2 5 p.m. E

For more information, contact Mary Donaldson at morrism4@msu.edu





Sunday, March 12, 2023

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



HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Online

- 1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- In the "GET STARTED" section on the right, click Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®.
- Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
- 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.
 - To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc.
 Click "Search."
- 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

- Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
- 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.)
- 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



January 30, 2023

Working together to end hunger in West Michigan and the U.P.

Lebanon Lutheran Church/White Lake Area Food Pantry, #02110

Margaret Everling 1101 S Mears Avenue Whitehall, MI 49461

Kenneth R. Estelle President & CEO

Board Members

Dear Partner,

Amanda McVay Board Chair

your agency among our partners. We are grateful for all the work your agency

Richard Haslinger

Danielle Veldman Secretary

Jeff S. Battershall

Thomas L. Bylenga

Mike DeVriendt

Joan Garety

Beulah Guydon

Kay Hahn

Kyle Kuehl

Pastor Bruce A. McCoy

Frank Samuel

Kevin Mahoney

Kara Smith

Robert R. Stark

The food bank was honored to support your work last year and is proud to name

did in 2022 to put food on the plates of neighbors in need.

On the next page, you'll find a summary of your 2022 ordering activity. Last year, your agency sourced 55,070 pounds of product from us. Based on the estimated market value of a pound of food (\$2.30), your agency has saved roughly \$80,043.15 by sourcing these products from us instead of purchasing them from a store. It may be helpful for you to share these numbers with your stakeholders to highlight the benefit of your partnership with the food bank.

To Feeding America West Michigan, ending hunger means ensuring everyone has access to enough food for an active, healthy life. The Community Impact team will continue to work towards that goal in partnership with agencies, community organizations, and neighbors in need.

In early 2023, we have plans to conduct an agency assessment that will better inform our work with agency partners. We are also eager to continue utilizing new team members to strengthen relationships with clients and community organizations. As a valued member of our community, we are excited to work alongside your agency and others as we transform our work to end hunger.

Thank you again for partnering with Feeding America West Michigan, Together, we can ensure millions of meals end up on the plates of neighbors at risk of

hunger in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula in 2023.

Gratefully,

Kenneth R. Estelle President and CEO









Distribution Report FY2022

Lebanon Lutheran Church/White Lake Area Food Pantry (Agency #02110)

Product Breakdown and Charges

Your reimbursement cost and service fees (shared maintenance) for various product types are outlined below.

Product type	Weight (lbs.)	Reimbursement Cost	Service Fees
Purchased Products	37,683	\$37,671.59	\$6,067.14
Donated Products	3,763	N/A	\$645.10
USDA Products	13,624	N/A	\$2,234.02

Per Order Charges

Some costs, such as delivery fees, are related to an order rather than specific items in your order.

Cost	
	\$0.00

Savings

Partnering with Feeding America West Michigan helps you feed more people while staying within your budget. Here's a breakdown of cost savings.

Weight (lbs.)	Your Contribution	Wholesale Value	Retail Value	Savings
55,070	\$46,617.85	\$84,257.10	\$126,661.00	\$80,043.15



Wednesday, March 1
St. Peter's Episcopal
8435 Old Channel Trail, Montague
with special guest speaker Pastor Raully Donahue
from Ferry Memorial Reformed Church

Wednesday, March 8
Ferry Memorial Reformed Church
8637 Old Channel Trail, Montague
with special Guest speaker Pastor Donna Morton
from White Lake Congregational

Wednesday, March 15
White Lake Congregational Church
1809 S. Mears Avenue, Whitehall
with a special guest speaker Pastor David Meyers
from St. Peter's Episcopal

Wednesday, March 22 White Lake United Methodist Church - Whitehall location 117 S. Division, Whitehall with special guest speaker Pastor Doug Ogden from Lebanon Lutheran Church

> Wednesday, March 29 Lebanon Lutheran Church 1101 S. Mears Avenue, Whitehall with special guest speaker Pastor Tim Dibble from White Lake Methodist Church

**All lunches will be served at 12:00 noon.

proceeds from this year's luncheons will go to support the food pantry at Lebanon Lutheran church**



White Lake Area Wesco stations presented the White Lake Area Food Pantry with their annual collection!

Thank you to the Montague Wesco, The Division Street, Colby Street and Benston Road Wescos and their customers for once again raising funds to end hunger in our community!

Ealy Elementary earns \$1,500 donation to local food pantry from Wal-Mart

By Andy Roberts Beacon Editor Feb 1, 2023 Updated Feb 3, 2023



ANDY ROBERTS/Beacon

ANDY ROBERTS/Beacon

A collection of fifth-graders at Ealy Elementary School joined Lebanon Lutheran Church pastor Doug Ogden (center, left) and Wal-Mart assistant general manager Bill Gardner Wednesday morning as Gardner presented Ogden with a \$1,500 donation to the church's food pantry. The fifth-graders earned the donation through a grant and a school project.

Thank YOU to the Edukators for a great performance at the Double JJ. The talented music group raised over 1,300 for our White Lake Area Food Pantry this year!

One community working together to end hunger in our area.



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)

